

# 'Ecumenical' drive to wreck an ally

by Carole Greene

Joining the international oligarchy in its campaign to turn the Philippines into a new Iran is an ecumenical alliance of the most powerful religious institutions in the world. In the name of opposing militarism and winning peace, these institutions are in fact promoting an irrationalist, anti-Christian movement against the Marcos government that will only accelerate mass destruction throughout the region.

Allied to destroy the current government are 1) the World Council of Churches; 2) the National Council of Churches of the United States; 3) the Jesuit Order and its collaborators within the Catholic church.

## World Council of Churches

At the Sixth Supreme Legislative Assembly, held in Vancouver, British Columbia from July 24 to Aug. 12, 1983, the World Council of Churches passed a resolution to kick the U.S. military bases out of the Pacific region. The resolution read as follows:

"We urge the churches as well to intensify their efforts to stop the rapidly growing deployment of nuclear weapons and support systems in the Indian and Pacific oceans, and to press their governments to withdraw from, or refuse to base, or service ships or airplanes bearing nuclear weapons in those regions."

The concrete aim of this resolution was "an end to nuclear testing in the Pacific and creation of a nuclear free zone in the Pacific." To accomplish this, a working "Committee against Militarization of Asia and the Pacific" was established, with the focus of gaining U.S. withdrawal from Clark Air Field and Subic Naval Base in the Philippines.

Was it an oversight that the resolution concentrated on removing U.S. bases, and not the expansion of Soviet naval power in the Asian theatre? Not really. For as *EIR* has documented, the World Council of Churches is dominated politically and theologically by the Soviet KGB's masters in the Russian Orthodox Church!

## The National Council of Churches

By far the most active section of the World Council of Churches in the campaign against the Philippines is the National Council of Churches, an organization renowned for its promotion of guerrilla movements, population control, and "appropriate technologies."

The National Council of Churches works through the infamous Clergy and Laity Concerned, the group which consorted with Khomeini over the fate of U.S. hostages. The most famous member is the Rev. William Sloane Coffin, a founding member of the Committee Against Military Intervention in the Philippines (CAMIP), the most active organization in the crusade against the U.S. bases.

The NCC has participated in two crucial conferences on the Philippines issue. One, in October of 1983, brought to Manila Richard Falk, José Diokno, and representatives of the terrorist-associated West German Green Party and American Indian Movement to discuss creating a "nuclear-free Philippines."

The second conference, also held in October, took place at Stony Point, New York. Entitled "International Ecumenical Conference of the Philippines," the gathering drew a large range of Protestant groupings, as well as two leading Philippine Catholics—Bishop Labayan and Fr. Luis Hechanova, chairperson of the Association of Major Religious Superiors of Men. This conference determined to accelerate organizing in the United States not only against military bases, but also against economic aid to Marcos, and President Ronald Reagan's scheduled visit to the Philippines in November 1983.

## The Jesuit Order

While the leading Catholic opponent of President Ferdinand Marcos is the nonJesuit Jaime Cardinal Sin, the Jesuit order is crucial to the on-the-ground organizing against the U.S. bases, and to providing the sophisticated arguments that feed the movement in the United States.

*America*, the weekly magazine of the Society of Jesus in the United States, handed over the Op Ed space in its Dec. 3, 1983 issue to a journalist who argued for removing American bases from the Philippines, as a first step in "distancing" the United States from President Marcos, Singapore, Taiwan, and South Korea. His reasoning went as follows:

"While loss of the bases would involve some marginal degradation of U.S. capability, there are more important considerations. First, we would save the cost of operating the bases, greatly inflated by exorbitant 'rental' fees extracted by our 'ally,' Mr. Marcos. At least equally important, we would be free of the last vestiges of American colonialism. . . . Most important, we could distance ourselves from Mr. Marcos and all that he represents."

The current issue of the magazine of the Jesuit Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies also features an article arguing for the step-by-step removal of the United States from the bases.

Bishop Francisco Claver, S.J., a key organizer of the "anti-base" movement, constantly travels to Georgetown to consult on his activity. And perhaps it is no coincidence that the armed guerrilla movements against Marcos—the National Moro Liberation Front and the Communist Party's New Peoples Army—are heavily based in Mindanao, the historical center of the Filipino Jesuits.