

Philippines' new leadership locked in power struggle

by Linda de Hoyos

Once again, with Philippines President Corazon Aquino in power only nine months, a government power struggle in Manila is grabbing front-page headlines. From Manila, sources report that the situation is now "too fluid" to call, as backroom negotiations continue among parties, but with "no commitments made yet."

The center of controversy is Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, who issued a challenge to the Aquino government on Oct. 16 and refused to attend cabinet meetings. On the other side, the "human rights mafia" lawyers who are Aquino's closest advisers in Malacanang Palace have repeatedly demanded Enrile's ouster from the government, if he refuses to

Editorial policy on the People's Republic of China

Recently, *EIR* and NSIPS have published releases exposing the Soviet intelligence connections of U.S. figures such as the U.S. Department of Justice's William Weld and old China-OSS hand and attorney for First Fidelity Bank, Al Besser. These exposures imply the question: "Does this signal a change from *EIR*'s earlier treatment of the government of the People's Republic of China?" The answer to that question is: "Essentially, no."

The People's Republic of China is both the de facto and de jure form of the government of the sovereign state of China. *EIR*'s editorial policy has been, and remains:

- 1) That government must be treated, diplomatically, politically, and editorially, as the lawful government of a major sovereign state.
- 2) *EIR* desires the improved well-being of the people of China, by such means as are fully consistent with the well-being of China's Asian neighbors, no more, no less.
- 3) Within those constraints, *EIR*'s editorial policy is to be helpful to China's security and long-term economic progress, especially in such ways

as tend to foster mutually satisfactory relations among China and its Asian neighbors.

4) *EIR*'s leading concern respecting the internal affairs of China, is the humanitarian view, that China secure efficient means for preserving and improving normal family life, especially as economic means, and also the want of adequate economic means, bears upon this.

EIR's leading areas of interest, for discussions with institutions of the P.R.C. include: a) the subject of economic science, both in general, and as this applies to the internal circumstances, and potentialities of the P.R.C.; b) China's participation in those common missions of mankind, the which are of significant long-term benefit to China itself; c) bringing China's institutions more efficiently into leading areas of the physical sciences, including optical biophysics; d) the ancient archeological and philological history of China, as part of the general evolution of the cultures of Asia, especially during the ancient period preceding circa 1000 B.C., preceding the emergence of what is called "legalist philosophy."

These amiable aspects of our attitude toward the P.R.C. are not blind to the dualistic nature of the relations between both the Kuomintang and Communist parties of China and the Bolsheviks, and the intersection of this dualistic relationship with the Anglo-American Liberal Establishments. Essentially, the cultural imperatives of China and the Russian empire have been, and remain

abide by Aquino's policy of appeasement at all costs toward the insurgent New People's Army (NPA). Then, on Oct. 21, Aquino and Enrile emerged from a half-hour meeting to announce that they had mended the divisions between them. Said Aquino, "There is no falling out between Minister Enrile and myself. We are not stupid."

To be sure, the future of the Philippines depends upon immediately bringing stability to the government, and permitting the country to deal with the NPA insurgency and an economy ravaged by three years of International Monetary Fund austerity. If the Aquino government folds, with the military likely fracturing into warring factions as a result, then this ally of the United States will face disintegration and likely takeover by the Sandinista-style New People's Army—exactly as *EIR* warned during the days of the U.S.-orchestrated coup against President Ferdinand Marcos.

But the coalition government that the United States sponsored to replace Marcos is inherently unstable. Enrile placed five demands before Aquino during their Oct. 21 meeting:

- the scrapping of the Constitution recently drafted by the Constitutional Commission, which calls for the Philippines to become a non-nuclear zone;
- the holding of national elections (the new Constitution would keep Aquino in power for six years before new elections are held);
- the removal of undesirable and unpopular local leaders placed in power by fiat after the February coup;
- the adoption of a clear-cut policy for solving the NPA insurgency, including the setting of a short deadline for a cease fire;
- the firing of eight ministers on grounds of corruption and pro-NPA sympathies. The names of the eight have not been made public.

Aquino agreed to put a deadline on a cease fire with the NPA, which, if not met, would result in presidential orders to the military for a full-scale assault on the NPA. Aquino also agreed to replace "absentee or incompetent" local officials.

unmiscible, and must tend toward recurring conflicts, becoming more serious as generations pass. However, the P.R.C.'s leading forces have been uneasily allied with Moscow in intelligence operations against a common adversary, the United States of America.

The key to dealing with the P.R.C., is knowing "where the monkey sleeps," and seeking to build a peaceful resolution of the conflict between us and China by pathways which take that factor, "where the monkey sleeps," adequately into account.

The case of the Canada-pivoted Sino-Soviet intelligence services' interface, touching Harvard University's Law School, Chatham House, and the old "120 Broadway Trust" organization of the 1920s, is a key reflection of "where the monkey sleeps."

The cases of William Weld and Al Besser, and the Roosevelt-Wisner faction of the old-OSS affiliates of the Eurasian facet of the "Trust" organization, behind Weld and Besser, bring this symptomatic problem to the fore within U.S. institutions today.

Both the government of the P.R.C., and the Soviet government, each understand exactly the nature of our quarrel with their such collaborators as Harvard Law School's Jerome Cohen, Benjamin I. Schwartz, Henry A. Kissinger, William Weld, Susan Roosevelt Weld, et al. P.R.C. intelligence and Soviet intelligence, both partners, and to a significant degree also controllers of Harvard Law School-centered networks of agents of foreign communist influence, know the complete accuracy of our

reports on these agents, and therefore do not respect us less for our exposure of such agents.

Both of those governments know that the Canada interface between the old Chatham House Institute for Pacific Relations and Soviet IMEMO and GRU, have been channels of cooperation against the U.S.A. since the 1956-62 interval of the so-called Sino-Soviet split. Neither the P.R.C. nor Moscow loves these North American agents, but merely considers it expedient to make use of such "useful fools."

What astonishes both communist governments is the fact that *EIR* goes back much earlier than 1918, to trace the creation of the Eurasian section of Chicherin's and Dzerzhinsky's Trust organization. They are amazed at *EIR*'s accuracy, in exposing the key role of Venice in orchestrating these developments, a role which most otherwise well-informed Western intelligence specialists hysterically deny. In such quarters, eyebrows are raised, as it is said, "*EIR* has discovered where the monkey sleeps."

In the long run, it were better to have the respect of such adversaries as these, rather than their sympathy. They have no respect for the leading U.S. fools with whom these states prefer to deal today; no one respects an agent who is a foolish traitor to his own country. So, these governments choose to be adversaries of *EIR*; we must respond appropriately to this circumstance, but do not permit this to alter our long-range policy toward those states.

Demanding Enrile's head have been Local Government Minister Aquilino Pimentel, Justice Minister Neptali Gonzales, and Agrarian Reform Minister Heherson Alvarez. In addition, the demand for Enrile's removal is coming from Bandila, Nation United in Spirit and Purpose, a radical umbrella organization whose leader is Aquino's brother-in-law and adviser Agapito "Butz" Aquino.

Thus, it is no surprise that within five days of the Oct. 21 truce between Enrile and Aquino, the crisis flared anew with greater intensity.

This grouping and the assistants to the President such as Joker Arroyo, constitute the pro-NPA "human rights mafia" that is now in control of Malacanang Palace, with the backing of the Philippines' landed oligarchy and the Theology of Liberation-dominated Philippines Catholic Church. The popular base of this grouping is the New People's Army.

Open conflict

Thus, it is no surprise that within five days of the Oct. 21 truce between Enrile and Aquino, the crisis flared anew with greater intensity. Enrile addressed a rally of 20,000 Marcos supporters Oct. 26 at Manila's Luneta Park. "Marcos-Enrile!" "Down with Cory, Down with Cory!" shouted the demonstrators. Enrile's speech was an explicit challenge to the Aquino government: "What is needed to eradicate communism? First we must have a stable, honest, and clean government; a government beyond suspicion; a government that is not affected by corruption. The communists are ambushing our soldiers, killing civilians, extorting from the people, terrorizing the people. In the past, those people were in the mountains. . . . Now they are in the urban centers. . . . In the coming days, you might hear loud explosions coming from Manila, but I want to tell you, if you will come join us, you can rest assured that our Philippines will not become a communist country."

Three days later, Vice-President Salvador Laurel placed himself in direct opposition to Aquino, stating that the Filipino people should be permitted to vote immediately whether they want Aquino to stay in power, or whether new national elections should be held. Laurel, who previously put himself forward as a mediator between Enrile and Aquino, further said that it was an open question whether his own United Nationalist Democratic Party would oppose or approve the proposed constitution.

Aquino is also rallying her own forces. Aquino spokes-

man Teodoro Benigno reminded Enrile, "One big advantage she has, which has to be considered very, very significantly, is that she has the complete and unqualified support of the U.S. government," which brought her to power with an orchestrated coup in February. From Washington, State Department spokesman Charles Redman backed up Benigno's claim, telling the press corps, "We are strongly of the view that the Aquino government offers the best hope of carrying a reform strategy which will result in a stable democratic and prosperous Philippines."

And according to the *Washington Post* Oct. 30, President Reagan sent a message to Enrile through "private communications" to cease and desist.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos, who is considered the "U.S. man," appears to be using his power to maintain the government. "We stand squarely in the middle," Ramos told the press, referring to the New Armed Forces of the Philippines. "I am not part of the conflict. I have never seen myself in conflict. I am in the middle and I see my role very clearly. Maybe he [Enrile] has control over a small part [of the army] that is directly with him, but as far as I am concerned, I am responsible for the armed forces."

But Aquino's backers do not pretend to rely only upon the military. For weeks, reports have circulated that José Cojuanco, Aquino's powerful landowner brother, has been building a "yellow army" whose allegiance is to Aquino and which would be used if necessary to thwart a military coup. The "anti-coup" army was trained at the Cojuanco sugar estate in Tarlac by Israeli advisers and is armed with Israeli-made Galil rifles, Uzi machine pistols, .45 calibre pistols, and assorted 9 mm assault hardware, according to the Oct. 16 Manila *Business Day*. However, Mrs. Aquino's "yellow army" is considered to be no match for a united armed forces.

The "yellow army" is but one of a number of private, regional armies emerging in the country under the sway of political warlords, including four separatist and warring Muslim factions in Mindanao, the country's most resource-rich state. What is guaranteed if the center does not hold, is the disintegration of the country into regional wars between fiefdoms, or full power taken by the Sandinista-modeled New People's Army.

The latter option is apparently the concept of Cardinal Jaime Sin, whose *Veritas* communications network, working in conjunction with the U.S. State Department and the "bankers' CIA," deposed Ferdinand Marcos. From New Delhi, where he attended a convention of Roman Catholic journalists, Sin defended his 1985 campaign to bring down Marcos, and described the current power struggle in Manila as "beautiful." Sin promised that the insurgency problem will be over "very soon," and the rebels would come down from the hills. This is not a prediction, but more likely a signal that Sin views the conditions in Manila ripening for the NPA protectors and sympathizers in the Aquino cabinet to prevail. Then the rebels will come down from the hills . . . to enjoy full power in Manila.