

WOMAN

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Struggle

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PHILIPPINE WOMAN DETAINED

A community worker on Northern Luzon, Philippines, was arrested, charged with subversion and denied access to her five week old baby. Susan Cueva, is director of the Mining Community Development Centre (MCDC) in Baguio, northern Philippines. MCDC conducts health care programmes in the gold and copper mining communities and health and safety training of mineworkers. On Monday October 10th, fifteen armed police headed by a lieutenant of the Military Intelligence Group searched Susan's house, collected a number of books, magazines and reports including information sheets from the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) a national trade union centre and MCDC accounts. She was taken to the police station for questioning and detained for thirty-six hours without being charged. Two days later she was charged under the anti-subversion law, with being a ranking member of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army, a non-bailable charge. Although a nursing mother with her child only five weeks old, Susan has been denied access to her daughter.

Susan's arrest forms part of a more wide-spread crackdown on community and labour organisations thinly disguised under the anti-subversion laws.

The Philippines Support Group are asking for letters/telegrams demanding her release to be sent to: President Corazon Aquino, Malacanang Palace, Manila, PHILIPPINES. Sidfrey Ordenez, Secretary for Justice, Justice Building, Padres Faura, Metro Manila, PHILIPPINES.

Send a copy of your letter/telegram to: Juan Quimson, Philippines Ambassador, Philippines Embassy, 9A Palace Green, Kensington, London W8.

Outwrite Issue #70

WORSENING ECONOMIC CRISIS

In 1987 there was a worsening of the acute economic crisis which Latin America has been experiencing since the beginning of this decade, reported the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in a document entitled "Preliminary Overview of the Latin American Economy 1987".

The region's gross domestic product increased by 2.6 per cent--less than that recorded in the three preceding years. In addition, the growth of economic activity, although more evenly distributed than in the preceding year, was very feeble in the majority of the countries and in nine of them the per capita product fell.

The loss of economic dynamism was accompanied by a considerable resurgence of inflation. Consumer prices rose more rapidly than in the preceding year in thirteen of the twenty-one economies for which data were available. However, there was improvement in the external accounts. Because of the recovery of the international price of petroleum, the upturn in the prices of minerals and other basic commodities, and the rapid growth of exports of manufactures in some countries, and in spite of the abrupt drop in the international price of coffee, the total value of Latin America's external sales of goods rose by 13 per cent.

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November - December, 1988

GLOBAL FORECAST FOR TOURISM

By 1990, between four hundred to six hundred million tourists will crisscross the globe, compared with only 25.3 million in 1950. Tourism and related activities are expected to surpass all major economic sectors in business volume.

This forecast emerges from an analysis of future trends in global tourism development prepared by the ILO Hotel and Tourism Branch. It says that more reduction of working time will lead to more leisure and travel for the working population of industrialized countries. Moreover, there will be a growing number of retired people who will have the time and money to see the world.

But the travel horizons could also become more limited through constraints imposed by the threat of international terrorism and rising concern over the spread of AIDS.

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CHINESE SPOUSES WANT U.S. VISAS

In July, a group of young Chinese demonstrated in front of the American embassy in Beijing to protest the United States' policy of refusing visas to spouses of Chinese studying in the States. So many spouses have been rejected that they have formed a group that meets twice a month in Beijing.

United States officials are rejecting the spouses because they claim that if both members of a couple are in the United States, they are more likely to try to stay forever. The policy is reminiscent of the turn-of-the-century United States policy of allowing only Chinese men, not women, to come work in the United States to discourage immigration.

The Beijing demonstrators presented embassy officials with a letter saying, "All of us have been living apart from our spouses for over half a year, and some even for three years. If things continue this way, conflicts, contradictions, marriage splits and divorce will be hard to avoid for most of the families".

Embassy officials said that students could return to China to visit their families, but few have the money.

Thousands of students who have come from China have stayed in the United States, while 5,000 to 10,000 have returned to China.

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December 1988

POLIOMYELITIS UPDATE

A report from the World Health Organisation, Geneva says that available data suggest that the global incidence of poliomyelitis has dropped over the last twelve years, especially since 1983. Analysis by region and country shows that this global reduction is due mainly to improvements in a few large and heavily populated countries.

Although the available data are far from complete and also are not equally reliable, it may be estimated that in 1985 almost half of the young children in the world had received three doses of polio vaccine in the course of their first year of life. However, poliomyelitis control in industrialized countries was achieved only when immunization coverage exceeded 80 per cent, and that in those countries the improvement in the standard of hygiene, which preceded routine immunization, contributed much to the spectacular success in controlling the disease.

Poliomyelitis control was begun in developed countries in the 1960's with the introduction of an immunization campaign which was gradually extended to all countries.

Development Forum Vol. xvi #6
November - December, 1988

CHARGES OF HARASSMENT AT OXFORD

This year, both women undergraduates and women tutors have charged male fellows with sexual harassment, including sexual innuendo, displaying offensive pictures, leers, gestures, and patting, pinching, hugging and brushing up against a woman. Thirty-one of one hundred and sixty women surveyed had been harassed by a male teacher.

Women charged the university with trying to cover up the problem. Now, the university has set up a group of women and male tutors to address the problem.

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