The Philippines ... Graft Is a Way of Life

By FATHER WILLIAM RICHARDSON

This is Part 5 of seven articles on Southeast Asia written by Father Richardson, editor of Maryknoll Publications.

Manila — Suppression of local corruption or a coup d'etat—these seem to be the only alternatives for the Philippines today.

Graft is a way of life here and it's getting worse, if that's possible. Money is appropriated for city streets three and four times over, and you still drive through the dust and mud instead of on pavement.

Everything has its price—from obtaining a driver's license without a test to even avoiding prosecution for crimes as serious as murder.

Thinking people, even those who grew up with the system, are appalled at the ouright corruption and violence and fear an attempted Communist takeover—probably in 1971, when the convention to rewrite the constitution will be held.

No one seems to agree on an evaluation of Communist strength in the Philippines. Some observers, especially those in rural areas, say that revolution is inevitable. Others, including social scientists in Manila, believe that the danger of revolution is present but not immediate.

Six months ago the Roman Catholic hierarchy of the Philippines was convinced that the situation was hopeless, that it was only a matter of time before the Communists took over. Today the bishops are a bit more optimistic, but feel that the Vietnam War is a key issue—should the United States pull out of Vietnam, they contend, then the Philippines will fall to internal Communist infiltration.

Another optimistic note was sounded by Father Francis Senden, CICM, a Belgian who is director of the Asian Social Institute, a Catholic research center and graduate school in the capital.

Father Senden told me, "If we can have 10 more years to create a Christian social revolution here, we can save the Philippines from communism."

Basic social injustice is the real cause of the corruption, and the fuel for revolution. The per capita income for 35 million people here is 400 pesos, or about $100 U.S. per year, but most of the poor farmers earn far less.

Disproportionately large haciendas, particularly in Luzon, force millions to work as laborers without any hope of ever owning their own land.

Land reform is an urgent necessity, particularly because the population here will double in the next 20 years.

President Ferdinand Marcos has pushed through some pilot projects but a great deal remains to be done. A land bank to finance land reform still has not been established although land reform legislation was passed five years ago.

There are some signs of progress. Millions of dollars in Japanese war reparations have been received in the form of trucks, bulldozers, road graders and cement. A national highway is being constructed from Manila to Davao, 750 miles to the south on the island of Mindanao.

Another sign of progress is the claim that this year the Philippines has become self-sufficient in the production of rice for the first time since World War II. However, the claim is being contested by some politicians who attribute it to figure-juggling. There is no doubt that the newly developed IR-8 strain of rice has greatly increased production, but many people continue to eat corn because they cannot afford rice.

President Marcos, reading clearly the handwriting on the wall, has launched a national social action campaign and recently appealed to religious leaders for their cooperation.

The key lies in the hands of the Catholic Church. Eighty-three per cent of the Filipino people are Catholic and the vast majority of citizens look to the Church for leadership because they do not trust the government.

If social reform is not implemented quickly, we can expect revolution in the Philippines within three years. This may take the form of a Communist attempt to seize government or, as has been hinted, a coup by the army to place a strong rightists figure in control.

NEXT WEEK: Taiwan—A mini-boom in progress.

'The Beatitudes' Premiere Slated

New York — (RNS) — The American premiere of the "The Beatitudes," a choral cantata by Sir Arthur Bliss, the 77-year-old English composer, will be presented here Nov. 19 by the American Bible Society.

The benefit program will be in Philharmonic Hall at the Lincoln Center for Performing Arts. Participating will be 85 members of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, the Westminster Choir of Princeton, N.J., and soloists Vivian Babikian, soprano, and David Lloyd, tenor.

"The Beatitudes" was commissioned by Queen Elizabeth II for the consecration of the new Coventry Cathedral in 1962. Knighted in 1950, Sir Arthur has been Master of the Queen's Music since 1953.

In the contata, the beatitudes (blessings) of Jesus from Matthew 5:3-11 are alternated with vocal arrangements of poems by Henry Vaughn, George Herbert, Dylan Thomas, Jeremy Taylor and a passage from the prophet Isaiah.

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A Mec

By Daniel Berriga

Some 10 or 12 of us (the (number is still uncertain) will, if all goes well (ill?) take our religious bodies during this week to a draft center in or near Baltimore.

There we shall, of purpose and forethought, remove the 1-A files, sprinkle them in the public street with homemade napalm, and set them afire.

For which act we shall, beyond doubt, be placed behind bars for some portion of our natural lives, in consequence of our inability to live and die content in the plagued city, to say "peace peace" when there is no peace, to keep the poor poor, the homeless, the thirsty and hungry homeless, thirsty and hungry.

Our apologies, good friends, for the fracture of good order, the burning of paper instead of children, the angering of the orderlies in the front parlor of the charnel house. We could not, so help us God, do otherwise. For we are sick at heart, our hearts give us no rest for thinking of the Land of Burning Children. And for thinking of that other Child, of whom the poet Luke speaks.

The infant was taken up in the arms of an old man, whose tongue grew resonant and vatic at the touch of that beauty. And the old man spoke: this child is set for the fall and rise of many in Israel, a sign that is spoken against.

Small consolation; a child born to make trouble, and to die for it, the First Jew (not

Houses for the Poor

Each month, women of St. Theresa's Mission of Holy Cross Parish meet to roll bandages for the sick and to conduct bake sales to raise money for the poor of India. They recently have made funds to buy materials that will allow a family to move from a mud hut to a well-built cement and wood structure. Standing are Barbara Heisley and Katie Mantelli; seated are Rita Cushman, Mary Empey.

University Receives $1 Million Bequest

New Orleans — (NC) — Loyola University here, conducted by the Jesuits, has been named beneficiary of a bequest of some $1 million from the estates of the late Misses Mary Ann and Elizabeth McLaughlin, Father Homer R. Jolley, S.J., president, announced.

Father Jolley said the exact amount of the bequest is $1,063,561, with 90 per cent in stocks and bonds, and lesser amounts in real estate and cash. The funds will be added to Loyola's endowment, and will be used in the university's program of expansion and advancement, he added.

Calendar of Events

Saturday, Oct. 5 — **Notre Dame Women's Organization,** noon luncheon Passport Restaurant, Mrs. David Young to speak on Montessori schools.

Sunday, Oct. 6 — **Sacred Heart Cathedral** hall, silver tea for Sisters of St. Joseph, 2:30 to 5:30, with tour of the convent, 4 to 5:30. **St. Anthony** Altar and Rosary Society communion breakfast 9:30 a.m. **Corpus Christi** Rosary Society, "living rosary," 4:30 p.m. **St. Joseph's,** Archconfraternity of the Holy Family, communion breakfast following 9 a.m. Mass. **Bishop Kearney High School** Mothers' Club, annual tea to welcome freshman mothers, 2 to 5 p.m., school cafeteria.

Monday, Oct. 7 — **St. Anthony,** Altar-Rosary Society, 8 p.m. **St. Salome** Mothers' Club, 8 p.m., school hall; Father William Swingly, speaker. **St. James** Rosary Society, 8:15 p.m. in church. **Our Lady of Mercy,** Greece, Rosary Society Tureen supper, 6:30 p.m. **St. Agnes High School** Mothers' Club "favorite dish" supper, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 8 — **St. Stanislaus,** Holy Name of Mary Society, hat show 8 p.m. **Mercy** sewing and Christmas projects, 10 a.m., followed by lunch and business meeting at Mercy Motherhouse.

Wednesday, Oct. 9—**Holy Family** Rosary Society birthday dinner for Msgr. George Schmitt, 6:30. Reservations by Monday noon with Mrs. Joseph Smarsh, 436-0327, or Mrs. Robert Spahn, 235-3136. **St. Joseph's,** Livonia, Rosary Altar Society, 7:45 p.m. in church. **Our Lady Queen of Peace Altar Society,** tureen supper 7 p.m., Brookside School, Brighton; Father Albert Bartlett, S.J., rector of McQuaid, to speak. **St. Mary's Hospital** nursing alumnae, buffet supper, 7 p.m., at education building; reservations by Monday with Irene Frusci, 288-7366, or Dorothy Saffran, 244-2121. **Catholic Mission Guild,** white elephant sale 8 p.m. Knights of Columbus hall, 513 Monroe. **St. John's,** Humboldt St., Boy Scout Troop 37 Mothers' Auxiliary, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 12—**St. Salome's** school hall, 10:30 a.m., Punch and Judy show; tickets from Mrs. William Scheffel, 467-2283.

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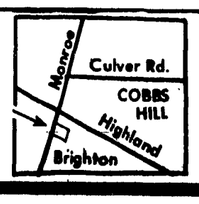

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Books

The Search for Meaningful Existence by Charles B Ketcham (Weybright; $6.50). The absence of contemporary authority based on moral values almost universally accepted up to the first World War; Neitzche's announcement of the death of God, and the later impact of his statement on theology; the apparent struggle in the arts, in philosophy and theology, and in political life to transvalue, to re-erect—all this seems to the Rev. Dr. Ketcham, James Mills Thoburn Professor of Religion at Allegheny College, Pa. to point toward a new morality founded on a new Humanism. He covers much ground in this book.

The Changing Face of Theology by Patrick Fannon (Bruce; $3.95). This worthwhile book may be described as a primer of modern theology for the layman. It gives, in capsule form and in an engaging style, a summary of the main thrust of Catholic thought since Vatican II, particularly in the revolutionary areas such as the role of the laity, the means of faith, the structure of the institutional Church, ecumenism, eschatology. All in all, it is a well balanced, realistic and painlessly informative work.

A Time of Change by Frederick Crowe (Bruce; $4.50). Father Crowe has revised a series of lectures intended "Mainly for the generation moving toward middle age," that is, those "who grew up in the old Church and are destined to live out a good part of their lives in the new." He attempts through the use of history and tradition, to interpret aggiornamento, in various areas of the Church's life—liturgy, morals, dogma, the Church in the modern world, and ecumenism. Having established guidelines, he moves to a discussion of the problems at the Synod; the problematic; the open spirit of man. He then discusses the limits of aggiornamento. Father Crowe has succeeded admirably in his goal.

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