

Condemned Narcotics Destroyed



monkey business

By PETE L. AMPOLOQUIO

President Marcos this week was informed that all narcotics in the possession of law enforcement agencies have been burned and destroyed, in compliance with a presidential directive to that effect.

Col. Minardo B. Finales, chairman of the Opium Custodian committee reported to the Press that the seized drugs were burned last Nov. 15. Excepted were drugs which the PC Central Laboratory will use as standard samples in the examination of prohibited narcotics and those which will be used as evidence in pending court cases against traffickers. These include 12 ampules of morphine, 26 ampules of Papaverine, 119 ampules of Demerol, 32 ampules of Pantopone, 11 ampules of Levo-Dromoran tartrate and 190 grams of Codeine Sulfate powder.

The burned drugs consisted of morphine, opium and other narcotics seized from 1962 up to the present. Many of them came from drug stores, pharmaceutical houses, drug manufacturers and hospitals.

The drive to isolate prohibited narcotics was the initial step taken by the administration toward the curbing of dope traffic.

The opium Custodian Committee, in whose responsibility all narcotics seized by the different agencies of the government were given, is composed of representatives of the PC, the General Auditing Office, the department of health and the bureau of internal revenue.

Funds for Rice Price Support

President Marcos last week gave assurance to the small farmers of the country that the government thru the RCA will start a massive rice-buying program, who under the law are entitled to priority.

President Marcos' action came in the face of the growing demand for local rice in international markets.

The President directed the Philippine National Bank to start releasing at the rate of P1 million a day to the RCA for the latter's palay procurement program.

Col. Osmundo Mondonado, RCA chairman and general manager, informed the President that the purchase of palay on a bigger scale has been made possible by the exportable qualities of local produce.

The President was informed that the outlook for Philippine rice exports has considerably brightened with the 26,000 tons shipment to India and Indonesia. This rice export is valued at more than P15 million.

The provinces who will benefit from the funds ordered release for rice buying from PNB branches include Isabela, Tarlac, Leyte, Iloilo, Capiz, Antique, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Bukidnon, North Cotabato and South Cotabato.

Other areas of the country will be served by the second and succeeding releases Mondonado said.

Francisco J. Dy, Director of WHO's Western Pacific Region, signed the agreement.

While the Institute will play a major role in co-ordinating the training of health personnel required to staff the expansion of health services in both urban and rural areas in Viet-Nam it will also engage in operational research into public health methods. The Institute will thus provide a focal point in the development by the government of health standards in the country.

The Bicol Star

ENTERED, AS SECOND CLASS MAIL MATTER AT THE POST OFFICE, CITY OF NAGA, PHILIPPINES ON MAY 20, 1933. PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Domingo A. Escalante GENERAL MANAGER, PUBLISHER & EDITOR

Ben J. Taboquin Jaime de los Santos Val. M. Duraguin Silverio Aleala ADVERTISING & PROMOTION

Rosemarie S. M. Escalante CIRCULATION & SUBSCRIPTION

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: P4.00 PER YEAR; P2.50 6 MONTHS

P. O. BOX 123, CITY OF NAGA, PHILIPPINES

partial review

1by Andres G. Diez

For the last several weeks, radio commentaries leveled at placing Governor Cledera in an embarrassing position through insinuation that he committed a public crime of dishonesty will produce no result compensatory to his maligners. Even after our clear explanation of the true history of the logs which were entrusted to the custody of Putianay Development Co. Inc., who was contracted by the Provincial Board to saw them into lumber, the personal enemies of the Governor still keep on insisting that he committed an act of dishonesty.

We previously explained that the reason why Putianay included the 423 logs with their last shipment of logs to Japan was because of fear that they might be carried away by the strong current of the Lagonoy River which was then swelling because of the heavy rains. We should all take note that these confiscated 423 logs by the Bureau of Forestry were left floating at a certain part of the Lagonoy River where they were received by Putianay. As we said before, pending the termination of the construction of their big sawmill and having had no means of protecting the logs from the strong current of the then swelling Lagonoy River, they decided to include them first with their last shipment to Japan but without prejudice of replacing them as soon as their mill starts to function.

Now we are bringing to the public knowledge that the sawmill of the contracting company is already functioning and in compliance to their contract with the Provincial Board, the Putianay is now milling into lumber the 423 logs part of which is now ready for delivery to wherever the Governor orders the lumber delivered.

All the way through, the people of this province found it hard to believe that the man they elected Governor after knowing him to be good is capable of destroying himself for whatever little he might get from an act of dishonesty. From his adolescence up to the time he became a Provincial Governor of this premier province, he has no record of acts of dishonesty. Why should he now think of soiling the honor that cost him abounding sacrifices to achieve, for a business he knows contrary to law which he swore to uphold and preserve? For the sake of justice, we appeal to the good citizens of this province to strengthen their confidence in their Governor. For if dishonesty was ever committed by the party that shipped them and not by Governor Cledera who had nothing to do with it. It is that simple for any man with a horse-sense to understand. But no efforts can make anyone understand a good thing who refuses to understand it.

W.H.O. To Established Health Institute of Public Health for Vietnam

Agreement was reached in Manila recently between the Government of Viet-nam and the World Health Organization to establish permanent training facilities for all categories of health personnel in order to meet the needs of that country's public health services. A National Institute of Public Health will be founded in order to furnish these facilities.

Institute by the World Health Organization as a result of special contributions by the United States of America and of the Netherlands. The financial assistance will provide buildings, teaching assistance, and research facilities.

At a brief ceremony in the WHO Regional Office in Manila, the Minister of Health, Social Affairs and the Honorable Secretary, Dr. Fran Li Y and Dr.

Doc Peping Cledera told a group of assembled contractors that it would be for the interest of all concerned for them to desist from hand-carrying Requisition and Inventory forms. Observation: Only newsmen (headed by me of course) with business connections with contractors can handcarry RIV's. Others with me - for and in consideration for the amount I have not yet received. Mabuhay! Happy days are here again.

Provincial Treasurer Jesus Calleja called up to correct the impression created by an early morning radio broadcast that his office was responsible for the delay in the processing of papers regarding construction of project in the inter-scholastic site at Pili. Mr. Calleja told me that the information aired was a brazen lie, and an irresponsible one at that as released by some people in the office of the Public Works District Engineer at Camaligan. According to the records of Mr. Calleja's office, the papers in question were prepared November 4th at the BPW office but forwarded to his office (Mr. Calleja's) only on the afternoon of December 2nd (late in the afternoon) as he was preparing to leave for Manila on official business.

Morning of December 9th, upon his return from Manila, he acted on the papers and sent it back to the BPW office. It is therefore crystal-clear that his office is not responsible for the delay. Project Engineer Jesus Ejundo of the BPW clarified the point by saying that he did not blame the office of the Provincial Treasurer for the delay. It was according to Mr. Ejundo a case of misunderstanding. He merely pointed out, he said, that the papers were still in the office of the Treasurer - admitting in effect that the delay of one month was made in his office. People should be careful with statement they make to avoid misunderstanding.

My man, Fred Cledera, a congressional timber (yakal) for '69 is a humble man. He does not go around blowing his horns (not devil's horns of course) about his qualifications to represent the people of the 2nd district of Camarines Sur. I just learned from reliable sources that he is the Executive Vice President of A. C. Layson and Company, a general contracting firm. Fred, in other words does not only have degrees (excluding third degree) but the man has business know-how.

Mr. Andres Diez told me that Putianay will soon deliver the timber it is supposed to give to the province for the logs it has received for sawing as contracted. Mano Andres is still sore at some newsmen who according to him have abused an innocent man. I hope to God he will not ask the Governor to construct a bigger jail to house those "guilty" newsmen. As for me Mr. Diez, guilty or not, I am willing to go to jail - but mind you I am not going to stay there. I will only visit prisoners "fortured" by your favorite PC investigators.

The Association of Barrio Councils seminar held at the station DZRB last December 1st was told by the Provincial Treasurer, Mr. Jesus I. Calleja, one of the resource persons, to exercise their taxing powers to augment their incomes and to organize cooperative unions for the benefit of their respective barrios.

Mr. Calleja also explained the various aspects of the Barrio Charter Law. He also emphasized that as much as possible Barrio Councils should organize to operate because of the fact that they are not utilizing P300,000 of funds belonging to the Barrio Councils as of September 30, 1968. That should open the eyes of Barrio Folks to the need of availing of funds they own. The information came right from the mouth of the horse.

Doc Cledera asked the contractors assembled in conference the other day if any of them were approached by some government officials for a peso kickback per cu. m. of sand and gravel they delivered to the interscholastic site, as published by a local paper. The contractors all denied or said nobody asked them any kickback. I was tempted to stand to ask them that since nobody was collecting, then I will collect, but a friend besides me asked me not to do so. Plain curtailment of freedom of expression. So, gentlemen contractors, I am collecting. This time it is not a kickback - only plain KICK on your belly.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM

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