

FOREST CONSERVATION

Tanco Creates Body To Oversee Project



Forest conservation, a pet project of the Marcos Administration, may soon get a boost with the creation by Agriculture Secretary Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. of a tri-agency planning and evaluation committee which will work towards effecting a harmonious and coordinated application of pertinent laws, policies and practices on reforestation and the conservation and rational utilization of national parks and public forests.

Tanco said that the committee pools the expertise of the Reforestation Administration, Bureau of Forestry, Parks and Wildlife and the private sector. It will initiate moves leading to the major revamp of government policies on forests.

A regional symposium on timber and timber products research that would greatly contribute to President Marcos's plan to stimulate further growth of the wood industries in the country may be held in Manila in the near future.

Asian countries which have indicated an interest in the symposium are Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, and India.

The committee, which started to function at the beginning of this month, is headed by Primo Andres of the Reforestation Administration. Other members of the tri-agency committee are Doroteo U. Antonio, vice chairman; Honorato Esteves (RA), Feliciano C. Salamatín (BF),

Rosalio Goze (BF), Marcelina A. Dayao (BF) and Irene Florenda (BF).

The committee is also charged with the following responsibilities: 1) Prepare long-range and annual programs of work; 2) undertake economic, organization and management research relative to forest land management and forest industry development; 3) guide the preparation of multiple-use plans for public forests; 4) establish criteria and standards of performance; 5) evaluate through a system of field inspection, the quality and quantity of performance as measured against established policies, goals and standards; 5) recommend changes in laws, regulations, policies and procedures as needed to achieve agency objectives; and 6) maintain agency manuals.



FAITH IN THE MILITARY. -- President Marcos was informed early last week that peace and order conditions in Lanao del Norte have improved considerably with the restoration of the people's confidence in the ability of the PC to maintain order in their province. Photo shows the President giving instructions to Brig. Gen. Domingo Tutaan, Fourth PC Zone Commander (left) and Brig. Gen. Eduardo M. Garcia, PC Chief on further improving the situation in the area. Evacuees have returned to their homes by droves after causes of tension were removed and on the promise of sincere government efforts to resettle them.