

FM Signs Amendatory Bills On Land Reform

Antonio Hits Media On Memo Distortion

Solicitor General Felix Q. Antonio observed that certain misinterpretations crept into the press and mass media reports on the memorandum submitted by the State counsel, in compliance with the order of the Supreme Court, on the several petitions for the writ of habeas corpus pending before the high tribunal.

He noted that some of the reports concerning the contents of the State memorandum and other documents annexed to it were grossly misleading and unwarranted.

He pointed out that there is nothing in the memorandum and its documentary annexes from which it could be reasonably inferred that the State counsel and the military authorities ever attempted or even intended to make blanket and indiscriminate

accusations against certain individuals and organizations in order to justify before the Supreme Court the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus.

Some of the press reports, it appeared, conveyed the erroneous impression that the list of various individuals and organizations furnished by the defense department was being used by the State lawyers in an effort to convince the Court that these individuals and groups mentioned in the military's list are subversive elements and communist fronts.

The Solicitor General stressed that both the memorandum and its annexes show that the inferences made in certain press quarters seriously distorted the

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NO MORE 'PILA'

ACA Evolves System

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LAND REFORM BILLS. -- President Marcos signs into laws Senate Bill No. 478 (House Bill No. 3453) providing omnibus amendments to the Agricultural Land Reform Code (R.A. 3844), and Senate Bill No. 633 (House Bill No. 3463) providing for an Agrarian Land Reform Special Fund, in the presence of thousands of cheering farmers, including delegations from the Agricultural Cooperative League of the Philippines (ACLCP) and the Federation of Farmers led by its president, Jeremias Montemayor. Among those shown during the signing of the bills are the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos; Senators Mamintal Tamano and Emmanuel Pelaez, Speaker Cornelio T. Villareal, Land Authority Governor Conrado Estrella, congressmen, provincial governors, and city and municipal mayors.

Thousands Witness Ceremony

Before thousands of farmers led by the Federation of Free Farmers, President Marcos signed into law Friday last week the bills creating a Department of Agrarian Reform and providing for an immediate source of funds to finance the Agrarian Reform Program of the government.

The President told the farmers who filled the Palace grounds that although the funds he sought to make land reform a more meaningful program were not enough, it would keep land reform going until next year when Congress meets to consider a more substantial funding of the important undertaking.

The President said that as long as he is President, he will not stop until land reform in this country has become a meaningful social and economic factor to ensure the well-being of the people.

Land Reform

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Under the law providing funds for a more substantial land reform program, an Agrarian Reform Special Account in the General Fund is created, which shall be used exclusively to finance the agrarian reforms and shall be constituted out of a portion of the proceeds of the stabilization tax collected under Republic Act 6125. It is expected that funds accruing to the agrarian reform special account for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1972 will amount to P50 million, to be used for the lending activities of the Agricultural Credit Administration, land development and resettlement, sur-

vey and subdivision, and issuance of titles by agrarian reform agencies, among others.

There will be transfers of certain assets of the national government, including the shares of stocks of the national government in the Lepanto Consolidated Mining Company, Inc., now being administered by the Board of Liquidators, to the agricultural guarantee fund created under the land reform financing law.

Priority in the allocation of funds will be extended to cooperatives, farmers with leasehold contracts and farmers who are members of cooperatives.

The Agricultural Land Reform

Code was amended to create a regular land reform department, with three staff services--planning service, financial and management service and administrative service, each headed by a chief. Under the new department will be the Bureau of Farm Management, Bureau of Land Acquisition, Distribution and Development, Bureau of Resettlement, and Bureau of Agrarian Legal Assistance. Regional land reform offices are increased from nine to ten.

The new agrarian reform code abolished the land reform project administration and the national land reform council.