

CACC

NEWSLETTER

March 1, 1987

OPERATION ZOMBIE

Communists Killing Communists in the Philippines

By Norm Walker and Dr. John Whitehall

(Much of the following article is written in the first person. When the pronoun "I" is used, it refers to Norm Walker who was present at the disinterment of the victims and who interviewed the eye witnesses of the killings and burials.

Norm is the brother-in-law of Dr. John Whitehall, and he has accompanied John on many of his visits to the Philippines. He is an active Baptist layman and works for the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade.)

The killing of communists by communists is an old story. One need only recollect the massive purges by which Joseph Stalin killed the majority of the leaders of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, or the Great Cultural Revolution of China by which Mao Zedong eliminated multitudes of his colleagues.

Recent examples include the shooting of Maurice Bishop in Grenada and the fighting of the factions of the politburo of the Communist Party of South Yemen in which it is officially stated that 4,200 people were killed. It would be easy to continue ad nauseam.

Such fraternal killing is a direct consequence of communist doctrines and attitudes.

Karl Marx was a devotee of the doctrine that "a party grows strong through purging itself;" and Che Guevara listed "universal suspicion" as one of the essential characteristics of a true revolutionary.

The leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines has been applying the doctrines of Marx and Guevara. Believing that the army of the Philippines has successfully infiltrated the ranks of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its New Peoples Army (NPA), the leaders encourage suspicion of all members. This suspicion provides the candidates for a lethal purge.

During this report, I give the names of some of those interviewed. I do this with some hesitation, but all have given permission for the use of their names. They have already been exposed locally and are marked by the NPA. One of them, Abito Palasan, has been interviewed on regional television.

Clean Campaign or Operation Zombie

In 1985 the CPP began a purge of its own ranks, which involved a series of brutal torture-murders. This purge was sometimes referred to as a "clean campaign" and sometimes as "operation zombie." Hundreds were accused of being DPA's (Deep Penetration Agents) of the military. Some of those killed were civilians, but many were members of the NPA.

Our introduction to Operation Zombie took place when we stopped for lunch one day at a small beach, fronting Iligan Bay in the province of Lanao Del Norte, Northwestern Mindanao. Mindanao is the largest of the Philippine Islands and dominates the southern area of the archipelago. It was mid-July, 1986, and we were heading for the small town of Alubjid in the province of Misamis Oriental for a series of meetings.

During our meal, a young man was brought to our table and was introduced as a former member of the NPA. He recounted a story of horror that was hard to believe. It seemed too brutal to be true. He told of the outrageously cruel

conduct of a certain Commander Meriam, who was conducting a party purge. As we continued to hear her name and reports of her cruelty, we set out to discover the truth of these matters. Our search revealed the planned slaughter of hundreds, if not thousands, of "suspected informers" and "innocent civilians" by the CPP.

Mercedes Daaya

In November, 1986, we commenced a series of interviews. The first took place in the town of Lugait in Misamis Oriental, Mindanao. Before me, there sat a pretty young girl, Emily Dagaya. She was just 16 years old. She had been an operative for the New Peoples Army since she was 13 years old and had lived with her mother, 48?year?old

Mercedes Dagaya until December 5, 1985. She told how the NPA had been attempting to recruit her mother for activity in "the struggle." Mrs. Dagayo was unwilling to cooperate claiming, that Emily was doing the family's share. Her constant refusals led the local NPA leader to the absurd conclusion that Mrs. Dagaya was a "DPA". Consequently, Mrs. Dagaya was paraded before a "People's Court". This "court" procedure may give the appearance of legality, but the verdict is pre-determined. She was found guilty and was brutally tortured and then murdered in the presence of her daughter, the other members of her family, and her life-long friends. The details of the torture are too gruesome to specify here, but Commander Meriam played a personal role in them.

These torture-murders have two major objectives. The first is to eliminate DPA's or spies from the ranks, and the second is to terrorize the people of the area so that they will not dare to report the personnel and activities of the NPA to the government authorities.

Ka Archie

Another victim of Commander Meriam was known in the NPA as "Ka Archie". His real name is unknown, but he was best known in the NPA as the Karate kid. About twenty years old, he was very active in the recruiting of cadres. He is reported to have been involved in many killings in his consolidation work in many areas for the "CPP?NPA".

Commander Wilson, who has since surrendered to Governor Emano, was given the task of executing Ka Archie on the grounds that he was a DPA. Ka Archie was taken by surprise and arrested in October, 1985. While he was being led from the village, Talacogan, he managed to free himself from his bonds and ran away from his captives towards presumed safety in the forest which was about 100 meters away.

Maybe he ran, hoping for a quick painless death from a burst of M?16 fire. Whatever his intention, he was shot down near a small clump of banana trees. His death was quick and clean, and not typical of the fate of other zombie victims. He was buried close to where he fell.

In November, 1986, we were led to his grave by an eye-witness of his burial. Our informant indicated where his body would be found. As we looked at the dense overgrowth, we doubted her story, but decided to dig anyway. After about ten minutes, we came upon evidence that someone was indeed buried there. White nylon shorts encasing skeletal bones appeared, and before long the entire remains of Ka Archie were exposed. Ka Archie's remains were treated with respect even though he had terrorized the villagers. The bones were rearranged to represent a human body as well as the people could do.

Other exhumations were carried out, and the bodily remains proved beyond doubt that the executions had taken place.

Reliability of Witnesses

Every witness to these deaths and burials proved their own integrity by leading us, unerringly to remote areas where they identified grave sites with precision even though these were overgrown with tropical vegetation. All our witnesses denied having taken part in the killing, but several claimed to have helped dig the graves. The evidence given had much detail, and this detail has been confirmed independently on a number of occasions.

How many were killed during this "clean campaign" is unknown, but estimates, based upon graves and exhumations, have already reached 691. This applies to a small area within the province of Misamis Oriental known as the "killing fields".

One young man, who permits the use of his name, which is Gregorio Macabalin, shows the role played by "the universal suspicion" advocated by Che Guevara. He claims that he has witnessed the killing of many villagers who were "suspected" of being "informers" to the military. He pointed out that if military men visited a barangay (village), the NPA immediately declared that there were sympathizers within that barangay, and a witch hunt ensued. If a military man spoke to a villager, this was regarded as evidence of collaboration and was likely to prove a capital offense. This NPA tactic ensures that the military is shunned except where they establish a permanent base and thus can provide protection for the people.

Killing for NPA Tax Evasion

Another witness, Abeto Palasan, claims to have witnessed the execution of about 40 villagers for tax evasion. The tax imposed by the NPA includes both money and food. A monthly cash levy is assessed based upon the NPA's estimate of how much the family can afford. In addition, there is a rice levy, with rice growers being obliged to provide a certain quantity each month. Other foods, such as bananas, are also taxed.

Suspicion that a certain individual is a DPA may be aroused in a number of ways. If, for example, an NPA group is ambushed by the military, all members who were absent from the group for any reason are immediately suspected. Also, if an ambush of the military fails, it is presumed that the failure resulted from the military having been forewarned by agents in the group.

Once an individual is suspected of being a DPA, his only hope is to prove that this suspicion is unjustified. This is often extraordinarily difficult, and the outcome is execution.

The communists have proved over and over again that they regard lives as expendable. This is not surprising since their basic doctrine affirms that each individual is merely a soulless animal and that their ultimate goal justifies the slaughter of such animals.

The communists refer to the "blood debts", which must be paid once they have conquered the Philippines. It is probable that such a conquest will lead to a slaughter of massive dimensions by those whose feet are "swift to shed blood."

Growing Grass? Roots Opposition to Communism

In some areas organized resistance to the communists is developing. We know of over 30 groups that have formed independently in these areas in reaction to communist abuse. They include the following: Preservation of Democratic Institutions in the Philippines; Anti-Communist Trust; People's Anti-Communist Endeavor; KADRE; and Alsa Masa (Masses Against Communism), to name but a few. Many are members of the coalition, National Movement for Freedom and Democracy, under the leadership of Jun Alcover.

Each group has its own method of opposing the CPP, but basically it depends on education, organization and self-defense.

Many people are resisting the payment of taxation to the communists. They are also resisting indoctrination, and are organizing to prevent the gathering of intelligence for the communists. In some places they have set up runners to advise each other on the presence of communists or strangers in their areas.

As well as resistance, there is a kind of evangelism to win back the communist cadres. There are orientation seminars for communist returnees that are religious and stress Filipino culture and democracy. Elaborate, emotional ceremonies of graduation welcome the ex-communist back to freedom.

Most of these organizations are studying and distributing Crusade literature.

STUDENT AND FACULTY RESPONSE TO "WHY COMMUNISM KILLS"

The distribution of "Why Communism Kills" proceeds steadily. Most of the 794,962 copies distributed to date have

gone to the students and faculties of universities, colleges, seminaries and Bible schools.

Responses

The responses of the recipients vary from abusive hostility to enthusiastic endorsement. I welcome all replies, but my favorites are those which indicate that the message is being considered and discussed in class. The following is typical of such responses:

"I recently received in the mail a copy of 'Why Communism Kills' by Dr. Schwarz. It so happens that I will be teaching a graduate course next term with the title, 'In Search of Utopia Through the Ages'. The basic writing by Marx and Engels are among the materials selected for study in the course.

"Having taken time to read through Dr. Schwarz's pamphlet, I feel that an in-class discussion of the points he raises would be quite informative and productive. Since the pamphlet indicates that additional copies are available from C.A.C.C., presumably free of charge, I would appreciate receiving thirty copies at the address below. Thanks."
(Virginia)

Moral Equivalence

Numerous correspondents acknowledge the accuracy of the message of "Why Communism Kills" but point out that other political systems also kill. Sometimes the letters contain affirmations that are questionable, but the proposition that history, both ancient and modern, contains an appalling record of the slaughter of men, women and children, cannot be disputed.

Consider this letter:

"Thank you for the pamphlet, 'Why Communism Kills'. In it you outline some undisputed or rather indisputable points in the grave flaws of communist systems as practiced so far.

"As a human rights activist (Amnesty International) struggling to save lives in both extreme Eastern (Soviet Block) and extreme Western (Latin American) regimes, the question comes inevitably to mind, 'Why Capitalism Kills?' Within the U.S. we enjoy a great degree of freedom. Unfortunately, history has demonstrated that our system often does not respect the freedoms of other nations in the name of 'free enterprise'. A classic example is our government's condoning and encouraging the brutal death, torture and 'disappearance' of hundreds of thousands of individuals in Chile. As you probably well know, in order to maintain great profits in the copper industry (Kennecott, ITT, Anaconda) the U.S. orchestrated one of the most brutal, bloody 'coups' in this hemisphere. For fourteen years now the Chileans have been deprived of basic human freedoms which they formerly knew, and, most gravely, deprived of many scores of lives. I may point out that one of the 'death squad' organizations in the country acts in the name of 'anticommunism'.

"As Christian, thinking human beings concerned about the plight of our fellow men on this planet, we must question all systems." (Ph.D. Wisconsin)

Overlooking controversial statements, I have replied as follows:

Dear Doctor,

I thank you for your thoughtful response to the message,

"Why Communism Kills".

I am encourage by your affirmation that it contains some indisputable points revealing the grave flaws of communist systems as practiced so far. I agree with your contention that the conduct of the U.S.A. has not always been commendable and that much can and should be criticized.

Maybe I misunderstand you, but I gain the impression that you are urging that I give equal attention to the evils of

capitalism I have done to those of communism. Frankly, I don't believe this is possible, and I doubt if it is desirable. May I use a medical analogy: There are many diseases that destroy health and life. The day when one individual could be an expert on all diseases has passed. Specialization in the diagnosis and treatment of one disease, or one group of diseases, now recognized as the desirable norm.

All diseases are undesirable, but are not equivalent in the suffering and loss of life which they cause. At one time syphilis was the most deadly venereal disease. It has now been outstripped in horror by AIDS.

I do not believe that there is moral equivalence between communism and capitalism or between the Soviet Union and the U.S.A. While millions try to flee from the Soviet empire, other millions try to flee into the U.S.A. Sometimes actions speak louder than words.

During 37 years in the U.S.A., I have never heard anyone claim that capitalism was destined to conquer the world. In contrast, the communist leaders routinely claim that the conquest of the entire world by "socialism", which will lead ultimately to "communism", is inevitable. The proclamation and practice of the Brezhnev Doctrine proves that the Soviet Communists are working to assure this conquest.

I believe that communism poses the greatest threat, both doctrinally and historically, to the "human rights" of the people of the United States and the world, so I am concentrating on its diagnosis and treatment.

With Christian love, Dr. Fred Schwarz

Compassion and Confusion

Some letters reveal emotional compassion but intellectual immaturity. The result is confusion and apparent excessive self-assurance. Consider:

"One of, if not the greatest, freedoms we have as citizens of this country (the United States of America) is the freedom to formulate, verbally express, and if we have the financial means, publish our own personal opinions about other people's opinions. This is why I appreciate the pamphlet I received in the mail from your organization today. That you care enough about my welfare to attempt to persuade me against the threat of what you sincerely believe to be an evil system of beliefs, well, that just convinces me more of what a dear and wonderful potential this nation contains within its essence.

"But Sir, I beg to differ, not so much with your opinion, as with what I perceive to be the motivation behind your's and other people's seemingly 'scapegoat' attitude towards Communism.

"First of all, speaking first as a human being, second as a citizen of America, I am concerned that so few people seem to acknowledge the fact that the problems of the world—murder, rape, theft, political and military ambitions—stem not so much from systems of thought (you, sir, I feel sure, will admit that mass murder scourged the human race long before the birth and intellectual flowering of Karl Marx) as from some unidentified blight on the human (individual) consciousness. Now whether that blight is a necessary condition of human existence or not—and I feel sure that as a 'Christian' organization, you possess ample terminology with which to refer to the condition—is not the point, it seems to me. Rather, we should look at means and ends.

"Your pamphlet clearly says 'Communism kills.' Now from a 'Christian' organization, I would expect, not more, but certainly as much as I would from any human community in the world, and certainly you feel strongly enough about human suffering that you wouldn't risk selling your love out for results, or more clearly, the means for the ends. In other words, surely you realize that 'Communism' never killed anybody; a man killed somebody. A woman killed somebody. But after all, Communism is not even a real thing. It's an idea, the same as Christianity. Or Democracy. Or Islam. Or Hinduism. Or Nihilism. They all stemmed from the human consciousness, so they should be dealt with as such, not as Evil Entities, come from hell to destroy the race. I would suggest you read up on the history of the 'Christian Church'; it has had its share of scandal: witch-hunts, purges, persecutions to call its own.

"What I want to express to you, sirs, is that humanity has from the dawn of history attempted to project individual fears, prejudices, and phobias onto something big and abstract. We have always seemed to have needed a story with

which to express the meaning of our existence in this world, and any other story we have resisted to the point of being more brutal than the ones who tell the story we so despise. The thing to do, I sincerely believe with my most rational faculties, is to examine our individual motivations, and ask ourselves an honest 'why am I doing what I am doing right now?', and encourage our brothers and sisters to do the same, so that we may someday truly live in peace, and enjoy the spectacular, too wondrous for words, beauty and richness of this earth.

"To close, I will leave you with a letter I once received from a Japanese friend of mine in response to the question posed to her, 'How do you feel about war?'

"Dear Susie: The question you ask us is very difficult, also very valuable. Why our governments want to do wars? They are crazy! They know they killed many people, each other, but still they do. I am very sad. We want to friendship by meeting, and now you and I are good friends. This is good. Someday perhaps there will be no war, if we continue to friendship. I hope so. Love, your friend, Yuko. (With hearts drawn to the side)

Sincerely yours, Susie

Dear Susie,

Your letter reveals a tender heart and a genuine concern for human suffering.

Nevertheless, I am bewildered by your major theme, "Communism never killed anybody. A man killed .somebody. A woman killed .somebody." This seems to illustrate the statement by .the. poet, Tennyson:

"A lie which is half a truth
Is the wickedest lie of all."

Human hands often pull The trigger of the gun, but the hand is directed by the human Main , and the direction often proceeds from ideas which are enshrined in the human mind and brain. Would you ?say: "Hatred never killed anyone; racism never killed anyone.; anti?semitism never killed anyone; delusions never killed anyone.." I remember a man I treated when I was a. medical student. Lt was during the Second World War, and Brisbane, Australia, was host to the American troops. This man told me the American 40LcL?&no intended o kill him. Motivated by his delusion, he secured a gun in order to defend himself and proceeded to shoot and kill two U . S. servicemen.

Does not your letter illustrate action resulting from an idea? Did no. The procedure that led to the typing, stamping and mailing of your letter commence with an idea £n your mind? The. idea Zed to the. act.

Ideas have. consequences. Deranged ideas lead to deadly deeds. Surely you would not contend that the ideas concerning the Jews, which festered in the mind of Adolph Hitler, did not contribute to the slaughter of the holocaust?

The communist idea that humans are merely soulless animals, who can be. improved and perfected by being reared in a coercive socialist environment, and who can be liquidated if necessary, has already resulted – the death of millions and will certainly lead o the death of many more millions.

We agree that human nature is flawed and, as a Christian, I believe it can be. transformed and regenerated by the power of God. This is cause for hope.

With Christian love, Dr. Fred Schwarz

A Bonus

I will conclude on a positive note. This letter made me rejoice:

"I have just read your booklet 'Why Communism Kills' which you had sent to one of my student sons at the U. of Wisconsin, Oshkosh. I found it to be the clearest and most accurate description of what communism really is that I have ever read. When I was a student at the U. of Chicago in the late forties, I was a fan of Marx and was convinced of the perfectibility of human nature. But over the years, after much thought and reading, my opinions about

communism changed. After thinking about the Cambodian genocide and Afghanistan, I came to the same conclusions you expound. Because of all this thought and concern on the subject by me over the years, your booklet really 'hits home'. But my 4 sons who have never read Marx and thus never really thought seriously about communism, although they completely agree with your booklet, are not emotionally aroused by the booklet. And this is sad because an idea that is not taken into the heart is an idea whose time has not yet come.

"Since it is teachers who can do so much to put 'heart' into ideas, it is the teachers that we should reach first. So enclosed is \$10 for which please send me 5 copies of your booklet along with instructions for ordering more copies, and I will pass them out to my teacher friends whom I know will be very receptive." (Wisconsin)

I ask for your support so that our distribution of "Why Communism Kills" to the teachers and students the Universities and Colleges can continue.

The following jokes are reported to be popular among dissidents in the Soviet Union:

Teacher What is a communist? Student A communist is one who studies Marx and Lenin. Teacher What is an anti-communist? Student An anti-communist is one who studies Marx and Lenin and understands them.

Teacher Student

Describe the U.S.A. In the U.S.A. the capitalists oppress the people. Half of the workers are unemployed and all live in dire poverty.

Teacher What is the goal of the Soviet Union? Student To catch up to the United States.

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Dear Friend,

Christian Anti-Communism Crusade

March 1, 1987

THE BATTLE FOR LIFE

As I write this, the ABC television network prepares to present the series, AMERIKA, which will attempt to portray the conditions which they think would exist in America several years after a successful conquest of this country by the Soviet Union.

I have not seen the series so I cannot give an informed judgment on the presentation. This I know--if the series does not indicate that conquest was followed, sooner or later, by a practical program to "liquidate" the bourgeoisie, (the middle-class owners of property), it will ignore communist doctrine and distort communist history.

When we talk of communist conquest, we are not talking about a mere change in the economic system; we are talking about a long-range "scientific" program to "perfect" human nature. This program is based upon the two assumptions that there is no God, and that the human species consists of evolutionary animals. The communist leaders are convinced that these animals can be improved by the application of the methods used in animal husbandry, and that "history" has appointed them to be the "husbandmen".

Our truth campaign is progressing all round the world. The response is exciting and inspiring in most countries, but in the Philippines it is particularly so.

The Rev. James Colbert is presently leading a team conducting seminars in Mexico, and is preparing for seminars in Nigeria and Tanzania, Africa; and in Andhra and Kerala States, India, in March.

Some indication of the need for, and the fruit of, the distribution of "Why Communism Kills" to colleges and universities is provided in the accompanying newsletter. Do you want this program to continue?

Dallas Freedom Forum

A seminar, entitled the Dallas Freedom Forum, will be held in Dallas, Texas on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 20th 2022.

The location will be The Marriott Hotel, Market Center, 2101 Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, Texas 75207, and the speakers will include: Dr. Fred Schwarz; Dr. John Whitehall; Reed Irvine, President of Accuracy in Media; Dr. John Drakeford, Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Counseling at Southwest Baptist Seminary, Dana Rohrabacher, Presidential speechwriter; and others.

To register or to secure further information call: (214) 826-8440; or write to: Dr. George Jones, 3601 Swiss Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75204. The cost of the seminar will be \$50, but scholarships will be granted on request to students, teachers, and ministers. A special effort will be made to enroll college and high school students and teachers.

I pleaded for \$2 million for our truth campaign in 1986. We received \$1,639,056.65. I now plead for \$2 million for 1987. I thank you for your understanding and generous support.

With Christian love,

Fred Schwarz