

## Editorial

### *The stakes in the Philippines elections*

As we go to press, the American people have been the victims of one of the biggest black propaganda operations ever run by the press. The issue is the Feb. 7 Philippines presidential elections, in which President Marcos has taken the lead in an election most officials will privately admit accurately reflects his support.

Yet, the U.S. wire services, press, and media are reporting incessantly on opposition candidate Corazon Aquino's early victory proclamation, and spewing out reports of fraud and violence perpetrated by President Marcos's ruling KBL political machine. The implication is that President Marcos has lost the election, and that if he remains in power, he does so against the will of the Filipino people.

What is the purpose of this black propaganda? The guidelines for U.S. "reporting" on the election, as well as for the so-called observer team sent to the Philippines, led by Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Sen. Richard Lugar, are based on a perception game set up by the likes of Rep. Stephen Solarz: Marcos must prove to the American people that he is capable of winning "*credible*" elections; if it is perceived that there has been massive fraud or if the election results "go against the will of the Filipino people," then the United States will cut military and economic aid to the Philippines.

The game has been rigged. No matter the realities in the Philippines, the U.S. press is conjuring up the *impression* that the elections are *not* "credible."

The purpose is to force through Congress, and especially the White House, the removal of the U.S. bases at Clark Field and Subic Bay. In fact, just as the elections were taking place, five congressmen led by KGB Democrat Ron Dellums were visiting the Philippines and Guam to study how the United States could transfer its bases to the outer rim of islands in the South Pacific.

As *EIR* has documented, the U.S. bases at Clark and Subic are irreplaceable; the U.S. Trident submarines would have to be hauled all the way back to the U.S. West Coast for servicing. Removal of the bases would

give the Soviet Union command over the crucial South China Sea, where the Soviets have already established bases at Cam Ranh Bay and Danang. The abandonment of the Philippines is a signal to every other U.S. ally in the region—especially Japan and South Korea—that the United States is executing a full-scale withdrawal from Asia and they had better come to terms with "the other powers" in the region.

President Marcos is fully aware that withdrawal of the U.S. bases is the real content of the operations against his government. On Feb. 8, in regards to the disinformation coming from the U.S. press, he told reporters: "We are a small country, and we do not dictate to the United States or any other observer group. If you want to cut the military aid to us, if you want to eliminate the bases, what can we do? We have to live with that and probably we have to make some kind of a *modus vivendi* with other powers in the region."

Of course, the American President and people would never accede to a *stated* policy to withdraw the U.S. bases from the Philippines and to abandon this friend and ally, whose soldiers fought side by side with Americans in many wars. No, the American President and people have to be made to believe that the Marcos government is a "discredited dictatorship," that the Philippines "is going," and that the United States "has no other choice."

That is the hidden truth behind the lies of the U.S. press.

On ABC's Nightline Feb. 5, President Marcos explained to Americans the strategic necessity for the U.S. bases at Clark Field and Subic Bay: to maintain the balance of power and thereby lessen the danger of war, and to protect the nations of Southeast Asia and the free world from Soviet expansionism. For this reason, he said, the bases are in the interests of both nations. President Marcos, it would appear, is a far better patriot of the United States than most of the so-called Americans in the State Department, the CIA, or the U.S. Congress.