When the case was first given public attention in Korea, video-tapes of Western Illinois University, the common place which ties all the students together, were shown on Korean TV news--tapes which are known to have been taken by the Korean Consul General's office in Chicago. Since summer, the case had been completely blacked-out by the Korean press, but was being monitored by Amnesty, International of London.

ACTION SUGGESTIONS:

KOREAN DEATH SENTENCES: 1) If you live in Illinois, please contact Senators Dixon and Simon (address in other Korea article) to urge they call for a full investigation of the case. Register your astonishment that such technics are being used against the international students on our campuses. Ask what this does to freedom of speech on U.S. campuses.
2) Write or call the U.S. State Dept. (2201 C St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20520) asking for details of the case and urging the U.S. government to give a clear, unequivocal message to the ROK government that the development of such a spy case for internal political means in Korea marks an infringement on free speech here in the U.S., which we citizens will not tolerate.

The Philippines: A QUESTION OF FOOD

The soldiers demanded sontol, langka, all the eggs
They took a short break in the feasting to murder him.

They tore open his empty stomach
laying among the sugar cane
that he couldn't touch in life.
They tore up the bananas and cassavas
planted perilously by mothers
of empty children
in the eyelash of land
between the fence and the river

Her eyes were not empty
there were tears enough to
fill the river
to bloat the empty stomachs
of the children.

They were afraid that determined men
in rugged red would take the
fine finished wood table and turn it over
sending platter and plates of savory meat
crashing gravy on the finished floor

for the dog who already
ate meat everyday.* by Alexia Bowley

* The last stanza signifies the soldiers destroying the feast so the farmers accused of being communists would continue to starve while the dogs ate.

This poem was given to the National Federation of Sugar Workers on July 29, 1985, in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental. Alexia and her husband Richard Bowley came to Negros where they saw for themselves how, amidst such lusciously green surroundings, people are starving and death is slowly taking its toll on the already malnourished, sickly population.

Death comes because the sugar industry, backbone of the Negros economy for generations, has collapsed and there is no work for those who have lived for years harvesting sugar for the landowners. Twelve out of Fifteen sugar mills have shut down.

The poem was inspired as the Bowleys participated in a fact-finding mission to discover why workers had been killed by government troops.

There is a certain period each year called by villagers "Tiempo Muerto" or "Time for Death." This is Negros! An island where 88,000 malnurished children suffer 'Tiempo Muerto".

CONGRESSIONAL MOVE FOR DEMOCRACY IN KOREA NEEDS SUPPORT!

Sen. Kerry Offers Resolution on Korean Human Rights:

The Concurrent U.S. House (HCR 261) and Senate (SCR 100) for Democracy in Korea recently introduced in Congress is a high-priority item for all U.S. citizens concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation in Korea. The identical resolution, introduced by Senator John Kerry (D.-Mass.), Sen. Paul Simon (D.-Il.) and eight other Senators and by U.S. Representatives Ed. Feighan (D.-Ohio) and Julian Dixon (D.-CA.), calls for:

1) the replacing of the current climate of intimidation, abuses of basic human rights and civil liberties, and other anti-democratic actions with an atmosphere of dialogue and trust between the Republic of Korea (ROK) government and the democratic opposition (to it);

2) the full restoration of political and individual rights to Kim, Dae-Jung, and all others whose political rights are being restricted; and

3) the peaceful and fully democratic transfer of Presidential power in the 1988 elections, which should be open to all for participation.

Pointing to the recent Korean (ROK) government harassment of opposition politicians, widespread reports of the use of torture on political prisoners, the "virtually non-existent" right to due process by an independent and impartial judiciary, and the impossibility of meaningful dialogue with north Korea when such an unstable political situation exists in the south, the Resolution reminds the Republic of Korea (ROK) government that the U.S.' primary purpose for economic and military assistance to the ROK is to promote a return to democracy.

ACTION

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON DEMOCRACY IN KOREA: This Resolution needs co-sponsors! Contact your Senators (name, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510) and Congressperson (name, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515) urging them to co-sponsor the Senate Concurrent Resolution 100 (SCR 100) and the House Concurrent Resolution 261 (HCR 261) on "Democracy in Korea". The Resolution is mild and appeals to politicians on both sides of the aisle. So, challenge them all to join in on this "sense of the Congress".

Those Senators who are already co-sponsoring also need your words of support for their important decision on SCR 100. They are: Kerry, Simon, Pell, Kennedy, Dodd, Hollings, Cranston, Sarbanes, Riegle, and Harkin.

For copies of the Resolution, updates on its progress, and the introductory speech from the Congressional Record, write to: The North American Coalition for Human Rights in Korea, 110 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

NEWSWORTHY NOTE

In the November Advocate we reported the case of the Soh Brothers and how Mr. Soh, Joon-Shik had filed suit against the constitutionality of the "Public Security Law" under which he has been detained since 1971. On November 26, the Korean Supreme Court rejected his appeal. Please continue to send your letters asking for the release of Mr. Soh to President Chun and your Congressional representatives. Another review of his sentence will come up in the Spring. Also include letters to the Minister of Justice, Ministry of Justice, Second Office Building, Sihung-sun, Kwachon-myon, Kyonggi-do, Seoul, Korea. New Year's letters and cards to the Soh Brothers would be welcomed at their prison addresses: Soh Sung, Daejon Prison, 36 Daejong-dong, Chung-Ku, Daejon City, Chung Cheon nam-do, Republic of Korea; Soh, Joon-Shik, Cheonju Preventive Custody Prison, Mipyong-dong, Cheongju City, Chungcheongpuk-do, R.O.K.