

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Philippines	REPORT NO.	CS-10433
SUBJECT	Manifesto Addressed to Filipino People by Jesus Lava, Secretary General of Philippine Communist Party	DATE DISTR.	21 May 1953
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE: Well-educated resident of central Luzon municipality who is a former member of the Philippine Communist Party, and who has maintained contact with former associates active in Party organs (C). Appraisal of Content: Documentary.

The following is a translation of the Tagalog text of an undated manifesto addressed to the Filipino people by Jesus Lava, Secretary General of the Philippine Communist Party. The manifesto, which is in the form of an open letter, is believed to have been prepared either during late 1952 or early 1953. It bears Lava's signature, and it may, in fact, have been prepared by him. This is believed to be one of the few available Philippine Communist documents in which Lava has been described as the present Party General Secretary, although his assignment and continued function in this position since shortly after the arrest of his brother, Jose, in October 1950, is well established. Jesus is the third of the Lava brothers to occupy this position, since Vicente preceded Jose as Secretary General.¹

As a statement of the current Philippine Communist policy of the so-called peace offensive, the document is not outstanding when compared with other current documentary material presenting the Party's official position, either for internal or mass consumption. This may lend support to an assumption that Lava, although once described as the Party's principal theoretician, may not himself be the author of much material of an essentially propaganda nature.²

The unusual emphasis on Filipino nationalism is a reiteration of the policy and propaganda theme which was revived in the important November 1952 document, "Our Tactical Policy for the Present", the text of which was contained in CS-1309, and which was interpreted as the Philippine Communist implementation of the October 1952 Moscow Conference policies on this theme. The document, which is believed to be authentic, has not been edited except where this was considered essential to clarity. It is not known what circulation the document was given.

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated by "X"; Field Distribution by "#")

MANIFESTO
TO THE
FILIPINO PEOPLE

Countrymen:

1. Our beloved country is ailing. It has a very serious ailment. It has long been made to suffer by an old disease which exhausted the vitality and strength of our people and caused our country to lapse into the state of prostration. The 432 years of oppression and slavery by pillaging foreigners completely weakened our economy, our existence, and the morality of our people; so much so that, many of us are already unaware of our patrimony. Some of us became Spaniards; others became Japanese; and many became Americans, in spirit if not in color. Filipinism, that passionate and enthusiastic pro-Filipino sentiment which encouraged and urged those like Lapu-Lapu and Dagohoy, Diego Silang, Bonifacio, Luna, Del Pilar, Crisanto Evangelista, and Jose Abad Santos to become heroes and martyrs, is a virtual thing of the past, while the slave mentality, the beggarly manner of some, and uncontrolled self-aggrandizement and subservience to alien masters, are the predominating spirit among the so-called wise and illustrious. Yes, we were taught to become obedient slaves to the exploiting foreigners. 3
2. Our country has just recovered from the terrible destruction of the past war; a war not of our own making, more so: not our desire. At present, in spite of the "generosity" of "our American masters", millions of Filipino workers and employees roam the streets, begging for work, living on charity, dying of hunger. Millions of peasants sweated and bled in driving away the oppressive Spaniards and Japanese from our shores; peasants, whose blood is still dripping through the ability of American dominators, are still thirsty for a peace of land which really belongs to them. Millions also of small land-owning farmers have no more hope to get up from debt and mortgage, are now living a hungry and needy existence. Even our bourgeoisie is suffering under a progressing, renewed oppression by rich aliens and by the government which claims to be independent and apart from the wealthy, but is attached to the same strings and is the servant of foreign masters.

We are in the midst of an internal Revolution for National Liberation from our "generous masters". Our leaders, groups, or parties chose the easy, "honorable," and the best money-making way of collaboration and puppetry. Our country is suffering not only due to the oppression of foreigners, but also from the hands of our countrymen, who, voluntarily or not, are permitting themselves to be used as tools of a foreign master against the welfare of our own people. These rotten and loathful instruments of Wall Street went further, through the same method corrupting and bribing the HMB and the population so they would serve without danger to their welfare and to that of their master.

4. In the midst of this complicated economic, political, social, and moral problem, the danger of a new war appeared; a war that may burn and finish all the countries of the whole world, including our country and its people. A war a million times more destructive than the past one; a war not made by us, but which will involve us till extinction; a war prepared and undertaken by moneybags who are thirsty for large profits, even if they have to have the valuable lives of the laborers and the peasants, and if the middle class be crushed and killed; even if a country and its inhabitants be placed in danger of total extermination. A war where the Filipinos may become peons again, in which they will be unhesitatingly fed and killed on the altar of profit in order to sate the insatiable taste and greed for gain and greater gain; a war that will mislead the Filipino laborers, the peasants, the students, and the professionals to serve an oppressive foreign power, in order that apparently they will fight, for a democracy which has never existed for the ordinary man, in order to fight for a way of life which is definitely a way of poverty, want, misery, extreme hunger, and hopelessness in life.

5. Dear Countrymen:- It is not yet too late; the war can still be evaded. The war can still be blocked by the united desire and movement of the people, of all the people who understand the need of blocking it. We are not alone in this struggle. The people all over the world, laborers and peasants, students and professionals, in America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia, the people in the Soviet Union, China, Korea, and Eastern Europe, are all in this fight for peace. Shall we allow a handful of profit-grabbing imperialists to plunge the world into a war without struggling to oppose them? Shall we nullify our right to fight for world peace? If no, then we are also repudiating our singular right to live.
6. The involvement in war of the Philippines and the Filipino people is painful to the hearts of our population. But how could our involvement be avoided, if the war cannot be evaded? Foreign troops and military bases must be removed from our shores. Our memory is not so short as to forget the lessons of the past war. These bases and foreign troops are not for our protection. We are being made into a fort and converted into a screen upon which the immediate ferocity of the initial attack will be let loose, like the employment of civilians as a barricade by the Japanese in order to cover their retreat.
7. We must not be carried away and deceived to join an agreement in the Pacific or a Southeast Asia Union or the ANZUS Pact. Let us not allow our valuable raw materials be stolen by a warmongering power. (This is what the MSA is doing.) We should not permit that the laborers, the peasants, the Filipino students, and professionals in military uniform to be used as cannon fodder so the tanks, airplanes, machineguns, and rifles of Du Pont, Morgan, Ford, and Rockefeller can be sold at staggering profits. Let us not permit the Japanese militarists to raise their heads again who, even now, are already demonstrating arrogance and total disregard of the rights of the Filipino Nation. We are the recognized victors in the last war, but peace has definitely disappeared from us - just because of the desire of the American capitalists of weapons to reap the maximum profit, because they merely wish that Japan be the one to exploit and oppress the sweat and the blood of the Asians. We must be sure not to permit ourselves to be used in the work which will only bury us Filipinos deeper in bondage of the shackles of slavery.
8. We are calling on all true Filipinos from all walks of life. Let us cast aside partisan sentiments for the time being; let us forget past misunderstandings; subordinate the narrow and selfish interest, and join and unite with this movement for peace, liberty, and prosperity. The National Liberation Movement, led by the Communist Party of the Philippines, is ready to unite, join, and cooperate in the work, movement, and struggle of any person, group, or party which loyally believes in and is ready to fight for peace. We have to struggle together, because if not, we will perish if divided. To perish fighting together as one for the problem of peace, liberty, and prosperity; and to survive together as one for peace, liberty, and prosperity, what greater Filipinism is there to look for?

Filipinos: Let us unite for Peace
Fight for Peace.....

COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE PHILIPPINES

JESUS B. LAVA
General Secretary

Let us form

A NATIONAL FRONT FOR PEACE AND AGAINST WAR!

- PKP

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1. Washington Comment. Jose Lava is now serving a life sentence in a Manila prison as a result of his conviction with other members of the Philippine Communist Party Politburo in May 1951; Vicente died in 1947, presumably after having selected Jose as his eventual successor. Jesus is believed to have assumed the post of Secretary General during early 1951. See SO-9406 (August 1952) for a summary of information referring to connections of members of the Lava family with the Philippine Communist movement.
2. Washington Comment. As Secretary General, and as a member of the Party Secretariat, and possibly other national-level organs, Lava presumably participates in the actual preparation of various theoretical documents released for circulation among Party organs.
3. Washington Comment. The inclusion of such early Philippine Communist leaders as Evangelista and Abad Santos in this listing of Filipino heroes is noteworthy; this is of interest in connection with the patriotism and nationalism themes expounded in CS-1309, previously referenced.
4. Washington Comment. See CS-1309 and CS-8622 (May 1952) and referenced report and comments.

Washington Comment. The fact that the document was prepared in Tagalog, rather than in English, or other Philippine dialects, is noteworthy. However, it is not known whether the manifesto was also circulated in other languages. The degree of Lava's facility in Tagalog, assuming he actually wrote the document, is not exceptional, insofar as this can be judged from this translation.