

OPEN FORUM

Mrs. Casanova: With whom shall the opposition movement of a unified leadership deal? What establishment for instance?

Prof. Hassan El-Zaher: They will deal with the central government.

Mr. Sero: Islamic and Communistic doctrines cannot go hand in hand. How come that the Middle East countries or the Third World Countries are always being exploited by the communist countries like Russia and Cuba so much, that even Egypt is not spared; whereas, only the Christian side of the world goes to the United States and her allies. Libya, for instance, even affects the peace and order condition in the Philippines by supporting the rebels in the South. In fact, it is the Middle East that is causing all this trouble now.

Mr. Zaher: Does Mr. Sero have evidences or verifications to his claim that the Libyan government is building up arms in the Southern Philippines? Because in the absence of proof, we cannot simply conclude that such is the case, A good Muslim cannot be a communist and a good Christian cannot be a communist. The involvement of the power blocks in the Middle East is on the problem of economic development. The Middle East needs technologists and machineries. In political science, we apply the theory of political exchange. I give you something, you give me something. You give me technology, I give you oil, our natural resources. In a situation like that, any country for that matter will do the same.

Atty. Pentaliday: The main point of the speaker's theme is nation-building and the participation of the governed. Examples of actual happenings in history were given. The first actor is the experiences of these examples and out of these experiences the relevance of these experiences that we have in connection with nation-building in the Philippines. The examples given on the conflict and solutions of conflicts in the Asian countries is an eye-opener for the leaders of the Philippines. Since there is an analogous problem that is existing now, the Philippines will profit out of the experiences of the Third World which is relevant to the situation in the Philippines. The President of the Philippines has started and made into black and white what is similar to the Addis Ababa Agreement of 1956 which is also

similar to the Tripoli Agreement of 1976. If North Sudan consisting of Muslims and the South consisting of Christians, were able to find solution to their problems, then there is no question that here in the Philippines the same problem cannot be settled. Another factor is both North and South are Muslims like Iran. Their problems were also settled, and such being the case, the lecture of Prof. Zaher must be given due credence as an eye-opener to the leaders of our country.

An Indonesian National: It was the First Federation that broke out the conflict in Eritrea following the lecture of the speaker. Again, there is a renewal of conflict, so, why not form a second Federation if it will suit the purpose of buying peace?

Prof. Zaher: I have doubts as to the feasibility of accepting the Eritrean government of the second Federation. This is so, because the economy of the Eritrean government is more developed than that of Ethiopia. It is very progressive because of its accessibility to the Red Sea.

Miss Damaso: (ORC XII) How are things managed in an absolute independence, as manifested in terms of regional administrative machinery, so that the same procedure may be followed or applied in this region?

Mr. Zaher: North Sudan is the national seat of government which has the following bodies: Parliamentary, Executive and Judiciary. South Sudan is regional: with the Assembly, Executive and Judiciary as its bodies. The central government is in North Sudan. To maintain a balance of military power, distribution of such power is equal in strength, with six thousand each.

Dr. Fernandez: By negotiating with Tripoli, in view of the conflicts with the Arab world itself, we may have somehow alienated other parties in the Middle East by making approaches to just one particular power in the Middle East which does not have best relation with the other Middle East countries.

Mr. Unda: Is it a fact that Egypt is a member of the Islamic Conference and the talk in Tripoli was sanctioned by the members of the IC?

Dr. Fernandez: When Martial Law was declared in 1972, the people in the south had no representation, unlike the comparison made on the blackboard of Sudan. Before ML there were 224 senators including congressmen from the south. Now, with the coming of IBP, we hope that the regional government will be represented in the national

seat of government in Manila basing on the examples of Prof. Hassan.

Examples of the conflicts in Indonesia are similar to that of ours today. The outer islands and other big islands of Kalamanta, the Sumatra and the Celebes were at one time griping that the resources of these islands all go to Jakarta and are not enough to support the welfare of the people of the outer islands. Also on the federation of Malaysia, Singapore initially joined the federation but later withdrew. Singapore had a malicious motive and interest with the end-in-view of attaining its own independence faster. Singapore's reason for this is the fact that all her resources filled the coffers of Kuala Lumpur but in return, not enough go back for Singapore's own needs. This might be true in the Philippines particularly in the South with its resources being exploited for exportation and for revenues of the national government. No proportionate amount goes back to the South for their own developmental needs.

Mr. Sero asked Mr. Zaher on the effect of our sending troops to Spratly Island. The former also queried whether we are not in imminent danger in the event oil will be exploited in commercial value. He asked for the possibility that trouble would erupt as soon as some ASEAN countries come in.

Mr. Hassan: The implication might be that the situation will be like Eritrea. Now that she is fully developed her neighboring cities are jealous and she is the target of threats.