

new book available on the hard
realities of philippine **land reform**

The facts about rice farming and tenancy in the Philippines are revealed in a new volume entitled *View From the Paddy*, edited by Frank Lynch, S.J. of the Ateneo de Manila. A special feature of the volume is its 24-page section on the teaching of a course in agrarian reform, prepared by Antonio Ledesma, Victoria Valdez, R. P. de los Reyes, and Frank Lynch. Presented are three alternative outlines for such a course (with varying emphases — moral, economic, or empirical), giving the suggested topics and subtopics for each session, readings and other assignments, and a lengthy but carefully screened bibliography.

For every reading found in *View From the Paddy* there is also a list of questions for discussion to help focus attention on the most important points made by the authors. Additionally there are maps, as well as eight pages of plates illustrating the entire lowland rice-growing cycle and, to close the volume, a 10-page index and glossary in which Tagalog farming terms are listed and explained.

The approach is empirical throughout, with the following topics considered: land reform in Nueva Ecija (articles by R. P. de los Reyes and Frank Lynch and by Basilio N. de los Reyes; comments by Jose Drilon, Jr., Assa Marom, David Christenson, Akira Takahashi); land reform in Bulacan (Takahashi and Brian Fegan); tenants' dilemmas (Brian Fegan); an historical overview of Philippine land reform and an appraisal of the available literature (Francis J. Murray, Jr.); an historical look at the fruits of agrarian protest (Jim Richardson); sociological aspects of irrigation systems (Gekee Y. Wickham and E. Walter Coward, Jr.); plans and accomplishments of the NARRA settlement, Palawan (Carlos A. Fernandez II); excerpts from *Ilocano Rice Farmers* (Henry T. Lewis); texts of the Hardie Report summary and of President Macapagal's statement to accompany the recently amended Agricultural Land Reform Code (R.A. 3844).

Reflecting on the book's potential contribution to national development, Agriculture Secretary Arturo Tanco writes: "Particularly in the area of cultural and socioeconomic factors affecting land reform — to which this volume principally addresses itself — there have been to date too many moral pronouncements, too many myths, and too much wishful thinking. This set of articles should help temper myth with reality and provide the empirical data urgently needed by policy-makers, fieldmen, and students alike. Thus, wishful thinking can be converted into purposeful, informed action.

This is a volume that must be read by those in government who are involved in agrarian reform and whose commitment should be matched with a deep understanding of its complexities. Indeed, this is must reading for every concerned citizen."

View From the Paddy is a co-publication of the Philippine Sociological Society (it is Vol. 20, Nos. 1-2, of the *Philippine Sociological Review*) and the Institute of Philippine Culture (IPC), Ateneo de Manila. Copies are available at the IPC (Loyola Heights campus, Ateneo de Manila; 98-31-94), or at the larger Manila bookstores or the Central Subscription Service of the Philippine Social Science Council (53-C Alejandro Roces, Q.C.; Box 655 Greenhills, Rizal D-738; 99-97-64). All overseas orders should be directed to the CSS/PSSC.

Price of the 274-page volume is ₱18/\$4.50 for the bookpaper edition. ₱10/\$2.50 for the newsprint student edition. Limited copies are available.

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