

MESSAGE TO A SPECIAL COMRADE, DR. DANTE SIMBULAN

By Jose Maria Sison
Founding Chairman, Communist Party of the Philippines

I wish to convey most heartfelt greetings and congratulations to my special comrade, Dr. Dante Simbulan, on the occasion of the launching of your autobiography, *Whose Side Are We On? Memoirs of a PMAer*. This is a clear testimony on the great service that you have rendered to the Filipino people as a teacher and activist dedicated to revolutionary change.

I am elated that the book narrates how my lecture on the mercenary tradition of the Armed Forces of the Philippines at the Philippine Military Academy ignited the unjustified ire of the PMA Superintendent, causing you to resign from the PMA and the AFP. You made an excellent decision in response to the question, “Whose side are we on?”

Since then, you have given fuller play to your brilliance as a scholar and teacher in the service of the oppressed and exploited. You freed yourself from the fetters of a military organization serving the interests of US imperialism and the reactionary classes of big compradors and landlords.

You were able to pursue further your social research on the Philippine elite and on how it amasses wealth and power at the expense of the toiling masses of workers and peasants. By teaching in several key universities and colleges, you exercised your academic freedom to spread patriotic and progressive ideas and you contributed greatly to the revolutionary awakening of the youth and growth and advance of the national democratic movement.

You were able to inspire and nurture many student activists who linked up with the masses. They were in the forefront of the surging youth movement in the late 1960s, the First Quarter Storm of 1970, and other mass struggles until the proclamation of martial law in 1972. As expected, the Marcos fascist dictatorship hunted you down and put you in prison.

After your release, you continued your role as book writer and educator. When you decided to stay in the US, especially because of the medical needs of Grace, you never left home as you continued to propagate the revolutionary cause of the Filipino people, advocate their human rights, and promoted the unity of Filipino compatriots against the Marcos dictatorship and succeeding regimes in a still persistent exploitative and oppressive ruling system. ###

(Book launch of Whose Side Are We On?, Oct. 20, 2016, 3-5 p.m., Executive House, UP Diliman, Quezon City)