

QUE ONDEE SOLA



NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

SEPTEMBER 6, 1977

The Birth Puerto Rican Nationalism

El Grito de Lares

"I . . . imagine that without revolution without independence we will never by anything but the eternal colony of Spain." — Ramon Emeterio Betances.

It was set for the 29 of September, 1868, awaiting three thousand freedom fighters hoping to end the tyranny of Spanish Colonialism. Puerto Rico, the jibaro just emerging, was in intense struggle and anxiety preparing for the liberation of the homeland. This was the atmosphere which enveloped the point of culmination of the birth of a nation that cried for life, for liberty of her people! That cry that echoes through the years of oppression, through centuries of economic — judicial political — and ideological colonialization.

Although "El Grito de Lares" was initially set for the 29 of September, the revolution had to be stepped-up to the 23 of September because of a leak of information to the Spanish officials. In other words, a traitor in the ranks. The liberation forces took over the town of Lares, declared the first Democratic Republic of Puerto Rico and the abolition of slavery. After having freed Lares the revolutionaries proceeded to liberate the rest of Puerto Rico. However they were met by Spanish soldiers who put down the revolution. The battle was lost but the struggle continued.

Ramon Emeterio Betances, the master mind of the Puerto Ricans revolution, was exiled from Puerto Rico but continued the struggle from

abroad at the same time that he helped in the Cuban revolution; being as it was historical tradition of the antillean people to help one another in their struggles. Which is still true today.

Our first revolution led by the father of our country Ramon Emeterio Betances today is commemorated as the birth of the Puerto Rican nation, and also marks the historical date from which we commence our unbroken continuity of struggle to this day.

On September 16, 1898, Dr. Betances died in Paris, but before he died he wrote "I don't want a colony either of Spain or of the United States." This was in response to the military invasion at the part of Guanica, Puerto Rico by the United States. If Betances were alive today he would say

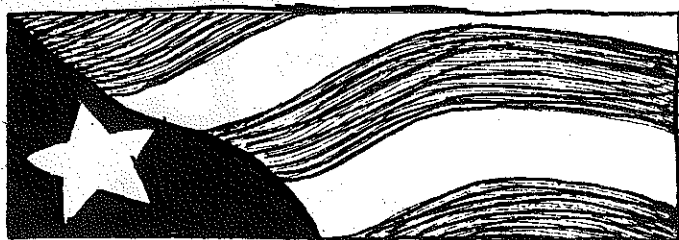
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Nationalism (Continued from page 1)

(and I paraphrase) "I imagine that without revolution without independence we will never by anything but the eternal colony of the United States of America."

Miguel Santiago



"El Maestro"

September 12, 1976 commemorated the 85th birthday of Dr. Albizu Campos "El Maestro"; the courageous leader of the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico. He led the Sugar Cane Workers Strike in 1934 and organized the 1950 revolution in Jayuya, "El Grito de Layuya," are just some of his admirable feats.

Pedro Albizu Campos was born on September 12, 1891. He was seven years old at the time of the U.S. military invasion of his homeland.

An outstanding student he received a scholarship to attend the University of Vermont. He received his B.A. in Science specializing in Chemistry with honors. Upon hearing of this exceptional student Harvard University invited him to continue his studies. In 1921 Pedro Albizu Campos returned to Puerto Rico at the age of 30 with a B.A. in Philosophy, Masters in Arts and Sciences from the University of Vermont. He also graduated from Harvard University in Military Science and received a Doctorate in Law.

During the time of his studies he had received many tempting offers. The U.S. government offered him careers in diplomacy, military and law. Private business offered a directorship, paid lectures, etc. Each time he politely rejected all the offers by saying he had a mission to accomplish in his homeland.

He returned to Puerto Rico and became a lawyer for the poor, while he himself lived in extreme poverty. In 1925 Albizu Campos was unanimously elected vice-president of the Nationalist Party because of his total dedication for the independence movement. In 1930 he was elected president of the party. He brought new drive and tactics to the party as president. The party adopted a "no cooperation policy" toward the Yankee government. The Nationalist became more active in the labor movement such as, the Sugar Cane Workers Strike in 1934.

In April 1936 Albizu Campos and the other

(Continued on page 4)

Welcome Freshmen

Que Ondee Sola welcomes the incoming freshmen and upperclassmen to UNI. We would like to introduce our paper which serves the latino population at UNI. Our title, "Que Ondee Sola", indicates what we stand for and that is the liberation and self-determination of Puerto Rico. We also expose discrimination and malice conspiracies against students and progressive teachers on campus as well as inform students of activities and academic affairs.

The paper comes out monthly. We welcome articles from students but do not guarantee publication. We accept only type written articles and the deadline for handing them in is on the first Wednesday of the last three weeks of the month. There will be a notice put up on our door informing students of the dates of the deadline. Articles may be dropped off at the Q.O.S. office located in the basement across the game room. For those interested in joining our staff, you are welcome to stop by the office and you will be interviewed by the present staff members. We hope that you enjoy our paper and that you achieve your goals at UNI.

Grand Jury Repression



(Jose Lopez Prof. at UNI)

This summer has been one of turmoil for the Puerto Rican and Mexican/Chicano community all as a result of the so-called investigation of terrorist bombings occurring in Chicago as well as New York and New Mexico. In the name of this investigation they have subpoenaed more than fourteen people to appear before the grand jury. The interrogations were based more on the activities on the movement for Puerto Rican independence than it was of the where abouts of

(Continued on page 3)

GRAND JURY *(Continued from page 2)*

Torres and FALN.

The grand jury is believed to be a tool used to repress the progressive forces of the movement for liberation of colonized people or countries. Evidence lies on the actions of the FBI and in the incarceration of those subpoenaed regardless of the feeble evidence brought against them.

In Chicago from those that were thrown in jail for refusing to speak to the grand jury, Juan Lopez was released only because he agreed to have his finger prints and mug shots taken. The other two which are Jose Lopez, Professor at UNI and Robert Cordero will spend six months in jail. The Committee to Stop the Grand Jury and other supportive organizations are mobilizing the masses for September 17, for a national demonstration. Que Ondee Sola will be bringing out a special issue in September regarding the repression of the Grand Jury and will inform students of where the demonstration is taking place.

Esterilizacion

A traves de todos los Estados Unidos de Norte America, y en muchos otros lugares del mundo, estamos luchando por mejorar las condiciones en que vivimos. A veces luchamos solos y a veces colectivamente, por trabajos que nos merecemos, a salarios de subsistencia plena, en condiciones seguras, por alimentos de calidad y a bajo costo, por educacion razonable, por centros de cuidado de ninos, por servicios medicos y vivienda adecuada, por cuidado materno, por ropa adecuada etc., y para afirmar nuestras identidades culturales y etnicas. Estamos luchando por nuestros derechos — eliminar el discrimin de acuerdo a riqueza personal, color, sexo, religion y nacionalidad. Luchamos por el control para determinar el caracter de nuestra sociedad.

El Comit  Contra el Abuso de la Esterilizacion (CESA) se creo hace dos anos cuando realizamos que uno de los metodos que el gobierno y las empresas privadas combaten nuestras luchas es el negarnos la oportunidad a planear cuando y cuantos ninos vamos a tener. En un sin numero de formas la clase dominante de los E.U. nos niega el derecho a escoger el mejor y mas accesible metodo contraceptivo. El abuso de la esterilizacion ocurre cuando una persona:

- es esterilizada sin el debido conocimiento sobre los riesgos, beneficios o alternativas a la operacion;
- es esterilizada sin conocimiento de que la operacion es permanente;
- es esterilizada sin su debido consentimiento;

- es esterilizada sin habersele dado la oportunidad a tomar la decision cuidadosamente, con la oportunidad de conocer los hechos sociales y entender las implicaciones;
- es esterilizada despues de haber sido amenazada con la negacion de otros servicios medicos o la terminacion de pagos de bienestar publico (welfare);
- es esterilizada porque no tiene facilidades de abortos disponibles, o porque otros metodos contraceptivos son muy costosos;
- escoge el ser esterilizada pero es desalentada o se le proh be de alguna manera el someterse a la operacion.

El abuso de la esterilizacion surge como parte de una campana por reducir la poblacion mundial. Muchos grupos poderosos — el gobierno de U.E., grandes corporaciones, el establecimiento medico, entre otros — han emprendido una campana de convencer al pueblo de que los recursos naturales estan limitados y no son lo suficiente para proveer por las necesidades basicas de todo el mundo; ahora que la taza de natalidad es tan alta.

Nos dicen que existe una "explosion poblacional." Son estos grupos los que tambien han creado un miedo tremendo sobre la habilidad y capacidad de la raza humana a sobrevivir; insisten en que ellos tienen el derecho a limitar, por fuerza si fuera necesario, su capacidad de reproduccion. De acuerdo a estadisticas de el Departamento de Salud, Educacion y Bienestar Publico (HEW) alrededor de 100,000 a 150,000 personas de bajo ingreso fueron esterilizadas bajo programas federales durante los ultimos anos. En Puerto Rico, 35% de las mujeres de edad reproductiva han sido esterilizadas bajo programas auspiciados y en colaboracion con el gobierno colonial y mayormente financiados por (HEW). En E.U. 20% de las mujeres negras, indias y chicanas estan siendo esterilizadas. Cerca de 1.3 millones de mujeres son esterilizadas cada ano — tres veces mas que tres anos atras.

Pero la llamada "explosion poblacional" es un mito — un mito sumamente peligroso. Los hechos historicos nos demuestran que a traves de todos los tiempos las sociedades existen organizadas de tal manera que la gente produce y tiene acceso a lo que necesitan, y entonces la taza de natalidad baja. El problema no es "demasiada gente", el problema es que nos niega el derecho a determinar lo que vamos a producir con los recursos disponibles, y como hacerlo para que cada persona tenga una participacion equitativa.

De hecho, si miramos a quienes han sido

(Continued on page 6)

Maestro (Continued from page 2)

Nationalist leaders were sentenced to 16 years in a federal penitentiary. Their crime was patriotism. He and his comrades spoke against the domination of Puerto Rico by the USA the most powerful imperialist country in the world. The Yankee government feared that this one man, who so inspired his people, would one day lead a revolution.

In December 1947, having completed his prison sentence, the Nationalist leader returned to Puerto Rico. During his incarceration he had suffered his first stroke (1943). Soon afterwards the party declared war on the U.S. government.

On October 30, 1950 in Jayuya, the Republic of Puerto Rico was proclaimed for the second time. The National Guard with aerial support was utilized to put down the revolt. Parts of Jayuya was bombarded. The Nationalist Party leaders and members were murdered or arrested shortly after "El Grito de Jayuya." "El Maestro" was arrested on November 2, after a two day shoot-out at the Nationalist Party Headquarters, which was also his home.

A few months afterwards don Pedro Albizu Campos was sentenced to 53 years imprisonment for subversive acts against the Yankee government. He was imprisoned in "La Princesa Prison" in San Juan. Three years after his conviction the Nationalist leader was given clemency because of his poor health and international pressure. Rumors, that claimed he was insane, were circulated by the administration. His health worsened because of the systematic torture he received at the hands of his captors. A doctor sent from Cuba confirmed the fact that Albizu Campos suffered radiation burns within prison. The doctor also concluded that there was absolutely nothing wrong with his mental health.

On March 1, 1954, four Nationalist members attacked the House of Representatives in Washington D.C. Although the four patriots claimed full responsibility for their actions, don Pedro's home was again attacked by the police with guns and teargas. Governor Luis Munoz Marin revoked the clemency and El Maestro was again incarcerated.

On March 25, 1956 don Pedro suffered another stroke while imprisoned.

On April 21, 1965 don Pedro Albizu Campos, lawyer, orator, scholar, Independentista, and leader of the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico died. He was released four months prior to his death because of his poor health.

El Maestro died but his ideals still live in the hearts and minds of many Puerto Rican patriots who are working to make his dream of a free Puerto Rico a reality.

Viva Puerto Rico Libre!

Sterilization Abuse

A hitherto "secret" report from an economic policy group empowered by the Governor of Puerto Rico has recently surfaced in the United States. One can see immediately why the report, dated November, 1973, has been kept from the public: it talks openly and directly about alternatives available for reducing the ranks of the Puerto Rican working class.

As the report, entitled "Opportunities for Employment, Education and Training" would have it, Puerto Rico's key problem is, and has always been, unemployment.

The latest official figure given in the report is an unemployment rate of 12.3% in 1972 (although unofficial sources, such as the Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce, hold it as high as 30%); what concerns this particular subcommittee of colonial administrators is that, at the rate things are going, unemployment could reach 18.5% by 1985.

"The Governor of Puerto Rico recently selected the figure of 5% unemployment by 1985", the report underlines. There is clearly a major discrepancy between the two figures, which presents a tough problem to the subcommittee. How to solve it?

The members of the subcommittee — Teodoro Moscoso, Administrator of Fomento, Secretary of Labor Silva Recio, Secretary of Education Ramon Cruz, and the then President of the University of Puerto Rico Amador Cobas, have come up with two solutions. One way is to foster new jobs — the same solution which has been advocated throughout Puerto Rico's twenty-five years of industrial development, and which has yet to reduce the high unemployment rate. The other, which they go on to discuss immediately, is to "reduce the growth of the working sector" of the population.

Their line of attack is two-pronged, involving the massive sterilization of Puerto Rican working-class women, and a forced migration of Puerto Rican workers to the United States. It is the former aspect of this plan which concerns us here.

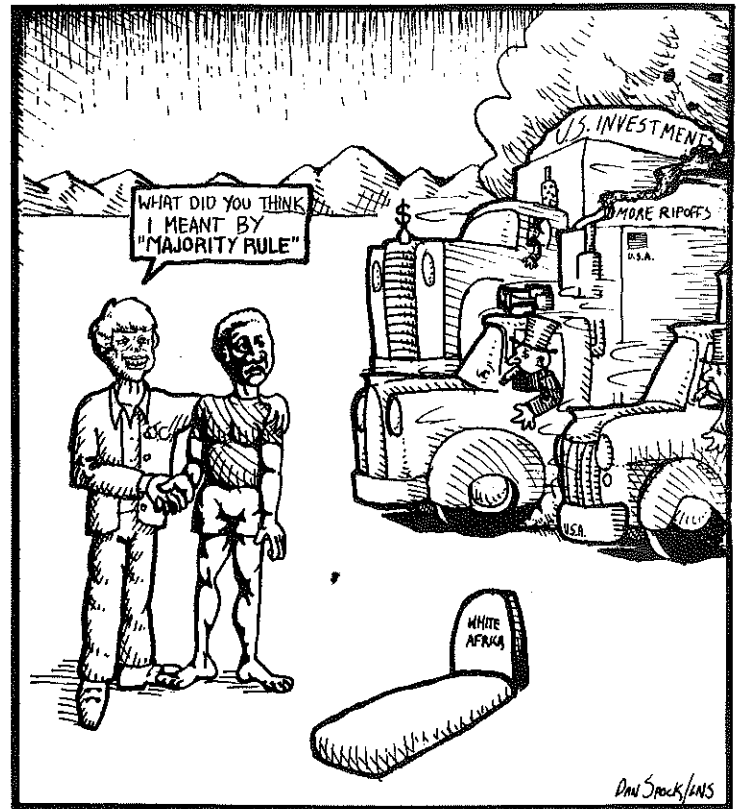
The Sterilization Plan

Under the heading of "organization and focusses of family planning", the November report estimates the female population of child-bearing age outside of San Juan to be 485,948. Agreeing with other studies on the astounding figure of 33% for the number of Puerto Rican women of child-bearing age that have already been sterilized, the report goes on to say "in other words, of the 485,948 women of reproductive age living in Puerto Rico, excepting the area of San Juan, 160,363 are sterilized. This

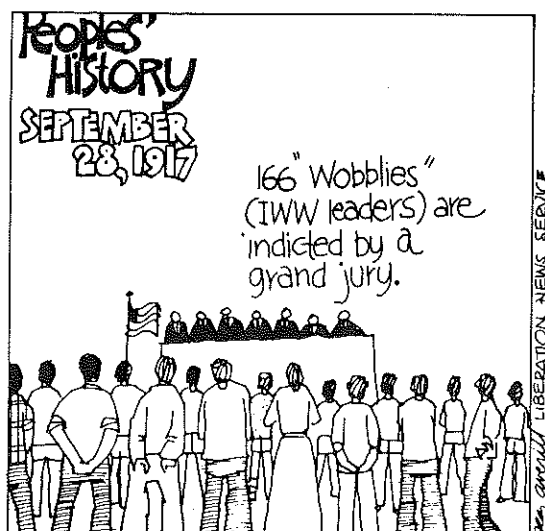
(Continued on page 7)

Something to Think About...

(Graphs by L.N.S.)



Basta ya con abuso de graw jurado en contra de mujeres puertogiquenos!



ESTERILIZACION

esterilizadas(os) podemos ver que son los mismos grupos de gente que han sido victimas de discriminación durante los 200 años de historia política y desarrollo de los Estados Unidos. Las clases industriales y el gobierno de los E.U., expandiendo su poder y control, sistemáticamente han negado los derechos de ciertos grupos. Entre algunos ejemplos podemos incluir; el robo de la tierra de los indios, la importación de esclavos africanos, la eliminación en las mujeres de sus derechos democráticos, a la eventual anexación de tierras mejicanas y de otras gentes, y la conquista económica de América Latina y otros continentes a través de este siglo. Puerto Rico, donde los programas de control poblacional han sido más exitosos que en ninguna otra parte, continúa siendo una colonia de Estados Unidos.

Ahora que la gente de otros países están luchando en guerras de liberación nacional para ganar control sobre sus tierras, la clase dominante está usando la esterilización de sectores seleccionados de la población para mantener su control racista y sexista sobre nuestras vidas. La necesidad que tienen los capitalistas de controlar todos los recursos para sus propios propósitos quiere decir que ellos también determinan la tasa de natalidad, no nosotros los que producimos las riquezas, o criamos nuestros hijos.

El Comité Contra el Abuso de la Esterilización cree que el abuso de la esterilización es un crimen en contra de la gente. La esterilidad forzada no es de ninguna manera un sustituto para buenos trabajos, suficiente alimentos, educación adecuada, cuidado de niños, servicios médicos, cuidado maternal-infante, vivienda, vestido o integridad cultural. Nosotros apoyamos el derecho individual de cada persona a escoger el método contraceptivo que el o ella prefiera. Pero cuando la sociedad no provee las necesidades básicas para la vida de cada persona, tal libertad a escoger no existe.

Por lo tanto, te invitamos a que te unas a nosotros(as), como miembro(a), auspiciador(ra), amigo(a), de CESA en uno de los proyectos que trabajamos en el presente

- A educar y publicar los "issues" que surgen alrededor del abuso de la esterilización, enfatizando el propósito que sirven los programas de control poblacional, y denunciar la implementación de el racismo, sexismo y la opresión de la clase trabajadora dentro del sistema de servicios de salud.
- A demandar que todas las familias y mujeres de edad reproductiva tengan libre acceso a todos los métodos contraceptivos y a abortos dentro de un sistema de salud amplio y de alta

calidad. Esto requiere una reorganización completa del cuidado de salud y la dirección del sistema de Seguro de Salud Nacional (National Health Insurance). Terminar el Cuidado de Salud Para Ganancias!

- Apoyar la radicación y la ejecución de pautas sobre la esterilización de mujeres en cualquier parte de los Estados Unidos. Las pautas para los hospitales de la ciudad de Nueva York, aseguran que las mujeres den consentimiento de proceder con la operación solamente después de haber sido informadas y aconsejadas, no son obligadas a esterilizarse y tienen derecho a un periodo de espera de al menos 30 días antes de que se ejecute la operación. Todo esto crea un precedente que debemos defender y extender.
- A iniciar acción legal en contra de esos que abusan de los derechos de los pacientes por cualquier medio. El abuso de la Esterilización es un Crimen en Contra de el Pueblo!

UNETE A LA LUCHA EN CONTRA DE EL ABUSO DE LA ESTERILIZACION

CESA: Comité Contra el Abuso de la Esterilización

P.O. Box A 244 Cooper Station

New York, N.Y. 10003

(212) 222-4804

(212) 858-7512

Yo/mi organización le gustaria auspiciar a CESA

Adjunto enviamos una contribución

Si me/nos interesa trabajar con CESA

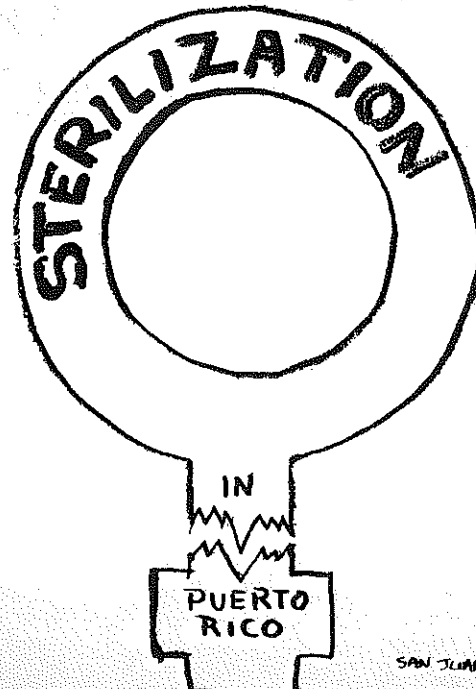
Quisiera(mos) más información sobre CESA

Quisiera(mos) más información sobre el abuso de la esterilización.

NOMBRE TELEFONO

DIRECCION

CUIDAD ESTADO ZONA



SAN JUAN STAR

leaves a potential clientele of 325,585 women."

The women of San Juan are to be handled through a "model project" controlled by the School of Public Health of the University of Puerto Rico.

The plan then, involves the *entire population* of Puerto Rican women of child-bearing age in its scope, and the primary method of birth control? What it has always been in Puerto Rico — sterilization.

One-Third of Puerto Rican Women Sterilized

Figures from different studies give a general picture of the rate of sterilization of Puerto Rican women over the past four decades.

In 1947-48, Paul K. Hatt, in a study of 5,257 ever-married women 15 years old or over, found that 6.6 per cent had been sterilized. A figure more or less equal (6.9 per cent) was put forward in 1948 by Emilio Cofresi from studies of women who were clients of various programs of the Department of Health in Puerto Rico.

In an island-wide survey carried out by Hill, Stycos and Back in 1953-54, the prevalence of female sterilization of ever-married women 20 years old or over was estimated at 16.5 per cent.

In 1965 the Puerto Rican Department of Health carried out an island-wide study on the relationship between cancer of the uterus and female sterilization. Although the Department of Health says no link between cancer and sterilization was substantiated, it did discover that 34% of Puerto Rican women between the ages of 20-49 years were sterilized.

The number of women sterilized in the same age group rose to 35.3% in 1968 according to a study by the Puerto Rican demographer Dr. Jose Vasquez Calzada.

The incidence of sterilization in Puerto Rico is the highest in the world. India and Pakistan, for example, which have public sterilization programs, have an estimated sterilization of 5% and 3% respectively.

The Colonial Context

What is the context in which this massive sterilization was taking place? Since its invasion of Puerto Rico in 1898, the United States has maintained virtually complete control over the island's development. Until 1952, the Governor of Puerto Rico was appointed by the President of the United States, and had veto power over a local House of Representatives. Civil services, armed forces, police, mail, citizenship, trade agreements, schools, media, and economic programs were under U.S. supervision.

The establishment of the Commonwealth Government in 1952 in no way changed the fact of U.S. control, since Congress still maintained ultimate veto power over any law passed by the Puerto Rican Government, and any law passed by Congress automatically applied to Puerto

Rico. What the Commonwealth Government did do was supervise the influx of U.S. corporations in a rapid industrialization program during the fifties, which transformed Puerto Rico from a sugar economy to one of the most highly industrialized countries in the world.

Population Control — A U.S. Theory

In 1901 Governor of Puerto Rico William Hunt wrote in his report to the President of the United States: "Not only could it (the island) comfortably keep the one million inhabitants we have now, but five times that number."

By the thirties, however, J.M. Stycos reports in "Female Sterilization in Puerto Rico" that a good many doctors were already aware of the "problems of population." He cites the efforts of Dr. Jose Belavel, head of the Pre-Maternal Health program to interest many physicians in the "pressing need for sterilization and birth control".

During the thirties in the United States population control research was being carried on by the Rockefeller Foundation. Theories were circulating expressing the general idea that economic problems in underdeveloped countries were really problems of too many people; if only the population growth could be controlled, the standard of living would rise.

The population theories, as the newsletter of the North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA) entitled "Population Control in the Third World" indicates, had, and still have, strongly racist roots, based on the concept of the safeguarding the superior white civilization from the crude and inferior "underdeveloped" world which threatens to overwhelm the globe with its "population explosions."

For the United States, there was the particular problem of keeping the colonial population of Puerto Rico under control. By 1933 U.S. sugar companies had monopolized 314,000 acres. Thousands of impoverished farmers, forced from their lands, migrated to the cities or became agricultural laborers on sugar plantations where wages averaged 37¢ per day. This had its political consequence: cane workers began to organize militant unions, and nationalism was growing. What better way to obscure the real problem of U.S. control of the island than by blaming it on population growth? A quote from a Puerto Rican legislator during the time, (taken from Back, Hill and Stycos: "Population Control in Puerto Rico"), expresses this confusion:

"... those of us who have discussed maldistribution of Puerto Rican lands and its growing absentee ownership must realize that these problems are growing more and more serious through our existing surplus population and its constant growth, particularly in recent years. The inevitable consequence is increasing

unemployment, growing poverty and mounting misery."

The Sterilization Campaign

According to Harriet Presser in "The Role of Sterilization in Controlling Puerto Rican Fertility", sterilization was introduced into Puerto Rico in the 1930's, along with contraception methods. In 1934, 67 birth control clinics were opened with federal funds channeled through the Puerto Rican Emergency Relife Fund. The funds lasted only two years; then in 1936 the private Maternal and Childcare Health Association opened 23 clinics.

The Family Planning Association of Puerto Rico, another private organization, was established in 1954, two years after the Population Council was formed in the United States by John D. Rockefeller. During the next ten years, according to Presser, it subsidized sterilization in private facilities for 8,000 women. Between 1956 and 1966 it also subsidized sterilization of 3000 men. This organization still functions today, and has an important role to play in the future, according to the November, 1973 report. Presently it receives \$750,000 of its \$900,000.00 budget from the federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Thousands of sterilizations also took place in public hospitals. In 1949 the Commissioner of Health in Puerto Rico was quoted in *El Mundo* as saying he would favor the use of district hospitals once or twice a week to perform fifty sterilizations a day.

Many doctors were pro-sterilization rather than other forms of birth control. "Many physicians thought, and still think," says J.M. Stycos, that contraception methods are too difficult for lower class Puerto Ricans and regarded post-partum sterilization as the most feasible solution to the (population) problems".

An experience of one pre-medical student in Puerto Rico in the 1950's, told to us by an informed source, indicates that this preference for sterilization was not only an obviously racist attitude, but a policy.

As part of her training, the student was told that any pregnant women who came into the hospital for a delivery who had already had two or MORE CHILDREN MUST HAVE HER TUBES TIED AFTER GIVING BIRTH. This was standard procedure, checked afterwards by another doctor to make sure that it was carried out.

Generally, it seems that most sterilizations were carried out post partum. In 1949, using J.M. Stycos' work again, 17.8 per cent of all hospital deliveries were followed by sterilization. Stycos notes that these figures may underestimate the actual incidence of sterilization because it did not count the women who had home deliveries and then hospital sterilization; also, not all

sterilizations may be recorded as such in the hospital records, he adds.

Private hospitals also had an exceptionally high incidence of sterilization in proportion to deliveries, says Presser. She cites one hospital that had to reduce its sterilizations to 25% of all deliveries because of outside pressure.

Presser indicates that most sterilizations have been post-partum, and that "enabling an increasing incidence has been the continued rise in hospital deliveries", which went from 10 per cent in 1940 to 37.8 per cent in 1950, 77.5 per cent in 1960 and 90 per cent in 1964, according to the Puerto Rican Department of Health.

Hospitals in Puerto Rico are substantially financed by the United States government. The entire medical apparatus in Puerto Rico was developed by the United States; training was carried on by U.S. doctors. Many of the doctors working in Puerto Rico and performing sterilizations have been and are today from the United States.

The United States carries on population control programs throughout the third world, most of which, according to NACLA, are financed by the Agency for International Development. Some AID programs, such as the "Family Planning Insurance" in Costa Rica actually offer money in return for sterilization.

Puerto Rico's colonial status gives the United States the ability to carry on effective population control programs in the world.

The increased sterilization of Puerto Ricans becomes more and more necessary as the U.S. industrial plans for the island — plans which profit U.S. corporations, and do not build a future for the inhabitants of Puerto Rico — develop. This becomes clearer as we continue to explore the ramifications of the report "Opportunities for Employment, Education & Training."

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POESIAS

Unity

i too sa it
 when brother Hampton died
 coming out
 of the black
 angered fists
 ramming
 down
 into the face
 of the
 white man's child
 hurting as it came
 blinding him
 with his own blood
 so he won't see
 their black faces
 in the park
 of all places
 reasoning
 far from their minds
 because
 he is white
 & they are black
 taking it out
 on the white man's child
 because
 the white man himself
 they cannot . . . "reach"
 i saw it
 when Ford
 decided to announce
 the 51st state
 coming out of
 the voices
 w/banged brown faces
 a people shouting
 at the white man's puppet
 demanding the
 freedom of
 5 nationalist prisoners
 captured
 in the process
 of announcing
 their longing
 ffor the liberation
 of their country
 their country
 a 200 yr old colony
 seeking liberation
 from a country
 which believes in
 'liberty & the pursuit of happiness'
 brown fists

raised up into
 the polluted sky
 of amerika
 voices of
 a people tired
 of negotiating
 chanting,
 "LOS YANQUIS QUIREN FUEGO!"
 i saw it,
 when mayor Daley
 began implementing
 his chicago 21 plan
 burning & knocking down
 homes of the poor in order
 to build for the rich,
 coming out
 of the tears
 in the blue eyes
 of the white man's own
 blond-haired child
 just as dirty as
 the black child
 & brown child
 just as poor
 & just as oppressed . . .
 tomorrow's children
 taught to
 hate those that
 are like them
 because they
 would soon
 have to strike
 the other down
 in order to take
 that higher step . . .
 i saw it coming
 when the poor
 white brother
 reached out for my hand
 as i touched it
 as we all
 people of color
 stood
 people of poverty
 people oppressed
 as we a people
 stood high
 i saw it coming
 in the strength
 of a people united
 fighting for
 a better world
 for the children.

of their children
 & the children after them
 i saw the revolution
 for socialism
 the revolution
 for freedom
 the revolution
 for love . . .
 Adela Cerda
 5-14-77



Grass Roots

THE RAPE OF THE MOON

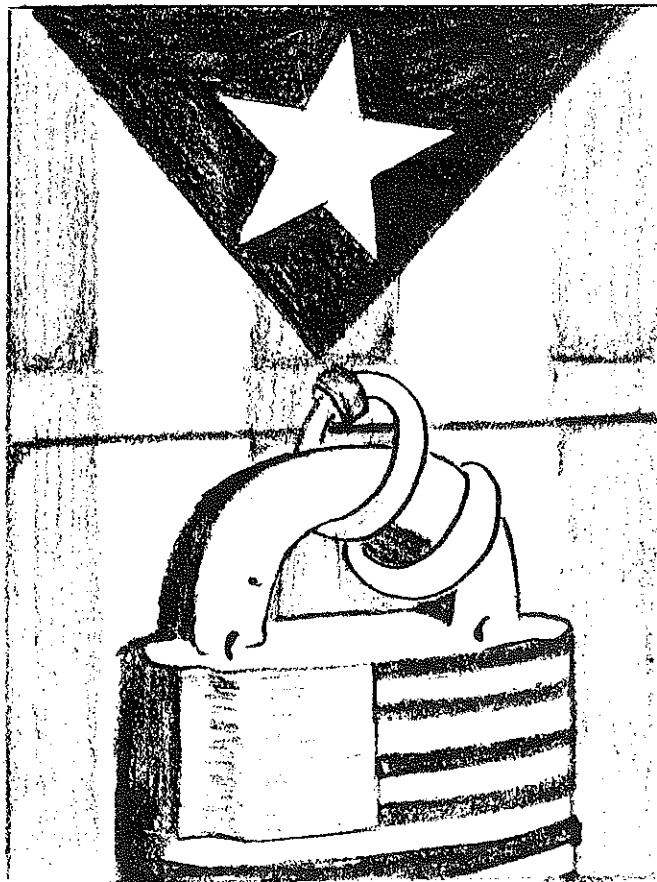
Once upon a time
 the stars tried
 to make love to the moon,
 but they failed.
 The sun tried it too.
 Even Jupiter, Pluto,
 and the rest of the planets
 tried it for millions of years.
 But they failed.
 The moon was too strong.
 She kept her virginity,
 until one day the U.S.A.
 took poor people's money
 and sent three men to
 rape Miss Moon.
 Now the moon is not
 a virgin any more.
 It is known all over the world.
 People's eyes were all on the
 space in the blue sky where the
 moon stood naked in front of
 three strangers and looked
 at them taking her secrets.
 Yes, her secrets that for so long
 she kept for the lovers of peace.

THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF LIFE

A generation of young men
 Sons and daughters of life
 Dying in a country
 That they don't know,
 Souls dying
 Hardly believing that it's for real
 War,
 People dying,
 And life goes on as normal
 Back here in America.
 Life, Escaping like a criminal
 From the scene of the crime.
 Soul, escaping out of babies
 Like air out of a blloon.
 The sons and daughters of life
 Are fighting under the midnight rair
 Instead of showering
 Under a phenomenon of nature.
 They are dying in a war
 Created by adults
 And being called irresponsible kids,
 Drug addicts, Good-for-nithings.
 Mothers, don't let Uncle Sam
 Take your kids
 And teach them to kill and rage.
 Dying for a flag and a piece of stolen land
 Is not worth the life of a child.



Don Pedro Albizu Campos



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