

OPEN FORUM

Miss Sinsuat: You spoke of a dialogue and consultation in trying to reach a consensus between separatist movements and the government. You also spoke on the approach in Islam using the sunnah, hadji and Koran as guidelines for social mobilization. Will you please give us some enlightenment on this aspect and its approach and application?

Professor de los Santos: If you are confronted with a situation like that, we must look back into the sunnah and ask ourselves — what happened? The four concepts on the activities of the Prophet Mohammad are Persuading, Explaining, Convincing and Discussing. When Mohammad was faced with a situation, he only resorted to reactivity of devices. He used them when outside forces threatened him. The early Majuvites did not go out to seek the enemy. They stayed there and tried to defend themselves because of the circumstances. If we have to come out with the social mobilization along Ressallah-Mustapha lines, we have to do a lot of study, a lot of talking and a lot of discussing.

The movement in the Philippines devoted more time initially not to the training of guns but to the developing of an intellectual moral community. There is nothing in western approaches of enticing our young people that has not happened during the time of the prophet. I suspect one of the reasons why Mao is very successful is that whether he knew it or not his social mobilization is patterned from that of the prophet, hence, he feels that the Marxist-oriented movements are most successful in building the community. They succeeded because they used the Ressallah method. In China if they have problems, they look at the quotations of Chairman Mao.

Mr. Sero: "Why is it that the speaker's name is Jalahuddin which is Muslim, and de los Santos a Christian?"

Professor de los Santos: Everyone born to this world is a Muslim. My parents made me Christian. In fact, I attended Sunday school and after a long search, as I was not contented, I embraced Islam and I am happy. It was a long journey.

Mr. Sero: The government, especially those who are working with President Marcos, did not find such a researcher as Prof. de los

Santos in order to correct the mistakes of the past presidents. Prof. de los Santos said that he is with the Institute of Islamic Studies and PCAS and there are times when they are confronted with problems of government in their programs. The approach now of the government with respect to the Muslim problems has been more sensible than that of the past government. It is only now that the Muslim problems are brought out. When Martial Law was proclaimed, the Muslim sectors thought that those mistakes in the past will be rectified in order to put things in order. Maybe it is because there are wrong advisers to the President who pretend to know about Muslim cultures, customs and traditions but actually do not. Probably, this was the reason why the secessionist movement sprouted. For instance, the Muslim language is not represented in the national language. Tagalog instead is used. Not one of the dialects spoken by the three major Muslim dialects are inserted in our national language although the Philippines is a conglomeration of different tribes with different dialects. Another example is the Flag. Mindanao is not represented and only the different provinces in Luzon who fought against the Spaniards were or are being represented. The Mindanao people also fought against the foreign invaders and even now they are still fighting. We need, therefore, an adviser like you Mr. Professor.

Professor de los Santos: It is a matter of proximities and priorities. The concept of Al Jihad — Al Akbar merges away the weaknesses and the infirmities of the local society. It will no doubt fall towards the presidential pronouncement of aspiration towards the new society. Martial Law and the New Society are not one and the same thing. Martial Law is the transition period for the New Society.

Mr. Unda: I am happy that the problem in the South is not only the problem of the minority but also the problem of the majority as mentioned in the lecture about the two kinds of Jihad, the greater and the lesser Jihad. The latter is combating the weakness, corruption and other forms of venalities in the government. The autonomous government granted to the 13 provinces cannot do it alone with the help of the Christian majority. I represent the educational sector and now I will wage an educational campaign towards the solution of the problems in this part of the country. Could the professor provide the DEC with copies of his paper to be used as reference especially on the passages and quotations from the sayings of Prophet Mohammad?