

The Yuyitung brothers: increasing concern

Mrs. Veronica Yuyitung and her new baby daughter Ipi. Latest report from Manila: mother and child both doing badly . . .

THE CASE of the Yuyitung brothers is no nearer completion and there must now be real concern for their fate at the hands of the Taiwan authorities in which they were placed by Philippines' President Ferdinand Marcos.



The brothers, Quintin (53) and Rizal (47), Chinese born publisher and editor respectively of the *Chinese Commercial News*, Manila, were deported to Taipei on May 5 after being arrested in Manila on March 23 accused of publishing material favourable to the communist cause and derogatory to the Philippines Government.

A full account of the case and IPI's concern over it appeared in the last issue of IPI Report which also recorded that the Taipei Authorities had told the IPI delegation which visited the brothers there on May 22 during the post-Assembly tour that while investigations into such cases normally lasted up to four months, the Authorities believed that the case of the Yuyitung brothers would take 'much less time'.

In spite of all efforts by the Institute in the case, as this issue of the Report appears it is more than 13 weeks since the brothers were imprisoned in Taipei and thus, already the time given by the Authorities there for the completion of the investigation must be considered up.

The Institute has been in contact with both the Government and with IPI's National Committee in Taiwan and this contact continues.

All that has happened is that the Nationalist Government Information Office has issued a statement prepared in response to questions from journalists about the brothers stating that "they spend a great deal of time reading and are in good spirits".

The Government statement mentions the birth of a daughter to Rizal's wife and says he was 'overjoyed' at the news. The statement says the baby was given a Chinese name but—and there may be an

ominous significance in this—it did not mention that the baby was also given a second name, Ipi, in appreciation of the efforts of the Institute on behalf of the brothers.

The strength of feeling in the Philippines against the action of President Marcos in deporting the brothers to Taipei can be measured by the demonstrations in front of the Nationalist Chinese Embassy in Manila.

The Embassy was extensively damaged by a bomb which the police believe may have been thrown by people demonstrating against the deportation. After the bombing, heavily armed police and troopers of the paramilitary metropolitan command were put on guard on the Embassy.

Meanwhile, there is mounting concern by members from all over the world, but particularly from the United States, Canada, Germany, France, Britain and the Scandinavian countries about the failure of the Authorities in Taipei to take this matter any further forward.

While it goes without saying that the Institute's principal concern is the fate of these two journalists, against whom no charges of any nature have been proved in court either in the Philippines or in Taiwan, a serious element is the fact that such a situation could arise in a country where by the establishment of an IPI National Committee (in 1969) the Institute went some way towards acknowledging the recognition of a degree of press freedom in Taiwan.

There was opposition to the acceptance of a National Committee in Taiwan, and the Institute is now being reminded of this fact.

MORE PROTESTS TO THE JUNTA OVER PRESSMEN

IPI FULLY associates itself with the resolution passed at the recent congress of the International Federation of Journalists meeting in Stockholm urging the Greek Junta immediately to set free pressmen now in prison for exercising their rights in compliance with principles of the freedom of the press.

The Greek delegation in Stockholm asserted that no member of the Union of Athens Daily Newspaper Editors or of the three other professional unions in the country were among those pressmen imprisoned.

What the Greek delegation did not tell the conference was that in 1967, when the Junta came to power, the Union was obliged on the orders of the Military to ban 30 of its members, most of them working for left-wing papers.

A law promulgated at the end of May grants the right to appeal against sentences passed by military tribunals, except in cases of breach of public order or State security. Those journalists of *Ethnos* who were imprisoned have resorted to this right. Their case is pending.

Except for the editor, Costas Iconomidis, who is under house arrest for health reasons (he is over 80) the others are in Korydallos prison at Piraeus. They are the three co-editors A. Kyriazis, C. Nicolopoulos (sentenced to three years in prison) and C. Kyriazis (four years) as well as editor John Kapsis (five years).