



## ELVEN TALES

### Bilbo and Frodo

M. Timoteo 499

Bation was last seen near the compound of the Land Transportation Office on East Avenue. That was last March 1. From there he was supposed to proceed to Scout Borromeo, less than five kilometers away, for a meeting. He did not show up in that meeting. In fact, he has not shown up, nor called anyone, since then. His colleagues theorize that Bation may have been arrested along Timog while riding a taxi from East Avenue. The cab he was riding on may have been blocked by armed men, forced the alleged ABB chief out and transferred him to their own vehicle. "This type of operation needs precision and only a well-trained unit can do it," said an ABB operative.



The ABB at first did not rule out the possibility that other factions of the Communist Party of the Philippines, specifically the Revolutionary Proletarian Army (RPA), may have been responsible for Bation's disappearance. The RPA has accused the ABB of "mutiny" after the latter refused to merge with the Negros-based RPA and opted instead to be independent. The crime of mutiny carries the penalty of death in the underground movement.

But according to the ABB cadres, their investigation showed that the RPA has not deployed any trained operative in Metro Manila. They also do not have the resources and facilities here in Metro Manila to pull off such kind of operation. Thus, they said, "there is little chance" that the RPA was responsible for Bation's abduction.



Chief Supt. Panfilo Lacson may have gotten off the hook in that controversial Kuratong Baleleng rubout case but he's got another rap coming—for illegal detention and possibly, again for murder. Human rights organizations are wrapping up its investigation on the disappearance of Prudencio Bation, the alleged head of the Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB) who replaced the more well-known Sergio Romero when the latter was expelled from the communist hit squad last year. The NGO investigators don't want to divulge details of their findings yet but they say they