

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-00 /084 W
-----112578 071225Z /12

R 070918Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO /SECSTATE WASHDC 7567
INFO CINCPAC
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 3 MANILA 17633

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, RP, US
SUBJECT: MRS. MARKMS RETURNS TO THE PHILIPPINES AND SEES PROSPECTS
FOR IMPROVED US-RP RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY: MRS. MARCOS RETURNED TO THE PHILIPPINES NOVEMBER 5.
IN HER ARRIVAL STATEMENT SHE: (A) MADE A STRONG, UPBEAT PITCH
FOR THE HOLDING OF THE 33RD UNGA IN MANIWEBR (B) NOTED THAT, AS
A RESULT OF HER MEETINGS IN NEW YORK, BOTH THE US AND RP ARE
CONVINCED THAT A NEW LEAF IN BILATERAL RELATION IS BEING
TURNED; (C) MENTIONED HER DISCUSSIONS WITH MALAYSIAN, GABONESE
AND OTHER LEADERS ON THE PROBLEM OF THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES
AND WITH THE PRC AND THE USSR ON THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE RP;
(D) DESCRIBED HER EFFORTS WITH US MEDIA LEADERS TO REOPEN
CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATIONS; (E) RECOUNTED HER ROLE IN
INAUGURATING THE MARCOS CHAIR AT FLETCHER. IN A SUBSEQUENT
PRESS INTERVIEW MRS. MARCOS NOTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER MADE
SURE TO SEND A NEW AMBASSADOR TO THE PHILIPPINEAS AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE IN THE HOPE THAT BILATERAL IRRITANTS
WILL BE IRONED OUT -SHE ADDED THAT THE US HAD DISPATCHED
ONE OF THEIR TOP MEN IN THE PERSON OF AMBASSADOR NEWSOM
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AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES WILL IMPROVE. MAJOR PAPERS NOVEMBER 6 ALL
FRONT-PAGED MRS. MARCOS' REPORTED EXPECTATION OF BETTER
US-RP RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. MRS. MARCOS RETURNED SATURDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 5,
AFTER AN ABSENCE OF OVER FIVE WEEKS IN NEW YORK. WITH

PRESIDENT MARCOS LEADING THE APPLAUSE AT THE AIRPORT, SHE
READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT REPORTING ON HER MISSION:

BEGIN TEXT: FIVE WEEKS AGO, I LEFT MANILA ON A MISSION
TO THE UNITED STATES. ON INSTRUCTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT,
THESE FIVE
WEEKS WERE SPENT IN FORGING A NUMBER OF
INITIATIVES WHICH, IN OUR VIEW, HAVE CONSIDERABLY ENHANCED
OUR STANDING IN THE UNITED NATIONS, AS WELL AS OUR TWO-
WAY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES, THE SOVIET UNION,
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, OUR NEIGHBORS IN SOUTHEAST
ASIA, AND MANY ISLAMIC AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION, I WAS PRIVILEGED
TO DELIVER THE PHILIPPINE STATEMENT AT THE 32ND SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WHICH IS STILL IN
PROGRESS, AND TO PROPOSE THE HOLDING OF THE NEXT SESSION
OF THE ASSEMBLY IN A THIRD WORLD COUNTRY, SPECIFICALLY THE
PHILIPPINES.

OUR PROPOSAL AND INVITATION HAVE GENERATED WARM SYMPATHY
AND SUPPORT AMONG OUR FRIENDS IN THE UNITED NATIONS, AND WE
ARE MUCH ENCOURAGED BY THEIR EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT. ON
MONDAY, A FIVE-MAN UN SURVEY TEAM IS ARRIVING IN MANILA
TO LOOK INTO OUR CAPABILITY FOR HOSTING SUCH A CONFERENCE.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE DEVELOPING WORLD HAS
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GIVEN SUCH AN INVITATION, AND NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, THERE
HAVE BEEN SUGGESTIONS THAT CONVENING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OUTSIDE UN HEADQUARTERS WOULD SET A PRECEDENT WHICH SHOULD
NOT BE ENCOURAGED.

BUT WE BELIEVE IN THE MERIT OF THIS PROPOSAL, IN WHAT IT
CAN ACHIEVE NOT ONLY FOR THE COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD,
BUT ALSO FOR THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, AND FOR THE UNITED
NATIONS ITSELF. WE ARE THEREFORE PREPARED TO WORK FOR THE
FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF THIS PROPOSAL, AND WE ARE
CONFIDENT THAT AS ALWAYS OUR PEOPLE ARE WITH US.

IN NEW YORK, I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
CARTER AND SOME OF HIS TRUSTED ADVISERS, INCLUDING SECRETARY

OF STATE CYRUS VANCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER
ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI.

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I ALSO SAT DOWN WITH SOME MEMBERS OF THE US CONGRESS. I AM NOT YET ABLE TO REVEAL THE DETAILS OF THESE MEETINGS, BUT I BELIEVE THEY HAVE HELPED TO INTRODUCE A NEW ELEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS ARE CONVINCED AT THIS TIME THAT WE ARE TURNING A NEW LEAF IN OUR RELATIONS, AND WE ARE DETERMINED TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENHANCE THESE RELATIONS.

IN HONOLULU YESTERDAY, I HAD A LONG MEETING WITH THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF US FORCES IN THE PACIFIC, ADMIRAL MAURICE WESSNER, AND I SHALL BE REPORTING TO THE PRESIDENT ON THE BRIEFINGS WE EXCHANGED.

IN NEW YORK, I ALSO MET WITH VISITING HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AND HEADS OF FOREIGN DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT BONGO OF GABON AND PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN ONN OF MALAYSIA, BOTH OF WHOM EXPRESSED THEIR SINCERE HOPES THAT WE FIND A JUST RESOLUTION OF OUR PROBLEMS IN THE SOUTH.

I ALSO HAD PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UN OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
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AND THE SOVIET UNION. THESE CONVERSATIONS PERMIT ME TO REPORT TO OUR PEOPLE AND TO THE PRESIDENT THAT THERE IS MUCH TO BE ENCOURAGED ABOUT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR TIES WITH THESE COUNTRIES.

IN OUR EFFORTS TO BROADEN KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING ABROAD OF THE SOCIAL CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN THE PHILIPPINES, I TOOK TIME OUT TO MEET WITH PUBLISHERS, EDITORS, AND OTHER KEY DECISION MAKERS IN THE AMERICAN MEDIA, THEREBY OPENING CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION THAT MAY HAVE BEEN CLOSED FOR MANY YEARS. THIS IS A VITAL PART OF THE DIALOGUE WE INTEND TO PURSUE WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

I ALSO FOUND IT OPPORTUNE TO BE PRESENT AT THE FORMAL INAUGURATION OF THE FERDINAND E. MARCOS CHAIR FOR EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC STUDIES AT THE FLETCHER SCHOOL OF LAW AND DIPLOMACY, THE OLDEST AMERICAN SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY, AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY, OUTSIDE BOSTON.

THROUGH THIS CHAIR, TUFTS UNIVERSITY HOPES TO MAKE A MORE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO SERIOUS SCHOLARSHIP ON ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, AND TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING OF ASIAN AFFAIRS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, PARTICULARLY IN THE UNITED STATES. THE MARCOS FOUNDATION HAS ARRANGED TO ENDOW THE CHAIR AND SUPPORT ITS PROGRAM OUT OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND ITS OWN.

THIS HAS BEEN ONE OF MY MOST CHALLENGING ASSIGNMENTS OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY, AND THE DIFFICULT DEMANDS OF AN INTRICATE AND MULTI-FACETED MISSION ONLY SERVED TO HEIGHTEN MY PERSONAL JOY TO BE HOME AGAIN. IT WAS HARD FOR ME TO BE AWAY FOR SO LONG, BUT IT WAS TIME WELL SPENT ON VITAL UNDERTAKINGS, AND I FEEL WE HAVE SOME REASON TO BE PROUD OF WHAT MY

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DELEGATION HAS BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH FOR OUR PEOPLE AND COUNTRY.
MARAMING SALAMAT SA INYONG LAHAT. END QUOTE.

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7569
INFO CINCPAC
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3. FOLLOWING DELIVERY OF ARRIVAL STATEMENT, MRS. MARCOS
HELD PRESS INTERVIEW, PERTINENT PORTIONS OF WHICH FOLLOW:

(A) QUOTE: NEWSMAN: (OFF-MIKE)

FIRST LADY: WELL, FIRST, PRESIDENT CARTER
MADE SURE THAT A NEW AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED
STATES IS SENT TO THE PHILIPPINES AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE IN THE HOPE THAT ALL IRRITANTS BETWEEN
THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL BE IRONED OUT. AT THE
SAME TIME, PRESIDENT CARTER, MANY TIMES OVER,
SAID TO ME BOTH DURING OUR CONVERSATIONS AND
IN LETTERS TO THE PRESIDENT AND MYSELF THAT HE
FEELS SINCERELY THAT A NEW LEAF HAS BEEN TURNED
IN TERMS OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES
AND THE UNITED STATES.

NEWSMAN: IS THERE A POSSIBILITY OF PRESIDENT
CARTER'S COMING TO THE PHILIPPINES?

FIRST LADY: AFTER THE CANCELLATION OF HIS TRIP
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NEXT MONTH, I FEEL THAT HE WILL BE QUITE BUSY WITH
INTERNAL PROBLEMS, AND IF SUCH A TRIP WILL BE
UNDERTAKEN, WE HOPE IT WILL BE NEXT YEAR. END QUOTE.

(B) QUOTE: NEWSMAN: (OFF-MIKE)...ON THE PART OF THE
UNITED STATES TO WITHDRAW...(OFF-MIKE)

FIRST LADY: I THINK VERY POSITIVE. THE FACT
THAT THEY HAVE SENT ONE OF THEIR TOP MEN IN
THE PERSON OF AMBASSADOR NEWSOM WHO HAS
ARRIVED HERE, I UNDERSTAND, YESTERDAY. I AM
SURE THAT SOMETHING WILL BE BROUGHT ABOUT
THAT WILL IMPROVE THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR
TWO COUNTRIES. AMBASSADOR NEWSOM IS AN OLD
HAND HERE IN ASIA, BEING A MILITARY AND

POLITICAL EXPERT. AND WE DO HOPE THAT HE SHALL
REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, AND I AM SURE HE WILL.
END QUOTE.

(C) QUOTE: NEWSMAN: (OFF-MIKE) (TO F/L)

FIRST LADY: WELL, WE SURELY TRIED BECAUSE WE
MET WITH SOME OF THE FOREMOST NEWSPAPER EDITORS
ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES, IN MANY INSTANCES,
DURING LUNCH, BREAKFAST OR JUST CALLS OR VISITS
TO THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICES. OF COURSE, I
EXTENDED TO ALL OF THEM THE INVITATION OF
PRESIDENT MARCOS THAT PERHAPS THEIR VISIT
HERE WOULD GIVE THEM A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING AND
DEEPER INSIGHT AS TO THE REAL PROBLEMS HERE IN
THE PHILIPPINS. AND I THINK THAT IN SOME
CASES, IT WAS VERY FRUITFUL. BUT I FEEL THAT IN
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OTHER CASES, A LOT OF WORK HAS STILL TO BE DONE.
END QUOTE.

4. LOCAL PRESS NOVEMBER 6 HIGHLIGHTED MRS. MARCOS'
REPORTED EXPECTATIONS OF IMPROVED US-RP RELATIONS. TIMES
JOURNAL HEADLINED "NEW RP-US ERA HERE: FL...IMPROVED
RELATIONS PREDICTED," WHILE SUNDAY EXPRESS HEADLINE READ
"FL REPORTS IMPROVED RP-US TIES." MORE MODEST FRONT-PAGE
STORY IN BULLETING TODAY ECHOED THE SAME THEME.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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TAGS: PGOV, RP, US, (MARCOS, IMELDA)
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Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4abb5a20-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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