

12:30 AM

Office of the President
of the Philippines
Malacañang

107
Mar. 7 1970
Saturday

As I study the situation of the nation I am more and more convinced that my solution to suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus and the detention of all communist activists as well as all those who have in any way helped in the cause of communism is the right and the only solution.

So I have asked Sec. Ponce Durile to prepare the applications for search warrants. He and Gen. Yano were in a conference with me at 4:00 PM with the major service commanders and their intelligence officers.

I am now also convinced that the communists do not have popular support but are buying the participation of many of those who join the demonstrations like the 8,000 who were in the last Protest March, but that the newspapers and the media especially the Manila Times and the Manila Chronicle are merely building it up with propaganda and beyond that it is nothing.

I spoke before the UP Vanguard Fraternity on the powers of the President in an emergency and the fact that no group can mount a rebellion but that the subversives can engage in assassination, harassment and sabotage. I even measure on batge but that if this happened, I implied I would suspend the writ of habeas corpus.

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Jan. 7, 1970 (Cont)

As the number of Father Artiles increase in our society, I must accelerate the various programs of reform and social justice (especially of economic development) attend to the media and the intellectuals to keep them on the side of liberal democracy, strengthen the military (I have ordered 2,000 M-16 rifles, 1,000 Beretta assault rifles and the U.S. govt under INAP will give us 1,200 M-16's by April for a total of 4,200 new automatic rifles); but more than this I must keep in mind the lesson learned from the history of communism that it is the timely and judicious use of authority and power when the communists are not yet organized enough to mount a guerilla type massive attack which alone can save our republic from these communists and anarchists.

Now that I have diagnosed the ailment if the demonstrations become violent this month, I will suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus.

We are actually organizing now the nucleus of a counter-subversion center. Initially it is an office under the President's office, composed of Johnny Pano Cruz Delclar and Kats Tated, but it will include all offices that has anything to do with counter-subversion.