

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

Feb 10, 1977
Thursday

I talked to Usec Barbero by telephone (through
to Tripoli) at 8:00 PM tonight.

While her Misuari says they will not participate
in a plebiscite, Minister Ali al Trefi has agreed
that a plebiscite should be called as agreed upon
before December 1976.

So I call a plebiscite by next week preferably
on Feb 17, 1977 on counter offer that the single region of 9+12
excluding Davao Sur, Cotabato Sur and Palawan w/o plebiscite.
The Extraordinary Bayan meets in special session
next Monday. And the Governors and Mayors League
with the Federation of Barangays the same day or next.

Usec Barbero says the Sibyan leadership is
in a state of jubilation because of the successful campaign
for which they are receiving applause from heads of state.

So he feels they will agree to a single
region of two provinces excluding Davao Sur, Cotabato
Sur and Palawan. But they want the plebiscite now
so that Pres Kholdy and Minister Ali al Trefi will not
be embarrassed by any adverse results.

Thus the acceleration of the plebiscite.
I will have to call the Regional Elections soon.