

Feb. 16, 1947

MALACAÑAN PALACE  
MANILA

I have postponed the plebiscite in the 13 provinces of Mindanao & Palawan to Mar. 17, 1947.

When Amb. Darsiza of Libya came to see us at the PICC during the sessions of the Balangay Bayan, he left the impression that unless the Libyans and the IHHF get all the 13 provinces, they will terminate the negotiations. He did not use the words 13 provinces. He merely said that, if the result of the plebiscite is not in accordance with the agreement of Dec. 23 (or 24), 1947 they would not proceed with the negotiations.

Today I asked him to come to the Army General to first participate in the verification of the agreements on trade and culture worked out by the First Lady, then so I could tell him I wanted to know whether Minister Ali al Treshi had wanted the postponement since the call to an early plebiscite was the result and suggestion of Ali al Treshi. I wanted to write to Pres. Roxas. He was talking at his house after we broke up with him. He was talking to the First Lady of the Malacañan Great House.

Feb. 16, 1977 - 2

MALACAÑAN PALACE  
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I called him up to tell him I had definitely postponed the plebiscite to Mar. 17, 1977 upon the suggestion of Asst. Sec. Gen. of the Islamic Conference and Tenebrigo and Asst. <sup>of the</sup> ~~Minister~~ <sup>Secretary</sup> ~~Ali~~.

6:00 AM Feb. 17, 1977

Mr. Barbero called up at 5:20 AM to tell me that he had talked to Minister Ali Al Treaki who now insists he is against the plebiscite as there is martial law.

Mr. Barbero has shocked him with the statement that it was he (Ali Al Treaki) who originally suggested the early plebiscite and that I intend to go through with it and the regional government will act without the MILF and the Islamic Conference.

Mr. Barbero feels that the situation is not desperate since Ali Al Treaki has not closed the door to negotiations. So he is sending Amal Castro to Manila to personally report to me and bring copy of the outrageous demands of the MILF. I have ordered the Armed Forces to act as if the negotiations will fail and prepare for the resumption of fighting.