

Dec. 14, 1976

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I must decide when to call an election —
early next year or later in 1979 or 1980. I prefer
1977 but some of the leaders are strongly against
it.

The concern of Carter and his Secretary of
State Cyrus Vance for human rights worries us.
They may not be informed of the true situation.

We must decide not later than tomorrow.
I can probably gain time by getting the Batasang
Panguluhan to pass a resolution directing the Dept of Social
Welfare and Community Development to conduct
an informal consultation with the barangays. Then
report back to me and requesting that I make
the decision on the manner and time of the election.
I think it is a parliamentary no-party form
of assembly and I shall still retain the power
of martial law. I believe we should call an
early election for the Batasang Panguluhan (interim).

OPIC raised oil prices by 5% to 10%.
This may mean an additional oil bill of \$18 million if
the volume of consumption this year is unchanged.