

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

Feb. 18, 1974

7-25 AM

I received the following message from Amb. Carlos Valdez in Rome by telephone.
1. Usec Barbers says that to worry about the proposals of MRF because since then the situation has improved. In the conference yesterday, he believes he had the upper hand.

2. Usec Barbers also refused to communicate directly with Pres. Khaddafi notwithstanding the proposals brought by Amb. Castro from the MRF.

3. In the conference today, he insisted that the PDI will not agree to ^{infringement of} any ^{element of} sovereignty or anything that would violate our constitution. During the conference he told Atty that any ruling by the chair would be considered just a personal opinion and would not be necessarily honored by the Philippine people.

4. They took this into consideration and agreed that anything objected to by Usec Barbers would be referred for appeal to us (Pres. Marcos) and Pres. Khaddafi.

5. Usec Barbers insisted that Art 2 of the Tripartite Agreement of Dec. 23 1976 should not

be considered independently of Art. 16 because
Art. 2 independent of Art. 16 would be a violation
of our constitution and cannot be enforced without
a referendum.

6. The present feature is the negotiations
is that Anwar can propose, but it is Pres.
Anwar who disposes because at this point of
time when they were meeting on the security
level, U Sec Barbero's position is that this
is premature and should be left to the
discussion between the autonomous region and the
national government.

7. The opinion expressed by the Committee
is that we are not necessarily binding. Rather it
is the Tyala Government that should govern the
area.

It is concerned that we are bound and
we might call Pres. Kaddafi but he would
prefer to know about it before the call.
We can use the Tyala Government to
answer all the demands of Anwar.
All his Bank-ly people especially Pans are
doing all right.

Failed of again just now and he was
now optimistic. "Kaya po ako, Charlie."
- Contrary to yesterday when he was a bit
depressed and irritated.

He believes he will be able to handle it.

At the Sultan, MNLFA and Islamic Conference
they were stunned today by the position
he took that was firm and uncompromising.

He impressed on them that the Philippines
is not a non-sense attitude.

He is not cocky or over-confident.
But he is now more optimistic.

- Directed Vice Barbers to follow my
instructions of firmness; to repeat the position
that we will go through with the plebiscite and
the regional government which is an internal matter
with us without the participation of the MNLFA
and the Islamic Conference and that we abide by
an agreement in accordance with our constitution.

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4.

I also directed him to stand fast on the positions we have taken on the various points at issue and not to compromise; and that my reading of the situation is still that the Syrians especially Ali al Traki and Atay, the Islamic Conference like Gen. Karim Guze and the IHHF are merely exerting pressure to get all possible concessions but if we stick to our guns they will back down; and that we should not be intimidated by them.

I do not intend to talk to Pres. Kaddafi directly yet. The situation does not call for it.