

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

Feb. 23, 1977

I met two groups of "Human Rights" today. The first were the bishops of the ^{Philippines} and the two representatives of the International Commission of Jurists, Prof. Humphrey and Mr. William Butler.

The meeting with the bishops was very interesting to the church. Archbishop ^{Hebe} presented a list of charges including "the demolition of churches" and "preventing the religious ministering to their flock" - at which I asked for names, time and place, and Bishop Reagan could not answer. They admitted they had merely heard it and were not even sure from whom it came.

Cardinal Sin was apparently embarrassed so when Bishop Karo started asking political questions on the regional government, he abruptly stood up, said "Please excuse me, Mr. President, I have another appointment," ^{excused} turned around and left without saying anything to his companions. The two Americans were, as usual, curious about the program (the SPI Summary Preliminary Investigation) delays - that mostly - Demo & labor & some cases of torture.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

Feb. 23,

2

I ordered the lists of those without
to be revealed and for a SPI to be
immediately given them as fast as possible.

Prof. Humphrey asked "Would you consider
the release of student leaders a security risk?"

So we gave a short outline of the
Security Organization of the Communist Party
of the Philippines and how the communists
leaders were mostly students; the number of times
the students released from custody had turned
against the government. Example — Salak,
the new leader of the New People's Army. He was
released twice from custody. The chairman of the
Communist Party for Mari Lison, was a student leader
(a prominent student leader, in fact) who had been
in several illegal and violent demonstrations
in connection with student leaders we released
he was not. I answered