

I write this at 8:30 AM  
Dec. 18, 1972 because I  
went to bed at 12:00 PM  
feeling heavy and sore MALACAÑAN PALACE  
in the muscles. Just tired MANILA  
and sleepy as I slept only  
five hours the night before and  
had practically no nap in the  
afternoon.

2491

Dec. 17, 1972  
Sunday

Bongbong and Irane arrived by PAL in  
the evening at 7:32 PM. We met them at the VIP  
Room. Bongbong's hair had been cut short by Aunt  
Jayme Zobel's secretary, Salazar, on the proddings  
of Bea, the ambassador's wife. Irane was smart  
in a red, white and blue suit with a red tie  
and red bordered vest-<sup>under a coat.</sup> armless sweater. They both  
look healthy and happy. Bongbong read during the  
long trip - a novel and a book on relativity.  
Irane slept and ate only one meal.

Arnold's stitches, including the long orbicular  
stitch at the right forearm that held the muscles  
together - and without anesthesia at 11:00 AM - 12:30 AM.

After the attack on Arnold, while she was  
suffering from her fresh wounds I started to think  
if the reforms of our society and the Filipino people  
are worth all these sacrifices.

And the answer is "yes, if the reforms  
will find root among our people."

2492

Dec. 17th (Cont)

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

But in Manila I am beginning to see the signs of a slipping back to the old habits.

There is cleanliness in the city, much less crime, a new attitude by civil servants, a general concern for the general welfare.

But frivolity is still apparent among the upper classes. Still a habit for conspicuous consumption, selfishness and arrogance. One feels this arrogance also among the intelligentsia towards the ignorant and the less fortunate.

The rich are still thinking in terms of quick unreasonable profits, how to escape the law, avoid taxes.

Some criminals are back to their trade and the radicals are regrouping.

The politicians are beginning to be as demanding (Cong. Incas kept insisting on the congressman receiving their salaries immediately after the ratification of the new constitution) as before. This is because they know we need them for the

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Dec. 14th (Cont)

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

ratification of the new constitution.  
And the Liberal Party leadership of  
Puras, Salonga, Felipe, Eva Estrada Kalaw,  
John Osmonia, Daza, Barrera, Soc Rodrigo  
are banding together for obstructionism all over  
again.

The Comsec has assumed an attitude  
it is more powerful than the military - and  
perhaps the president.

The quiet, slow slide into the  
old society is now perceptible.  
and a deliberate attempt to  
erode the authority of martial law.

Even Mao Tse Tung spoke of the  
return of reaction in a letter to his wife  
several years after the 1949 victory of his  
revolution. Thus, the head of the Cultural  
Revolution.

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Dec. 17th (Cont)

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

Probably we will need more stern measures after the ratification of the constitution. It seems as if liberality is mistaken for weakness in a centralist or authoritarian government no matter how constitutional.

We need a longer period of gestation of the New Society. Otherwise it will be aborted.

And more care and alertness by the leadership for the symptoms of retrogression.