

10:15 Pm

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

109
Feb. 4, 1941
Thursday

Ordered the withdrawal of all Metrocom units from the four cities of Manila, Quezon, Pasay and Caloocan after the mayors formally assumed their legal role of being primarily responsible for the maintenance of peace and order in their respective jurisdictions and after their report that their cities had returned to normalcy except for some incidents prominent among which are those of U.P., Ateneo, M.F. and St. Thomas.

Almost all I talk to and those who have transmitted their suggestions to me feel that S.P. Lopez, the U.P. President should be changed as he has become ineffective.

In the JMOPC meet the Press program recorded yesterday, I had said that the incidents in the University areas did not yet warrant the imposition of martial law but that if there is massive sabotage, terrorism and break down of law and order, it would be time to consider it.

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Feb. 4th (Cont)

MALACAÑAN PALACE

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I also reiterated that I did not want to be a strong man or dictator; that I was retiring from public life in 1973 and that Mrs. Marcos was not a candidate.

The correspondent of Agence France was leading to admit that in a crisis such as we are facing, a strong man is needed and takes over the situation and the government. But I parried it with "If you are suggesting that I take over the government, the answer is no!"

One of the striking results of the UP incident is that the local police are incapable of taking over the university campuses. The military has to prepare the operations plans for such a move and implement it.

I must ask Gen. Espino to include this in OPLAN 115M1.

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Feb. 4th (Cont)

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There are serious proposals to close the schools for the semester. But I do not believe that it is time to do it.

Tonight Sr. Tanada called us up that the members of the faculty of UP (Dean Cortez of Law, Dr. Dayrit, head of the UP Library, Prof. Castillo of Chemistry, wife of retired Col. Castillo, Dr. Hidalgo of the Library and Mr. Dayrit, brother of Dr. Dayrit of the Library) feel that the situation has worsened in the UP after the withdrawal of the Metrocom and the QCPD. The

There are more barricades and they are higher. The Arts and Science Building is completely without chairs or ^{They have been thrown out of campus or used as} any furniture. The Chemistry building is also in danger and it is full of equipment. This is also true of the Library. Some students are barricading themselves in the Engineering building.

The Board of Regents is meeting tomorrow at 7:00 AM then will inspect the buildings and decide as to what to do.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
MANILA

MEMO FOR THE PRESIDENT

FILE NO:

SECRET

FROM: The Executive Secretary

DATE: February 5, 1971

SUBJECT: Mr. Felixberto Olalia's trip to the Chinese
People's Republic

1. With reference to a report in the Manila Chronicle on February 5, 1971 about Mr. Felixberto Olalia's trip to the Chinese People's Republic, following is a brief background for the President's information.

a. You will recall that last year we authorized Mr. Olalia to attend to an international labor conference in Geneva. Upon his return, a friend of his, Mr. Ben David of the Daily Star, asked me if I wished to talk to him about his plan of proceeding to the Chinese mainland. I agreed to meet Mr. Olalia in the house of NEA Chairman Geronimo Velasco in Dasmariñas.

b. In that meeting, no understanding of an official or unofficial nature were reached. Mr. Olalia, however, traveling on private funds, was able to proceed to his destination. When he returned, I expected no report from him and he did not render one to me although upon inquiry on this news release, I understand he indicated his intention to see me.

2. I am still assessing Mr. Olalia's intention in leaking out his story. It is possible that in having failed to see me on the matter since his return, he would like to negate or preempt a probable suspicion on his part that we are using other channels to Peking; in this way, he would be able to maintain his credibility with the Chinese officials he met in that trip. Regardless of his motives, however, I believe that this leakage is to our advantage. In order to impress to all your sincerity and will in mounting the "democratic revolution" in the field of foreign policy, I do not intend to release anything to the press except by saying "no comment" or that "I cannot deny nor confirm the report". With this move, we retain enough elbow room with Washington and, more importantly, maintain our initiative especially at this time that we are reshaping our foreign policy.


ALEJANDRO MELCHOR

SECRET