

12:00 PM

2130

June 14, 1972
Wednesday

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

Sibuyan by Nga Bayani - Urhath laying
on the Unknown Soldier's Tomb after the Mass
for President Garcia. Besoang Pass Day.
Then breakfast at Fort Bonifacio and the
inauguration of the Armed Forces Museum at the
Supply Center at Fort Aguinaldo.

T. J. George (an Indian) interview for
The Far Eastern Review.

Delegate Quintero appeared before the Council
Committee on Privileges up to 11:00 AM and identified
envelopes where the money had been kept including
one bearing the office of the Speaker and another of
my office. The memorandum to the First Lady
dated ~~April~~ ^{Feb.} 10, 1971 was rejected by the Committee. This
is the Memorandum where he mentions his serious
financial difficulties referred to in his later letter
to Delegate Gabriel Yungue of April 1, 1971.

After the breakfast I addressed the USAFIP, NL
veterans of whom I am still National Commander.
I reminded them about how happy we were that
we had lived through the war but I remembered
many sad things too.

2131

June 14th (Cont)

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

And I recounted how I ~~had~~ ^{last} met the CO of the 14th Inf. AUS, Col. Romulo Mauriquey ~~for the~~ ^{last} time in September of 1966. I was going down at the front door of the Blair House, the ^{great} ^{Washington} house of the United States, upon my arrival ^{on} my state visit, when through the driving rain I saw a bareheaded man being pushed away by the American security from the State and Treasury Department. He had a fierce mustache and wore unkempt clothes. So I did not immediately recognize him.

But when he came closer I did and asked the guards to let him through to me. The guards were obviously surprised at my hospitality for a bedraggled man and I told them he was one of the underground fighters of the war. And when they asked, "one of your soldiers, sir?" I answered, "No, I was one of his soldiers." I asked him inside and when I solidarily asked him what I could do for him, he proudly said, "I have come to ask you what I can do for you."

2132

June 14th (Cont)

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

The colonel had been a little queer after the war, had resigned his commission and gone to the United States where he had even worked as a waiter leaving his family behind. I gave some money to his wife and children so that they could follow him.

During the guerrilla days the wife had been incarcerated by the Japanese but she had been resolute and firm as he had been.

"And so this happy day - Bessang Pass Day - has its blend of sad memories," I said.

But we who survived and are in a position to help our comrades may have lost our compassion of the war when one did not think of going back under fire to pick up and carry and injured comrade.

"As there was patience then, so let there be resolution now; as there was courage then, let there be daring now."

So I announced the formation of the Veterans Foundation to which I would grant 100,000 hectares

2133

June 14th (Cont)

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

logging concession. But I warned that there must be no selfishness in this enterprise. And the profits must all go to the veterans who are most in need — not to the highest ranking but to those most in need.

I called for brotherhood and unity.

T. J. George, who wrote a book on Krishna Menon, says he is sad that the first lady is not running for President for he is all for her. He has nothing but admiration for her.

He favors my position that American influence, the most visible of which is the military bases, must be eradicated.

And he marched with the KMs, the SDKs and the LDP and LDKP from the south. And he was surprised at the discipline and talent and preparation as well as the eloquence of the few leaders. And the intensity of the feelings of the young followers who were mostly students of 14 to 16 and who

2134
June 14th (Cont)

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

did not understand what they were wanting for. But he feels that such ^{of feeling} intensity (which is lacking in the paid demonstrators of Kerala, India, may break out into violence in a year or two.

I told him the subversives will probably wait for me to retire before they try a grab for the government.

But he must have suspected what I was thinking there because he asked me if there was a possibility I might declare martial law in the future.

I told him that I do not believe there will be any violence during the rest of my term.

He believes that the Congress is dead and can not write a constitution.