

8:20 PM

2281

Aug. 21, 1942
Monday

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

We are waiting for Danny and Jimmy Madrigal so that they can meet with Tony, Belak, Alito and ~~Massaria~~ ^{Massaria} ~~these~~ brothers and sisters. We are trying to amicably settle their quarrel about their property.

Usually in family quarrels of this nature the peace makers get hurt but since they are our friends we are taking this risk.

Premier Chiang Ching Kuo sent Mr. Yang Hsi-kun Deputy Foreign Minister with a message and letter with the request for ~~us~~ to intervene with Japan and the United States to delay or stop the normalization of relations of Japan with Red China.

I attach the letter and copies of my answer to him and the cablegrams to Amb. Romualdo in Washington and Amb. Barakato in Tokyo.

It is to our interest that Taiwan remain a buffer between the Philippines and the mainland. But at the same time we cannot close our eyes to the need for peace between Japan and Red China. War between them would engulf us.

2282

Aug. 21st (Cont.)

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

The established fact that Red China seems to be helping the local communists and may continue to do so may require a reassessment of our defense and foreign policies.

We may have to keep on depending more and more on the United States. And we may have to postpone the diplomatic relations of the Philippines with Red China or even Russia.

Thus the continuance of the Military Bases Agreement.

The reports of submarines landing personnel and arms in the Divisoria, Palawan area makes us cautious about cutting our ties with the United States.

For the next two decades we will not be able to defend ourselves against Red China or Japan.

And anyway for a self-reliant defense posture we need military assistance from the United States, whether on the basis of ^{entirely} aid or bases.

2283

Aug 21st (Cont)

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

Manila Times, Chronicle, Bulletin and the Philippines Herald among other media are still trying to make the Plaza Miranda grounds incident that was the principal cause for the victory (from sheer pity felt by the electorate for the Liberals' senatorial candidates) of the Liberals last year, a rallying cause against the administration.

It is obvious that the Liberals are making use of the newspapers and the radio. Or rather it is a question as to who is using who.

But only 3,000 attended the rally at Plaza Miranda and there have been no incidents.

I enclose in envelope XXXXIV - I
the newspapers of today.