

11.00 PM

2031

April 25, 1972
Monday

MALACAÑAN PALACE
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The Daily Express was inaugurated at the Port Area this afternoon at 4:30 PM. The first edition will come out on April 27th, Thursday.

The Taal volcano exploded 47 times rocking the island in the last 24 hours.

The South Vietnamese have lost another three bases in the Central Highlands.

But Donalme and George Calaris, the first the Intelligence Officer of the US Embassy here and the latter the CIA man, briefed me at 9:00 AM ^{today} and claimed:

1. That the North Vietnamese have committed all their available troops of 100,000 and have not succeeded in taking their targets.
2. That since the fighting has shifted from unconventional to conventional, this indicates:
 - a. That the North Vietnamese were compelled to shift to conventional warfare because their recruitment and popular support had gone so low inside South Vietnam.
 - b. That the North Vietnamese can no longer depend on the countryside.

2032

April 25th (Cont)

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for their supplies.

c. That the North Vietnamese would be vulnerable to bombing now because of concentration of forces and their long supply lines. The North Vietnamese were engaged in unconventional warfare, bombing was ineffective.

3. That there is a stalemate with a few changes in position.

4. That the press dispatches were unreliable.

5. That there is inefficient and faulty coordination between the tank, artillery and infantry commanders of the North Vietnamese.

6. That the B-52's are coming in 65,000 feet and the U.S. has sophisticated counter air equipment to turn around the flying tanks and other missiles of the North Vietnamese.

The North Vietnamese are using an anti-tank weapon which seems to be a missile. Effective and accurate. I attach some press & given to Donline.

Today's newspaper is in a separate envelope.