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2077

May 24, 1972

Wednesday

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

The Senate Committee on Finance this noon by a vote of 9-4 eliminated completely the President's power to transfer funds from one item to another. Nacionalistas voted for it, led by majority floor leader Arturo Talantao, Pres. Pro Tempore Jose Ray, Sen. Salvador Laurel, Sen. Jose Diokno and even Heber Benitez.

The power of transfer is necessary in times of crisis and of fast changing situations. So I anticipate that the House of Representatives will stand by its version and there will probably be a second if not a third special session.

and we will have to set down in open appropriation over the items intended for security and intelligence. and pass a public works bill.

I called Ambassador Byrns to Malacanán and handed to him my letter on missiles and nuclear weapons. I attach a duplicate of my handwritten letter.

He seemed to have been slightly shocked by it. And he said that President Fison would have to act on the matter of nuclear weapons. He did not present any problem on ICBM's and IRBM's.

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I also conveyed to him the possibility that if the NPA and Communist Party continue to expand and strengthen, I would have to use my emergency powers all over again. When I asked him point blank whether the American government would at least remain neutral. He answered that his government would support my move.

But I noticed a hesitancy when he said that my suspension had caused a controversy indicating that he would prefer to have it avoided.

I met with the USAPRIP, NL to play golf in the rain and eat calderrata and calabing kulawan. We talked of the organization of the economic arm of the veterans to which we can then grant a forest concession. Right now I am thinking of granting the former Aguinaldo concession in Palawan.

Then I met Dick de la Cueva, the westy's chief of the Hignonans of Agoran, his brother and Prefecturo. He revealed that the NPA's have infiltrated the Ilogas the Barracudas and are now infiltrating the various tribes including the Hignon-hons his tribe where they have won over two detachments, one of whom attempted to kill him by ambush.

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He also revealed that he was trained for seven months by two political commissars who are two medical doctors from Cebu. Fourteen commanders have visited him. The first HPAs, Commander Esperagoza and the Secretary General of Agusan, Vic's Cupin were brought by the brother-in-law of D.O. Plaza, Dick Pasqueto and Duda Cupin, brother of Vic's Cupin and a newspaperman and radio commentator in Butuan.

The son of the Chief of Police of Iligan City is an HPA.

Agusan HPA's send their messages to Surigao through the P.C. radio network.

He has agreed to work as an intelligence mission for the government. He says that the HPA's are ready to transfer one half of the operational organization if they can get the support of the mountain tribes.

Rather than surrender and be identified with government, he will be "allowed to escape" again, work with the HPA and send all the information he can.