

12:15 PM

2052

May 9, 1972

Tuesday

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

Pres. Nixon has ordered the blockade of North Vietnam. In the letter he sent me to be delivered before he made his speech, he anticipated: "I have ordered the mining of all entrances to North Vietnam ports to prevent access also to prevent North Vietnamese naval operations from these ports. I have also directed US forces to prevent the delivery of seaborne supplies to North Vietnam within its claimed territorial waters. Rail and other transportation means will be interdicted."

Actually Pres Nixon had no alternative. The other option was an Inchon-type landing in North Vietnam. And the South Vietnamese are not capable of this.

Let us hope this does not start a 3rd World War. I do not believe so. Negotiations may be the result. I attach Pres Nixon's letter.

Melba has not told me yet how happy she is about the fact that she will be able to keep her baby. And I cannot cover my happiness from the world - notwithstanding all the problems we have.

2053
May 9th (Cont)

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

We met on the promotion of exports
especially to Australia, Japan, Singapore, Hongkong
and West Germany as well as tourism.

Then on the progressive car manufacturing
program.
and PCA.

Benny Tada came to see us. He wants
help for Kibicon and PAT.