

11:00 PM

2166

June 29, 1972

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

Thursday

I went to Chino Rocas' house to wish him a Happy Birthday. Arrived at 7:15 PM, left at 9:00 PM with Alex Melchor.

First made bantering and joking especially when Sen. Stardo, Max Soliven and the other critics arrived. Chino said that I had the massive support of the media, referring to ABS-CBN, Chronicle, Herald Bulletin etc. and I said the Manila Times was the only newspaper in the Philippines that mattered. He then laughingly declared he was going to sell the Manila Times and I answered it mock-seriously that I would organize a group to buy it.

Delegate Napoleon Reme arrived to loudly announce "The President is not coming to see you." They reacted in shamed silence when he saw me laughing at him.

But later I pulled Chino off to a corner to talk to him seriously. I asked him to help me unite the country at least for the last year and a half of my administration. He asked me to announce that even if I should be nominated I would not run.

2167

June 29th (Cont)

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

He asked me what I was willing to do to convince people that I was not interested in reelection. I answered, anything provided I was not humiliated.

He claims that he is convinced that I am not going to run but that we had to convince the people. Specially since the people wanted a change of leadership and that the next President would not be a Nacionalista. I kept my counsel to myself.

And I thought I ~~suspected~~ ^{could trace} suspicion in his voice when he asked me what I would do if the peace and order situation deteriorated. Immediately I told him I would follow the advice of the Supreme Court. Perhaps suggest the writ of habeas corpus and arrest a few people but that at the end of 1973 even if there were a revolution I would step down.

He commented, "But you have to straighten things up before you step down." And I answered, "That would be the purpose but I would still step down."

We ended up with the agreement that we would continue the dialogue.

I left before dinner.

2168

June 29th (Cont)

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

I talked to Chief Justice Concepcion extensively on Russia and the means to catch up on the back log of cases in the courts. He was the unofficial guest of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Soviet Union who was one of the contemporaries of Lenin. He felt that the Russians sincerely want diplomatic relations with us; their farmers are in the state our farmers were in 1900; a Stalingrad collective of 11,000 hectares produced only in 6,000 hectares 500,000 rubles worth of wheat, each ruble worth one peso - or about \$16,000 - a harvest that is rather low.

I explained to him that we would not be able to negotiate diplomatic relations with Russia until we can do the same with Red China and we cannot do the latter until the Taiwan problem is settled. But we will trade with both.

On the expeditious of cases and trial, he told us of his attendance of trials in New York and London where 97% of civil cases are settled by assessors. He recommended:

1. More use of pre-trial settlements
2. " " of assessors
3. Elimination of records.
4. Use of computers

2/69
June 29th (Cont)

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

Held a conference on sugar prices.
Felt a conspiracy of Piding Montelibano
and Tony Roxas Alva to raise prices. So I
asked FCC (see Quizon and Buing Tanco)
to check the adequacy of supply. Decreased this year
the allocation for domestic market from 30% to 35%.
Ordered the wage commission to increase sugar labor wages
Farm laborers ~~from~~ 7.00 to 6.50; full laborers ~~from~~ 8.60 to 10.00.
Exports incentives study.