

1:45 AM Sept 22nd

2329

Sept. 21, 1942
Thursday

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

Delayed by the hurried visit of Joe Asperas and Fulgencio Barbero who came from the northern bloc of congressmen and senators who want to know if there is going to be Martial Law in 48 hours as predicted by Juan Aguino. Of course Imelda and I denied it.

But Johnny Ponce Encile, Hon. Paz, Gen. Canadiego, Kito Tatal and I with Pichayo Taguan doing the typing finished all the papers (the proclamation and the orders) today at 8:00 PM.

Amb. Byrns came to see us at 11:15 AM and was apparently interested to know whether there would be Martial Law. He seemed to favor it when I explained it is intended to primarily reform our society and eliminate the communist threat. But he suggested that a proclamation before the American elections, may be used by Mac Govern, the Democratic presidential candidate, as proof of the failure of the foreign policy of the present president. I told him I did not want it said that he was intervening in internal matters of the Philippine government. And that no decision has been arrived at but that I was under pressure and there

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seemed to be no other solution. He agreed that there seemed to be no other solution but he told Gen. Romualdez later this day when Kefauver went to see him that his impression was that Martial Law would be proclaimed after the elections. How he came to arrive at this conclusion I can only guess. But this was cannot make logical deductions. I must be wary.

He wanted Kefauver to go ahead and work in California for Nixon. There are 200,000 Filipino votes and California is crucial.

This morning I told him I was for:

1. The government adopting the position on party that the title of Americans over private land was held by private parties but not to the government, so that Americans could dispose of their property.
2. On the Interoceano case, that Americans holding equity in corporations could become directors. ~~On executive~~ ~~managers~~ only if the area of investment is highly technical and no qualified Filipinos are available.
3. On the retail trade of sales of oil in bulk to industrial consumers, amendatory and clarificatory legislation is necessary.

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Sept. 21st (Cont)

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There seems to be a pipeline to Lino Aquino
as he seems to know that the proclamation
will be made this week end.

We have to check this. It is dangerous.
Even the Concom is agog with the speculation.