

12:15 PM

2340

Sept. 25, 1972
Monday

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

Gen. Ver's men have apprehended Salwan the American triggerman and Manny Cruzado the explosives and electronics man. But they have not caught Eddie Figueras, Tony Arevalo, ^{Frank} ~~Conner~~ ^{Blackman} and others involved.

The two have involved the other man and apparently there was an agreement that the Vice President would have to take over if I were assassinated so as to prevent anarchy.

But we have to check the involvement of the CIA or the U.S. Embassy, Vice Pres. Lopez or other important personalities.

Apparently they have been trying to assassinate me since Bayan (in Camp John Hay) in December 1971, the Rural Bankers Convention in the Curio Hotel, the SSS Convention of Suber in May 1st.

The Comby car that was prepared for the plot is indeed alarming.

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Sept. 25th (Cont)

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

I have dismissed some judges and punished some fiscals

Met all the generals this morning to command them and issue instructions on:

1. The clean-up in Isabela, the Cagayan Valley and Mt. Province.
2. The policy in Mindanao and Sulu — we delay action there until we can concentrate our troops.
3. The ^{partial} concentration of NPA's.
4. To prepare for the regrouping of the armed gangs, criminal or not, and the Communists.
5. Employment of the ROTC in civic action.
6. Reward for the Armed Forces.

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Sept. 25th (Cont)

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

Met Justices Rod Ruy Castro and Salvador
Esguerra on a consulta.

I told them frankly that I needed their
help and counsel because we must keep all the
actions within constitutional limits.

Justice Castro asked permission to ask a
blunt question "Is this a coup d'état?" and
I told him that it is not but it is the exercise
of an extraordinary power by the president for a
situation anticipated by the constitution.

Justice Esguerra said immediately that he feels
that it is a legitimate exercise of martial law.

And apparently reading my mind, he said,
in the Procurator case, Justice Tansey had issued
a writ of habeas corpus for a man who was detained
on orders of President Lincoln. And President Lincoln
just disregarded the judicial order. And Justice
Tansey said, "what can we do, we are confronted by
a superior authority?"

I then concluded that there must be no
conflict between the two separate departments of
Justice and Executive for it would be embarrassing
to both.

I believe that they are both of his persuasion.

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Sept. 25th (Cont)

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

The public reaction throughout the Philippines is a welcome to martial law because of the smooth, peaceful reestablishment of peace and order and the hope of a reformed society. In fact most everyone now says, this should have been done earlier.

I attach the report of Boni Sip about the same result of a survey conducted by Liberal Party leader Gerry Roxas.

It is indeed gratifying that everyone now finds or discovers in me some kind of a hero!

There is nothing as successful as success!