

### APPENDIX 2.8

## THE DETAINEE MARIFLOR PARPAN

The following cables show (1) the response of the Marcos regime to dissent, even by those who are not connected to either the CPP-NPA or the MNLF; (2) that in some instances, rumors of torture did turn out to be untrue; and (3) that Imelda Marcos appeared to know very well what happened in the detention centers during martial law. The letter from Mariflor Parpan's brother affirms the perception that Imelda Marcos could intervene to release certain detainees.

# DECLASSIFIED CABLE, "ALLEGED MALTREATMENT OF CHICO PROTEST LEADER, MARIFLOR PARPAN" (9 FEBRUARY 1976)

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 May 2006

Confidential

Page 01 Manila 01972 090403

73

Action EA-09

Info OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 DHA-02 /059 W

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R 090340Z Feb 76

FM AMEmbassy Manila

To SecState WashDC 1964

Confidential Manila 1972

E. O. 11652: GDS

Tags: Pint, RP

R 090340Z FEB 76 FM AMEMBASSY MANILA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1964

CONFIDENTIAL MANILA 1972

E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: ALLEGED MALTREATMENT OF CHICO PROTEST LEADER,

MARIFLOR PARPAN

REF: (A) MANILA 1859; (B) MANILA 1279

1. ACCORDING TO JESUIT PRIESTS AT ATENEO DE MANILA. ANTHROPOLOGIST MARIFLOR PARPAN WHO WAS ONE OF SEVERAL ACTIVISTS DETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH CHICO RIVER PROTEST (REF-TEL B) HAS BEEN BEATEN UP WHILE IN DETENTION AND IS CURRENTLY IN HOSPITAL AT CAMP OLIVAS (WHERE DE LA TORRE ALSO BEING HELD). INFORMATION ON HER CONDITION WAS OBTAINED END OF LAST WEEK BY JESUIT PRIEST WHO TALKED TO "EYE WITNESS" OF BEATING. REPORT ON CASE IS BEING CIRCULATED AT ATENEO (AND PRESUMABLY ELSE-WHERE) BY FATHER FRANK LYNCH, WELL-KNOWN AMERICAN JESUIT SOCIAL SCIENTIST, AND OTHERS. MS. PARPAN, WHO HAS BEEN OUTSPOKENLY ANTI-MARCOS AS WELL AS ANTI-CHICO, HAS BROTHER WHO IS JESUIT PRIEST (NOW IN ROME) AND HAS HERSELF WORKED CLOSELY WITH JESUITS, AND WE ANTICIPATE HIGH LEVEL OF CHRUCH CONCERN AND INTEREST IN HER CASE.

Figure 1. A copy of the declassified cable.

*Source:* US Department of State. 1976 February 9. "Alleged Maltreatment of Chico Protest Leader, Mariflor Parpan." Document number 1976MANILA01972, film number D760048-0330. https://aad.archives.gov/aad/createpdf?rid=83675&dt=2082&dl=1345.



### CURIA PRÆPOSITI GENERALIS SOCIETATIS IESU ROMA - Borgo S. Spirilo, 5

May 27, 1976

Madame Imelda Romualdez-Marcos Excelsior Hotel, Rome, Italy

Dear Mrs. Marcos, PC

I write these lines just in case I do not get the chance to talk to you and - even if I did - I doubt whether such a social gathering and festive occasion to honor our new Cardinal should be the opportune moment to discuss the matter of my sister Mariflor's long drawn-out detention at Fort Bonifacio.

Arrested last January 24th, she continues to be detained and, todate, no charges have been filed. While I am relieved to know that she has not been maltreated, the fact that she continues to be detained is torture enough. And while she continues to put a brave front, I quite realize that the detention, understandably, is wearing on her nerves and health.

I am sure you understand the situation and how her problem hangs heavy on my mind and I am only glad that my mother and father are no longer around to witness the plight of their youngest. I had really intended to write you earlier but I doubted whether my letter could get to you. But now, with the assurance of Ambassador Delgado's help, I venture an attempt.

Nor do I feel at all hesitant about asking your kelp. I could mention that I too was one of the many millions who prayed that God spare your life after that tragic incident at Nayon Pilipino some years back. I do not ask as a matter of quid pro quo. But you, more than any other, are in a position to help and as the Alay Kapwa song reminds us - "tayong lahat ay may pananagutan sa isa't isa."

Whatever the outcome of this letter, I should thank you for an earlier favor. It was someone in Malacanang, I am told, who made it possible finally for Fr. Joe Cruz of ADM (and later my brother as well am a couple of fellow Jesuits) to visit my sister after she was held incomunicado for almost three weeks.

With every test wish and prayer for divine help in your undertakings multifarious as they are.

Alfredo G. Parpan, SI

Figure 2. A letter to Imelda Marcos from Alfredo Parpan.

*Source:* Presidential Commission on Good Government Files (through Meynardo Mendoza and the National Historical Commission of the Philippines), Roll No. 251, File No. 0676.

Subject: Alleged maltreatment of Chico protest leader, Mariflor Parpan

Ref: (a) Manila 1859; (b) Manila 1279

- 1. According to Jesuit priests at Ateneo de Manila, anthropologist Mariflor Parpan who was one of several activists detained in connection with Chico River protest (Ref-tel B) has been beaten up while in detention and is currently in hospital at Camp Olivas (where de la Torre also being held). Information on her condition was obtained end of last week by Jesuit priest who talked to "eye witness" of beating. Report on case is being circulated at Ateneo (and presumably elsewhere) by Father Frank Lynch, well-known American Jesuit social scientist, and others. Ms. Parpan, who has been outspokenly anti-Marcos as well as anti-Chico, has brother who is Jesuit priest (now in Rome) and has herself worked closely with Jesuits, and we anticipate high level of chruch [sic] concern and interest in her case.
- 2. Embassy cannot confirm allegation. Source who provided information on de la Torre (Reftel A) was unaware that Ms. Parpan had been moved from Bonifacio (where most detainees held) to Olivas. Jesuit provincial secretary told Labatt that a colleague contacted Fort Bonifacio Feb 9 and was told that she had been "released" (nothing more). However as of yesterday, her sister had heard nothing. Jesuits speculate this may mean she was "released" for transfer to Olivas. Embassy will clarify as soon as possible.

Sullivan

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#### Source

US Department of State. 1976 February 9. "Alleged Maltreatment of Chico Protest Leader, Mariflor Parpan." Document number 1976MANILA01972, film number D760048-0330.

https://aad.archives.gov/aad/createpdf?rid=83675&dt=2082&dl=1345.

# Declassified Cable, "Mariflor Parpan Case" (10 February 1976)

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 May 2006

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To SecState WashDC PRIORITY 1993

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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Subject: Mariflor Parpan Case

Ref: Manila 1972

- 1. According Ateneo de Manila faculty members, Ateneo president Fr. Jose Cruz succeeded in calling on detainee Mariflor Parpan on morning of Feb 10. Contrary to earlier reports (reftel), Ms. Parpan turned out to be at Bonifacio (not Olivas).. [sic] She appeared in excellent shape and told Cruz that her treatment has been good. (Unlike most other detainees, Ms. Parpan has own room).
- 2. Fr. Cruz subsequently delivered "mild lecture" to military officer in charge (Col. Pataleja phonetic) to the effect that if Parpan had been allowed vicitors [sic] (which she has not up to now) rumors would not get started.
- 3. In separate [sic] move, Father James Donelan (American Jesuit professor at Asian Institute of Management who is first lady's confessor) approached her directly re status of Ms. Parpan. Mrs. Marcos replied, "of course we haven't done anything to her—we are just holding her," or words to that effect.
- 4. Jesuit provincial secretary has confirmed substance of above to Labatt.
- 5. Comment: Parpan episode is significant if only as example of degree to which current atmosphere fosters rumors. Donelan approach to first lady suggests she has rather precise knowledge of detentions. Sullivan

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NNN

#### Source

US Department of State. 1976 February 10. "Mariflor Parpan Case." Document number 1976MANILA02018, film number D760049-0628. https://aad.archives.gov/aad/createpdf?rid=103011&dt=2082&dl=1345.