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**The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) condemns the coup staged by rebels of the AFP.**

For several days our people were hostage to a war instigated by rebel factions of the military. This war caused the death of civilians, destruction of property, and greater economic insecurity to our people who have just been greeted with the shock of the oil price hike. The shattering effect this armed conflict is causing the economy has already started to manifest in the sharp increase of prices, creating yet another suffering for the masses already struggling to survive worsening hunger and poverty.

The coup forces have worse to offer the people in return, with their fascist intent to grab power in order to institute blatant, direct, and more repressive order under a military junta.

**BAYAN cannot respond to the call for support of the Aquino government which has repeatedly denied the people their basic needs and aspirations.**

The Aquino government tries to present this conflict as one between democracy and the enemies of freedom, and on this basis has called on the people for support.

But the people during the coup were indifferent. They opposed the coup forces but could not bring themselves to rally and be mobilized behind the government. So they became spectators, refusing to be drawn into this conflict. They were not part of it because it was not their war. Neither side represents their real interests.

While BAYAN condemns and opposes the coup forces, we cannot throw our support behind a government that denies the peasants genuine agrarian reform; that protects and coddles foreign capital and big business while denying the workers their due wages; that allows our enslavement to debt servicing; that allows rampant graft and corruption; that conducts a policy of total war resulting in countless violations of human rights; that is preparing to agree to an extension of the US bases agreement; and that is invoking itself as the constitutional government while refusing to implement many provisions in the Constitution such as the provision declaring the Philippines nuclear-free.

**BAYAN condemns the Aquino government's decision to invite US intervention, and denounces US acts of aggression.**

By that very move, the Aquino government made it plain that it cannot stand by itself, that its strength lies not on the support of the people, but in being faithful to the US. And by its intervention, the United States has blatantly demonstrated that it lets nothing stand in its way -- neither recognition of the internal affairs of other nations nor international law -- in its pursuit of its own interests.

Nothing can justify the invitation for US intervention. It was a complete surrender of whatever little sovereignty our country could claim to exercise, an act of stripping whatever pretense this government has of upholding the independence and integrity of the Philippine state.

**BAYAN opposes the declaration of a state of emergency.**

We cannot believe that the declaration of the state of emergency was simply intended to address economic problems which the government could easily meet given its normal powers but has consistently refused to do so. The President will be granted awesome powers, tantamount to Marcos' powers under martial law, and will apply not only in relation to the crisis created by the coup attempt. Experiences of government and military policies and acts that repress the people's exercise of basic civil and political rights tell us that the state of emergency

powers can and will be used to further suppress even legitimate and popular dissent. When this happens, the coup will have succeeded in its objective of achieving a more militarized order.

**BAYAN believes the solution to the national crisis is in the people's resolve to continue the struggle for freedom, democracy, and economic emancipation.**

We are a nation that has long been in crisis, a crisis of crippling economic oppression, the lack of genuine freedoms, of unabated military violence, and of foreign exploitation and subjugation.

We should not be blackmailed into taking sides with either faction of the ruling elite. Our history and experiences as a people have taught us that only by uniting and persevering in our struggles can we hope to achieve national freedom, genuine democracy, and prosperity.

**Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN)**  
10 December 1989