



## APPENDIX 3.6

### HEIR TO THE THRONE

These documents show how Bongbong Marcos was apparently being groomed to become his father's heir during the martial law era. The first is a declassified cable about what appears to be his first Malacañang appointment, as "Presidential Special Assistant." No post-EDSA Revolution biographical note—campaign or otherwise—on Bongbong Marcos thus far mentions this appointment, let alone details what his duties were in that capacity. This appears to be an attempt to mirror his father's appointment as a technical assistant to President Manuel Roxas. The second document is another declassified cable describing Bongbong Marcos's membership in the Philippine Constabulary Reserves. Marcos Sr. was of course a member of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps. The last document concerns Bongbong Marcos's (lackluster) academic record in Oxford University. Marcos clearly wanted his children to be alumni of prestigious institutions like himself, or at least ensure that they appear to have inherited his vaunted intellect. What government resources were tapped, if any, to ensure that Bongbong Marcos has the credentials to feasibly become his father's heir to the presidency remains to be researched.

#### *Sources*

Presidential Commission on Good Government Files (through Meynardo Mendoza and the National Historical Commission of the Philippines), Roll No. 137, File Nos. 2001-03.

US Department of State. 1978 November 28. "Bongbong' Marcos Become Presidential Special Assistant." Document number 1978MANILA21215, film number D780491-0609. <https://aad.archives.gov/aad/createpdf?rid=296406&dt=2694&dl=2009>.

US Department of State. 1979 January 25. "Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Joins the Constabulary - Reserves." Document number 1979MANILA01849, film number D790039-0705. <https://aad.archives.gov/aad/createpdf?rid=122294&dt=2776&dl=2169>.

PAGE 01 MANILA 21215 281055Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05  
SP-02 SS-15 PA-02 ICA-20 /072 W  
-----107188 290404Z /14

R 280823Z NOV 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5097

UNCLAS MANILA 21215

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINR, RP

SUBJECT: "BONGBONG" MARCOS BECOME PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL  
- ASSISTANT

FERDINAND MARCOS, JR. ("BONGBONG"), 21, WAS SWORN IN BY  
HIS FATHER AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT ON  
NOVEMBER 24. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, BONGBONG HOLDS  
A SPECIAL DIPLOMA IN SOCIAL STUDIES FROM OXFORD UNIVERSITY.  
MURPHY

PAGE 01 MANILA 01849 260624Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00  
PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 /047 W  
-----078052 261455Z /53

R 250959Z JAN 79  
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7852

UNCLAS MANILA 01849

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINR, RP

SUBJECT: (U) FERDINAND MARCOS JR. JOINS THE CONSTABULARY  
- RESERVES

REF: 78 MANILA 21215

1. MEDIA HAVE HIGHLIGHTED NEWS THAT FERDINAND MARCOS JR. (BONGBONG) HAS JOINED THE PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY RESERVES AS SECOND LIEUTENANT. YOUNG MARCOS IS REPORTEDLY UNDERGOING THE SIX MONTH MARINE BASIC OFFICERS COURSE WITH 45 OTHER STUDENT OFFICERS. HE HAS BEEN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF HIS OFFICERS' CLASS. (ONE COLUMNIST NOTED TONGUE-IN-CHEEK THAT THIS CLASS IS NOW SURE TO PRODUCE A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF GENERALS.)

2. YOUNG MARCOS CONTINUES TO HOLD THE POSITION OF PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL ASSISTANT AND IS SUPPOSED TO RETURN TO MALACANANG AFTER BASIC TRAINING. MURPHY

H.E. PRESIDENT MARCOS  
MALACANANG  
MANILA

MIS-169 I HAVE JUST ARRIVED FROM OXFORD AFTER ATTENDING A TWO-WEEK INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE DURING WHICH TIME I CONFERRED WITH DR KELLY TWICE REGARDING BONGBONG'S PROGRESS IN SCHOOL. I VERY MUCH REGRET TO REPORT THAT BONGBONG PASSED IN ONLY ONE OF THREE SUBJECTS HE TOOK IN THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION. HE PASSED PHILOSOPHY BUT FAILED IN ECONOMICS AND POLITICS.

DR. KELLY POINTED OUT THAT THIS IS NOT UNUSUAL. WHAT WAS UNUSUAL WAS THAT BONGBONG PASSED IN THE MORE DIFFICULT SUBJECT OF PHILOSOPHY. HE ONLY JUST FAILED IN THE TWO SUBJECTS WHICH ARE REGARDED AS EASIER. DR KELLY ALSO POINTED OUT THAT BONG IS A CLEVER YOUNG MAN BUT THAT HE NEEDS TO APPLY HIMSELF MORE TO HIS STUDIES. HIS GRADES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

ECONOMICS	GAMMA	-- (FAIL)
PHILOSOPHY	GAMMA	-- (PASS)
POLITICS	GAMMA	-- (FAIL)

OXFORD SYSTEM, A STUDENT WHO FAILS WHOLE OR PART OF PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION HAS OPPORTUNITY OF RE-SITTING IT IN SEPTEMBER. BONG DOES NOT HAVE TO TAKE PHILOSOPHY AGAIN, ONLY ECONOMICS AND POLITICS. AS HE ALMOST PASSED IN THE TWO SUBJECTS, THERE IS EVERY CHANCE HE WILL GET THROUGH AT SECOND ATTEMPT PROVIDED HE REVISES THOROUGHLY DURING THE VACATION. HIS TUTOR HAS ASKED DR KELLY TO ADVISE BONG TO RETURN EARLY TO OXFORD TO PUT IN SOME CONCENTRATED REVISION.

ALTERNATIVELY, BONG MAY ALSO HAVE TUTORIALS THERE UNDER FILIPINO PROFESSORS. FOR THIS PURPOSE, DR KELLY ADVISED ME TO SECURE PREVIOUS YEARS' TEST PAPERS TO GIVE TUTORS AN IDEA OF WHAT IS REQUIRED OF BONG IN THE EXAMS. THESE I HAVE SECURED AND I AM SENDING THEM BY FIRST AVAILABLE MEANS.

ALTERNATIVELY, BONG MAY ALSO HAVE TUTORIALS THERE UNDER FILIPINO PROFESSORS. FOR THIS PURPOSE, DR KELLY ADVISED ME TO SECURE PREVIOUS YEARS' TEST PAPERS TO GIVE TUTORS AN IDEA OF WHAT IS REQUIRED OF BONG IN THE EXAMS. THESE I HAVE SECURED AND I AM SENDING THEM BY FIRST AVAILABLE MEANS.

DATE OF PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION IS THURSDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER. THERE IS FORM TO BE COMPLETED BY CANDIDATES WHICH I CAN DO FROM THIS END AS SOON AS I GET ADVICE THAT BONG WISHES TO RE-SIT PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION. PLEASE INSTRUCT ME SOONEST POSSIBLE SO I CAN INFORM DR KELLY.

DR. KELLY POINTED OUT THAT BONG MUST PASS THE EXAMINATION THE SECOND TIME AS COLLEGE REGULATIONS ALLOW ONLY TWO ATTEMPTS ON IT. FAILURE TO DO SO WOULD MEAN THAT BONG, IN DR KELLY'S WORDS, 'HAS TO GO OUT OF RESIDENCE FOR GOOD' WHICH WOULD BE GREATLY REGRETTABLE IN BONG'S CASE AS DR KELLY AND HIS TUTORS ARE CONVINCED BONG HAS ALL THE ABILITY TO MAKE GOOD.

I DEEPLY REGRET I COULD NOT REPORT MORE POSITIVELY. I AWAIT YOUR INSTRUCTIONS. I AM LEAVING FOR MANILA FIRST WEEK AUGUST AND WILL SEE DR KELLY BEFORE I DEPART. WITH GREATEST RESPECTS END

ARAQUE

AMBAPHIL LONDON

MIS-170 REOURCAB 169 PLEASE MAKE FOLLOWING CORRECTIONS:

ECONOMICS	GAMMA -- (FAIL)	SHOULD READ ECONOMICS	GAMMA- (FAIL)
PHILOSOPHY	GAMMA -- (PASS)	SHOULD READ PHILOSOPHY	GAMMA++ (PASS)
POLITICS	GAMMA -- (FAIL)	SHOULD READ POLITICS	GAMMA- (FAIL)

THIRD PARAGRAPH SHOULD BEGIN UNDER OXFORD SYSTEM NOT OXFORD SYSTEM, REPEAT UNDER OXFORD SYSTEM

