



APPENDIX 4.9

MARCOS DIARY ENTRY, 24 SEPTEMBER 1972

Ferdinand Marcos here claims that he was ready to disregard constitutionality—i.e., establishing a revolutionary government—if the Supreme Court justices opposed his recent martial law declaration, but the justices “insisted that we retain the color of constitutionality for everything that we do.” He decries the justices’ adherence to “technical legalism.” It nevertheless seems unlikely that he would have abandoned legality, given his previous actuations; Marcos may have been bluffing. The entry also shows the extent of Marcos’s use of the armed forces in the early days of the dictatorship—even the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps were deployed for graffiti clearing.

Source

Presidential Commission on Good Government Files (through Meynardo Mendoza and the National Historical Commission of the Philippines), Roll No. 16, File Nos. 0458-60.

1:25 AM Sept. 24

2337

Sept. 24, 1942
Sunday

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

Diosdado, Chris Roxas, Max Belverio etc have filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus before the Supreme Court.

I asked Justices Claudio Teehanee, Antonio Barredo, Felix Makasian and Felix Antonio to see me. They insisted that the government should submit to the Supreme Court for the Court to review the constitutionality of the proclamation of martial law, Proclamation No. 1081.

So I told them in the presence of Sec. Ponce Enrile and Vicente Abad Santos as well as Ad. Hon. Estellito Manzano that if necessary I would formally declare the establishment of a revolutionary government so that I can formally disregard the actions of the Supreme Court.

They insisted that we retain a color of constitutionality for everything that we do.

But I feel that they are still wage-billing and do not understand that a new day has dawned. While they claim to be for a reformed society, they are not too motivated but are too bound by technical legislation.

I have awarded both Hon. Orders Nos. 1 and 3 to assume all powers of government including legislative and judicial and clearly excluded cases involving the constitutionality of my acts from the jurisdiction of the

2338

Sept. 24th (Cont.)

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

Supreme Court.

I met the cabinet to emphasize the program to reform our society.

And I signed the decree (No. 1) to promulgate the law on the Reorganization of the Government.

Tomorrow I will sign the decrees promulgating the new Civil Service Rules, the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Law, the Social Reform Funding and dismiss some judges, the CTR judges, Public Service Commission.

We have impressed everybody with our fairness by the arrest of Conyng Roque Abellan, Rafael Aquino and Don Luis Bocalan.

I have ordered profiteers to be arrested.

and the ROTC boys have cleaned up the streets of Taguig.

Only KBS and The Daily Express are operational.

2339
Sept 24th (Cont)

MALACANAN PALACE

MANILA

I just talked to Earl Mayo, the biographer and adviser of Nixon, and his first advice is to immediately meet the press (as soon as possible) and explain that this is not a dictatorship.

See C. P. Romulo, whom I talked to again by long distance, has done a good job of holding press interviews and issuing press releases.

24 SEPTEMBER 1972

Diokno, Chino Roces, Max Soliven etc. have filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus before the Supreme Court.

I asked Justice Claudio Teehankee, Antonio Barredo, Felix Makasiar and Felix Antonio to see me. They insisted that the government should submit to the Supreme Court for the Court to review the constitutionality of the proclamation of martial law, Proclamation No. 1081.

So I told them in the presence of Secs. Ponce Enrile and Vicente Abad Santos as well as Sol. Gen. Estelito Mendoza that if necessary I would formally declare the establishment of a revolutionary government so that I can formally disregard the actions of the Supreme Court.

They insisted that we retain a color of constitutionality for everything that we do.

But I feel that they are still image building and do not understand that a new day has dawned. While they claim to be for a reformed society, they are not too motivated but are too bound by technical legalism.

I have amended both Gen. Orders Nos. 1 and 3 to assume all powers of government including legislation and judicial and clearly excluded cases involving the constitutionality of my acts from the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

I met the cabinet to emphasize the program to perform our society.

And I signed the decree (No. 1) to promulgate the law on the Reorganization of the Government.

Tomorrow I will sign the decrees promulgating the new Civil Service Rules, the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Law, the Land Reform Funding and dismiss some judges, the CIR judges, Public Service Commission.

We have impressed everybody with our fairness by the arrest of Cong. Roque Ablan, Rafael Aquino and Gov. Luis Bocalan.

I have ordered profiteers to be arrested.

And the ROTC boys have cleaned up the streets of Grafitti [sic].

Only KBS and The Daily Express are operational.

I just talked to Earl Mazo, the biographer and adviser of Nixon, and his first advice is to immediately meet the press (as soon as possible and explain that this is not a dictatorship).

Sec. C.P. Romulo, whom I talked to again by long distance, has done a good job of holding press interviews and issuing press releases.

