



## APPENDIX 4.10

### MARCOS DIARY ENTRY, 25 SEPTEMBER 1972

Arrests continue after the declaration of martial law, as do bureaucratic shake-ups; Marcos here says that he has “dismissed some judges and punished some fiscals.” In the *consulta* with two justices, Fred Ruiz Castro asked, “Is this a coup [d’etat]?” Probably he was referring to a self-coup or autogolpe, which had happened many times throughout history. Marcos never referred to his means of assuming dictatorial powers as such, probably because to do so would be admitting that he violated the law.

*Source*

Presidential Commission on Good Government Files (through Meynardo Mendoza and the National Historical Commission of the Philippines), Roll No. 16, File Nos. 0461-64.

12:15 PM

2340  
Sept. 25, 1972  
MondayMALACAÑAN PALACE  
MANILA

Gov. Ver's men have apprehended Salomon the American triggerman and Henry Cruzigo the explosives and electronics man. But they have not caught Eddie Siguero, Tony Aranda, ~~Conrado~~ <sup>Felix</sup> ~~Truchman~~ and others involved.

The two have involved the other men and apparently there was an agreement that the Vice President would have to take over if it 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 we since Bayis (in Camp John Hay) in December 1971, the Rural Bankers Convention in the Curio Hotel, the SSS Convention of Sabon in May 1st.

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

2341

Sept. 25th (Fri)

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 Iambuk, the Cagayan  
Valley and Mt. Province.
2. The policy in Iquidao and Sulik —  
no delay action there until we can  
concentrate our troops.
3. The Maguindanao <sup>partly</sup> 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 activities.
6. Rewards for the Armed Forces.

2342

Sept. 25th (Cont)

MALACAÑAN PALACE  
MANILA

Met Justices Fred Ruiz 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 comp do'tat?" 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 Madrazo case, Justice Tansey had issued  
a writ of habeas corpus for a man who was detained  
on orders of President Sison. And President Sison  
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 this persuasion.

2343

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 Benji Lopez about the same result of a survey conducted by Liberal Party leader Gerry Roxas.

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

There is nothing as successful as success!

## 25 SEPTEMBER 1972

Gen. Ver's men have apprehended Lehman the American triggerman and Manny Crisologo the explosives and electronics man. But they have not caught Eddie Figueras, Tony Arevalo, Osmeña, Larry Truckman and others involved.

The two have involved the other men 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 were to check the involvement of CIA or the U.S. Embassy, Vice Pres. Lopez or other important personalities.

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

The Comby car that was prepared for the plot is indeed alarming. I have dismissed some judges and punished some fiscals.

Met all the generals this morning to commend 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 Mayantoc, Tarlac concentration of NPAs.
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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Justice Castro asked permission to ask a blunt question, "Is this a coup de'tat?" 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 Marrison case, Justice Tanvey had issued a writ habeas corpus for a man who was detained on orders of President Lincoln. And President Lincoln just disregarded the judicial order. And Justice Tanvey said, "what can we do, we are confronted by 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.

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