



APPENDIX 4.15

MARCOS DIARY ENTRY, 23 DECEMBER 1972

In this entry, Marcos again vents his frustrations, this time against opposition politicians. He threatens (only privately, it seems) to postpone the ratification of the new constitution indefinitely, thereupon he would issue a decree that would reorganize the executive branch and effectively shut down congress indefinitely. He shows less antagonism toward the judiciary, though he laments that their sole concern—or so he claims—is security of tenure.

Source

Presidential Commission on Good Government Files (through Meynardo Mendoza and the National Historical Commission of the Philippines), Roll No. 20, File Nos. 0143-45.

12:00 PM

2503

Dec. 23, 1972

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

Saturday

I am concerned about the slow erosion of our authority under martial law and the slow shift of our society to its old habits of lack of discipline, irresponsibility, selfishness, egoism and lack of patriotism.

The politicians are back to asking for special favors and ^{attacking us personally} ~~as wanting to be a dictator~~ ^(Delegado Roman Salazar in his report to TV debate) ~~at the conference~~. This morning the senators were almost unanimous in the demand that the Congress be considered as authorized under the constitution to meet on the fourth Monday of January and not to adjourn immediately or how day to day.

Sen. Pelay spoke of the President in Martial Law as an "overseer". Talbot's submitted the proposal that Congress had exclusive powers of legislation in certain areas, coordinate powers with the president in another and areas already covered by decree could be considered as exclusive for the president.

2504

Dec. 23rd (Cont.)

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

Macada frankly admitted that he was against the new Constitution because he had spent a lot for his election and now he will be a senator for a year. But "since your reforms are tied up in the new Constitution I would be campaigning for it." I suggest he will sub-
stage the new Constitution.

So will Pelaez and perhaps Puyat. The senators visited Sen. Aquino and Diokno yesterday. Their sympathies are obvious.

Pedilla openly stated that such decrees like the Tariff and Customs Code are to his belief and that of Sen. Sumulong not included in the powers under martial law. of course I told him that the improvement of the customs laws which would prevent smuggling and corruption would prevent the re-mounting of the second wave of rebellion.

Sen. Hon. Arandaza followed this line when he told the joint meeting of the senators and congressmen that the adoption of a new constitution would prove the efficacy of a peaceful or constitutional revolution and thus prevent the

2505

Dec. 23rd (Cont.)

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

renouncing of the second wave of rebellion.

Since the original plan for Congress to adjourn after meeting on the first day cannot be complied with by the Senate, I am now inclined to postpone the ratification of the constitution not to a certain day like Feb. 19 or 1973, or Mar. 5, 1973 but INDEFINITELY. Then I would issue a decree defining the functions and powers of the different departments of government which would also include the postponement of the sessions of Congress indefinitely.

I am also annoyed by the selfish motivation of the Supreme Court in questioning the power of the President to appropriate funds for the plebiscite as well as to raise the questions of time, freedom of debate and information as well as improper submission of the constitution.

When all along all they wanted was my promise that I would not exercise the power granted me by the new constitution to remove them from the Supreme Court !!

23 DECEMBER 1972

I am concerned about the slow erosion of our authority under martial law and the slow shift of our society to its old habits of lack of discipline, irresponsibility, selfishness, egoism and lack of patriotism.

The politicians are back to asking for special favors and attacking me personally as wanting to be a dictator (Delegate Ramon Gonzales in last night's TV debate). In the conference this morning the senators were almost unanimous in the demand that the Congress be considered as authorized under the Constitution to meet on the fourth Monday of January and not to adjourn immediately or from day to day.

Sen. Pelaez spoke of the president in Martial Law as an "overseer". Tolentino submitted the proposal that Congress had exclusive powers of legislation in certain areas, coordinate powers with the president in another and areas already covered by decree could be considered as exclusive for the president.

Maceda frankly admitted that he was against the new Constitution because he had spent a lot for his election and now he will be a senator for a year. But "since your reforms are tied up in the new Constitution I would be campaigning for it." I suspect he will sabotage the new Constitution.

So will Pelaez and perhaps Puyat. The senators visited Sens. Aquino and Diokno yesterday. Their sympathies are obvious.

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Sol. Gen. Mendoza followed this line when he told the joint meeting of the senators and congressmen that the adoption of a new constitution would prove the efficacy of a peaceful or constitutional revolution and thus prevent the wave of rebellion.

Since the original plan for Congress to adjourn after meeting on the first day cannot be complied with the Senate, I am now inclined to postpone the ratification of the constitution not to a certain day like Feb. 19th, 1973, or Nov. 5, 1973 but INDEFINITELY. Then I would issue a decree defining the functions and powers of the different departments of government which would also include the postponement of the sessions of Congress indefinitely.

I am also nauseated by the selfish motivation of the Supreme Court in questioning the power of the President to appropriate funds for the plebiscite as well as to raise the questions of time, freedom of debate and information as well as improper submission of the constitution.

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