



## APPENDIX 4.16

### MARCOS DIARY ENTRY, 27 JANUARY 1973

In the previous entries, Marcos claimed, in so many words, that he was ready to disregard or dismantle the Supreme Court if it becomes uncooperative. Here, he says that the Court has to be handled “with finesse” because it may become “the rallying point of the opponents of reform.” It seems that by this date, Marcos had come to consider the Supreme Court as his double-edged sword—potentially his ultimate legitimizer as well as the instrument of his regime’s dismantlement.

*Source*

Presidential Commission on Good Government Files (through Meynarado Mendoza and the National Historical Commission of the Philippines), Roll No. 21, File No. 0801.

### 27 JANUARY 1973

On board the 777 to sleep there for an early start at 7:30 AM tomorrow with Dr. and Mrs. Sharon for Talaga.

I have finished the notes on Philippine security problems. I attach the outline I dictated.

Chief Justice Concepcion is sick in the hospital and may not be able to attend the dinner in Monday.

It is apparent that the other justices are in favor of dismissing the petitions questioning the validity of the ratification of the New Constitution.

But they want to be assured of their continuance in office under the new constitution with new appointments.

And they are under the influence of Justice J.B.L. Reyes who although retired as of last year still holds office at the Supreme Court.

But everybody else has accepted the new constitution and as we put it in the dinner conference we held tonight, how do the justices expect us to “unscramble the eggs already scrambled?”

We have to handle them with finesse as the Supreme Court might become the rallying point of the opponents of reform.

11:50 P.M.

On Board the 777  
to sleep here for an early  
start at 7:30 P.M. tomorrow  
with Dr. and Mrs. Alarcon for Talaga  
MALACANAN PALACE  
MANILA

2556

Jan. 27, 1973

Saturday

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