



APPENDIX 2.8

THE DETAINEE MARIFLOR PARPAN

The following cables show (1) the response of the Marcos regime to dissent, even by those who are not connected to either the CPP-NPA or the MNLF; (2) that in some instances, rumors of torture did turn out to be untrue; and (3) that Imelda Marcos appeared to know very well what happened in the detention centers during martial law. The letter from Mariflor Parpan's brother affirms the perception that Imelda Marcos could intervene to release certain detainees.

DECLASSIFIED CABLE, "ALLEGED MALTREATMENT OF CHICO PROTEST LEADER, MARIFLOR PARPAN" (9 FEBRUARY 1976)

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified

Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 May 2006

Confidential

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Action EA-09

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

DHA-02 /059 W

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R 090340Z Feb 76

FM AMEmbassy Manila

To SecState WashDC 1964

C o n f i d e n t i a l Manila 1972

E. O. 11652: GDS

Tags: Pint, RP

R 090340Z FEB 76
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 1972

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, RP
SUBJECT: ALLEGED MALTREATMENT OF CHICO PROTEST LEADER,
MARIFLOR PARPAN

REF: (A) MANILA 1859; (B) MANILA 1279

1. ACCORDING TO JESUIT PRIESTS AT ATENEO DE MANILA, ANTHROPOLOGIST MARIFLOR PARPAN WHO WAS ONE OF SEVERAL ACTIVISTS DETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH CHICO RIVER PROTEST (REF-TEL B) HAS BEEN BEATEN UP WHILE IN DETENTION AND IS CURRENTLY IN HOSPITAL AT CAMP OLIVAS (WHERE DE LA TORRE ALSO BEING HELD). INFORMATION ON HER CONDITION WAS OBTAINED END OF LAST WEEK BY JESUIT PRIEST WHO TALKED TO "EYE WITNESS" OF BEATING. REPORT ON CASE IS BEING CIRCULATED AT ATENEO (AND PRESUMABLY ELSEWHERE) BY FATHER FRANK LYNCH, WELL-KNOWN AMERICAN JESUIT SOCIAL SCIENTIST, AND OTHERS. MS. PARPAN, WHO HAS BEEN OUTSPOKENLY ANTI-MARCOS AS WELL AS ANTI-CHICO, HAS BROTHER WHO IS JESUIT PRIEST (NOW IN ROME) AND HAS HERSELF WORKED CLOSELY WITH JESUITS, AND WE ANTICIPATE HIGH LEVEL OF CHRUCH CONCERN AND INTEREST IN HER CASE.

Figure 1. A copy of the declassified cable.

Source: US Department of State. 1976 February 9. "Alleged Maltreatment of Chico Protest Leader, Mariflor Parpan." Document number 1976MANILA01972, film number D760048-0330. <https://aad.archives.gov/aad/createpdf?rid=83675&dt=2082&dl=1345>.

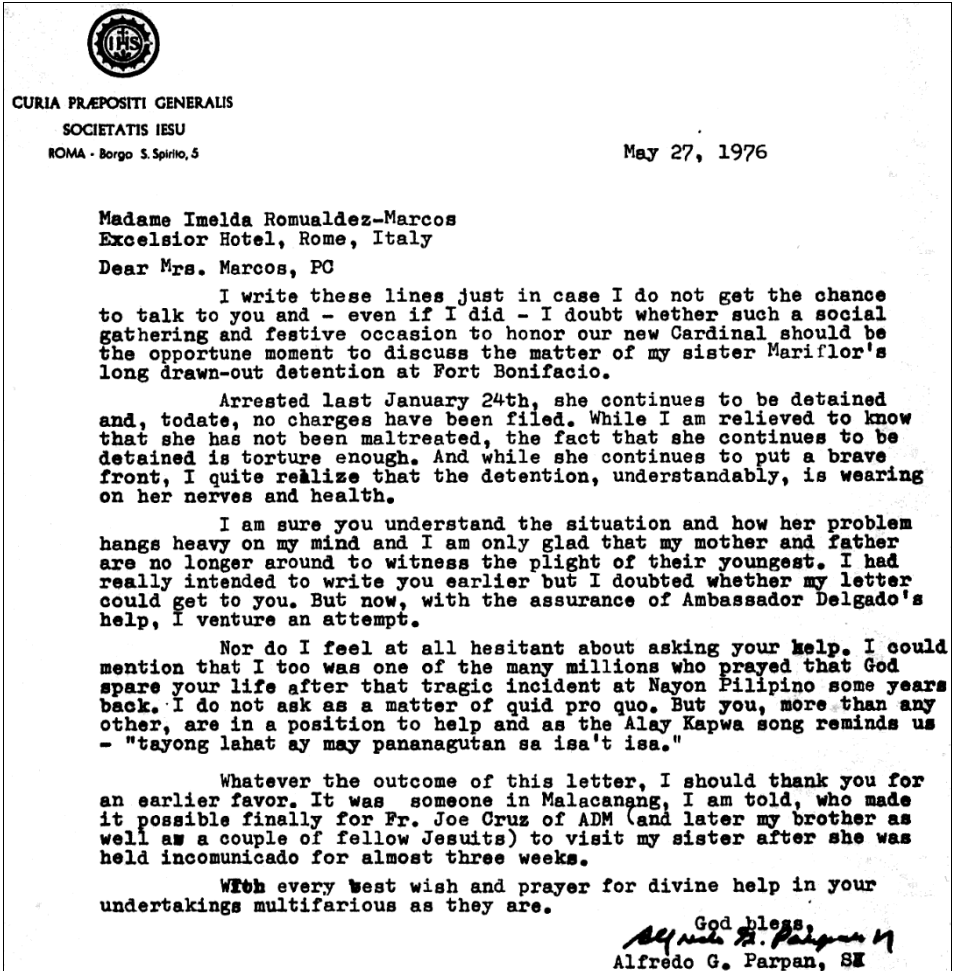


Figure 2. A letter to Imelda Marcos from Alfredo Parpan.

Source: Presidential Commission on Good Government Files (through Meynardo Mendoza and the National Historical Commission of the Philippines), Roll No. 251, File No. 0676.

Subject: Alleged maltreatment of Chico protest leader, Mariflor Parpan

Ref: (a) Manila 1859; (b) Manila 1279

1. According to Jesuit priests at Ateneo de Manila, anthropologist Mariflor Parpan who was one of several activists detained in connection with Chico River protest (Ref-tel B) has been beaten up while in detention and is currently in hospital at Camp Olivas (where de la Torre also being held). Information on her condition was obtained end of last week by Jesuit priest who talked to “eye witness” of beating. Report on case is being circulated at Ateneo (and presumably elsewhere) by Father Frank Lynch, well-known American Jesuit social scientist, and others. Ms. Parpan, who has been outspokenly anti-Marcos as well as anti-Chico, has brother who is Jesuit priest (now in Rome) and has herself worked closely with Jesuits, and we anticipate high level of church [sic] concern and interest in her case.

2. Embassy cannot confirm allegation. Source who provided information on de la Torre (Reftel A) was unaware that Ms. Parpan had been moved from Bonifacio (where most detainees held) to Olivas. Jesuit provincial secretary told Labatt that a colleague contacted Fort Bonifacio Feb 9 and was told that she had been “released” (nothing more). However as of yesterday, her sister had heard nothing. Jesuits speculate this may mean she was “released” for transfer to Olivas. Embassy will clarify as soon as possible.

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Source

US Department of State. 1976 February 9. “Alleged Maltreatment of Chico Protest Leader, Mariflor Parpan.” Document number 1976MANILA01972, film number D760048-0330.

<https://aad.archives.gov/aad/createpdf?rid=83675&dt=2082&dl=1345>.

DECLASSIFIED CABLE, “MARIFLOR PARPAN CASE” (10 FEBRUARY 1976)

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To SecState WashDC PRIORITY 1993

C o n f i d e n t i a l Manila 2018

E.O. 11652: GDS

Tags: Pint, RP

Subject: Mariflor Parpan Case

Ref: Manila 1972

1. According Ateneo de Manila faculty members, Ateneo president Fr. Jose Cruz succeeded in calling on detainee Mariflor Parpan on morning of Feb 10. Contrary to earlier reports (reftel), Ms. Parpan turned out to be at Bonifacio (not Olivas).. [sic] She appeared in excellent shape and told Cruz that her treatment has been good. (Unlike most other detainees, Ms. Parpan has own room).

2. Fr. Cruz subsequently delivered "mild lecture" to military officer in charge (Col. Pataleja - phonetic) to the effect that if Parpan had been allowed visitors [sic] (which she has not up to now) rumors would not get started.

3. In separate [sic] move, Father James Donelan (American Jesuit professor at Asian Institute of Management who is first lady's confessor) approached her directly re status of Ms. Parpan. Mrs. Marcos replied, "of course we haven't done anything to her—we are just holding her," or words to that effect.

4. Jesuit provincial secretary has confirmed substance of above to Labatt.

5. Comment: Parpan episode is significant if only as example of degree to which current atmosphere fosters rumors. Donelan approach to first lady suggests she has rather precise knowledge of detentions.

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NNN

Source

US Department of State. 1976 February 10. "Mariflor Parpan Case." Document number 1976MANILA02018, film number D760049-0628.
<https://aad.archives.gov/aad/createpdf?rid=103011&dt=2082&dl=1345>.

