



APPENDIX 5.1

LETTER FROM LUIS NEPOMUCENO TO IMELDA MARCOS ON THE FILM *MAHARLIKA*, 10 NOVEMBER 1980

Iginuhit ng Tadhana (1964), as Teresita Maceda points out, was the first film about Ferdinand Marcos. It had a sequel, *Pinagbuklod ng Langit* (1969). Both were campaign films. A third film, *Maharlika*, was focused on Marcos's guerilla exploits, which were mostly fabrications (Ariate and Reyes 2016a, 2016b, 2016c). This was the film that brought the infamous Dovie Beams to the Philippines. She was cast as the love interest of the film's protagonist. While she completed filming her role, over the course of her stay in the Philippines, she also became Ferdinand Marcos's mistress. A recording she made of one of their trysts became the soundtrack of the opposition. Based on the following letter, Imelda Marcos, understandably, had the film placed under lock and key. However, the custodian's financial difficulties may have been the reason why the film resurfaced in the 1980s—in time for the dawn of home video. According to a number of websites (e.g., Film Affinity 2017), one title that the film was released under was *Guerilla Strike Force*. This series of events show Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos's attempts to control the manufacture of myths about them, which at times required suppression of undesirable events.

References

- Ariate, Joel, and Miguel Paolo Reyes. 2016a. "File No. 60: Marcos' Invented Heroism." *Vera Files*, July 2. <http://verafiles.org/articles/file-no-60-marcos-invented-heroism>.
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———. 2016c. "File No. 60: Debunking the Marcos War Myth." *Vera Files*, July 4. <http://verafiles.org/articles/file-no-60-debunking-marcos-war-myth>.
Film Affinity. 2017. "Guerilla Strike Force." Film Affinity. Accessed 2 November. <https://www.filmaffinity.com/en/film367758.html>.

Source

Presidential Commission on Good Government Files (through Meynarado Mendoza and the National Historical Commission of the Philippines), Roll No. 169, File Nos. 0835–36.



NEPOMUCENO PRODUCTIONS, INC.

LUIS NEPOMUCENO
PRESIDENT

November 10, 1980

Madam Imelda Romualdez Marcos
First Lady and Minister of Human Settlements
Malacañan Palace
Manila

Dear Madam:

During my last audience with you in 1971 you entrusted to me the responsibility of safeguarding the film which we shelved from exhibition, entitled Maharlika.

You had instructed me then to inform you should any problems arise. With all due respect, I should like to inform you that because of our present difficulties we may encounter problems in our present control over Maharlika and all its elements which are abroad.

Our difficulties have arisen because the Philippine National Bank has foreclosed all our properties, studio, equipment and my own home. The PNB has succeeded in pulling out all our equipment and we have brought them to court on the studio and my home.

We have tried to endure the financial strain caused by the PNB foreclosure, but we are unable to do so and continue being responsible for the safeguarding of all of Maharlika's elements.

The shelving of Maharlika put a strain on our operations in 1971, but with your help we obtained finances in 1974 from the PNB. We mortgaged all our properties with a value in excess of P50 Million and were advised by PNB that we could be accommodated up to P20 Million. After releasing P7.5 Million, further approvals were stopped and we were immediately foreclosed.

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00 2903 ⁰⁴

Although the matter is in court, the fact is that our operations are paralyzed. We have no recourse but to appeal to you so that we may get out of our present predicament and be active once again.

The movie equipment that PNB has pulled out is just wasting away in their storage. These equipment are worth over P30 Million and PNB has an appraisal over P12 Million. May we suggest a compromise:

1. PNB keeps the equipment which more than adequately covers their exposure to us.
2. They release the real estate properties to us so that we may use these to seek help from other banks and recover from our present inactivity.
3. We can then commit to buy back the equipment from PNB on installments, at a price that would cover their exposure to us.

We have many good plans for here and abroad that would benefit the country. I was present last autumn in New York when you voiced dissatisfaction in the efforts to inform the Filipinos in the U.S. of the true picture in the Philippines. We have helped with the National Anthem produced for the birthday of the President and we could do so much more to inform the Filipinos not only in the U.S., but here as well, of the unprecedented achievements that you and the President have accomplished.

Only you can help us with the PNB so that we may resume our operations and our usefulness to the country. Please allow me to see you and outline to you what Nepomuceno Productions can do through motion pictures to help in your heavy task of nation building.

Very respectfully yours,


Luis Nepomuceno

