

News and Notes

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International Developments

Three Countries Assure the Philippines Assistance

The Philippine government received assurances of various forms of assistance from three foreign governments. Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew who visited the country offered assistance worth \$5 million in the form of technical services. Singapore proposed to provide consultancy services to help the Philippines prepare a feasibility study on air navigation facilities maintenance system. Other services offered were on harbor planning and port development.

Indonesian President Suharto also reassured President Aquino of his country's willingness to help in any way which would be of mutual benefit to both countries. In this regard, Foreign Minister Muchtar Kusumatadja after reporting to Suharto said that Indonesia had already provided technical advice to help formulate the new Philippine tax laws.

On the other hand, Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark told President Corazon C. Aquino that he would recommend to his government a speedy economic assistance to the Philippines. Clark said he would ask the Canadian International Development Agency to make the Philippines eligible for the fullest range of development assistance without delay. He told President Aquino that his government has a development fund for Negros Occidental amounting to \$10 million which will cover a period of three years to finance agricultural diversification, agro-forestry, resettlement and community development. Mrs. Aquino requested Clark to open the Canadian market to the Philippine products including tuna and beef. Clark was in Manila to attend the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) post ministerial meeting.

WB Wants Imports Further Liberalized

The World Bank wants the Philippine government to begin formulating a new import liberalization program that will deregulate items not covered

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by the current program. Items recommended for liberalization were cars, trucks, motorcycles, certain household appliances and various electronic products.

The new program will also liberalize the importations of pharmaceutical items which for health or safety reasons are currently being regulated. The formulation of the program is one of the many conditions the World Bank has set for the release of the second tranche of a \$300 million economic recovery loan which it plans to extend to the Philippines starting October this year. This new import liberalization program should be effective by late 1987 or early 1988 according to WB timetable.

National Developments

Manila Hotel Coup Attempt Incident

Arturo M. Tolentino, former senator in the old Philippine Congress, ex-foreign minister and vice-presidential candidate in the 1986 Presidential Elections, attempted to seize power and control of the government last July 6-7, 1986. Together with some 300 military men and several civilians loyal to deposed President Ferdinand E. Marcos, Tolentino took his oath at the historic Manila Hotel as Acting President of the Republic and said that he would assume the presidency until Marcos, now living in exile, would return home.

Tolentino was sworn in by former Supreme Court Justice Serafin Cuevas, in the presence of men in fatigue uniform with their firearms tied with red, white and blue ribbons around the muzzles — Marcos' campaign color in the February 27, 1986 polls. After taking his oath, Tolentino formed a five-man cabinet composed of Juan Ponce Enrile as defense minister, Manuel Collantes as foreign affairs minister, Rafael Recto as justice minister, Isidro Rodriguez as local government minister and Manuel Alba as budget minister.

Before taking his oath, Tolentino read a letter he said was sent to him by Marcos: "I hereby order that in view of inadvertence and unavoidable absence from the Philippines, I hereby authorize Tolentino to be the legitimate head of the country until such time that I return to the Philippines." Marcos later denied involvement in the attempted coup and said that the letter read by Tolentino during his oath-taking was the one he sent immediately after leaving the Philippines.

However, the revolt was unsuccessful and Justice Minister Neptali Gonzales, stated that the government is filing sedition charges against the leader of the foiled *coup-de-etat*. On the other hand, Defense Minister Juan

Ponce Enrile and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel V. Ramos virtually absolved the military officers and men who supported Tolentino during the coup. President Aquino also demanded that Tolentino and his military and civilian co-leaders swear allegiance to her Freedom Constitution. She also banned any future demonstrations and rallies of Marcos loyalists.

Commission On Audit (COA) Reorganization Plan

The Commission on Audit is set for a forthcoming reorganization. The main thrust of the reorganization is towards position reclassification and integration of offices with overlapping functions. Names of affected offices will be changed to accurately describe their functions, and compensation will be increased correspondingly.

College Developments

Seminar-Workshop On Philippine Bureaucracy

"The Philippine Bureaucracy under the Aquino Government From Different Perspectives" was the theme of the seminar-workshop held at the College on July 24-25, 1986. The two-day seminar was held under the sponsorship of the Association of Schools of Public Administration in the Philippines (ASPAP), the Philippine Society for Public Administration (PSPA), and the College of Public Administration (CPA). It was attended by 54 participant-members of the associations including a number of faculty and staff members of the College.

UPCPA Finalizes Reorganization Plan

The reorganization of the University of the Philippines College of Public Administration (UPCPA) was approved last July 31, 1986, Thursday, by the Board of Regents in its 989th meeting held at Los Baños, Laguna.

The reorganization provides for the creation of a Center for Policy and Administrative Development (CPAD) and a Publications Office out of three (3) existing offices: the Administrative Development Center (ADC), the Research and Publications Program (RPP), and the Policy Studies Program (PSP).

The creation of the CPAD will enable the College to effectively respond to demands and needs of the new government for policy studies, research in key sectoral areas, and middle and senior management training. The merger will not only reduce cost of operation but also the administrative load claims. Under this scheme, there is no need for additional personnel or budgetary allocations in implementing this reorganization.

The reorganization added the title of College Secretary (which has been performing administrative support functions) to the Director of Studies. The administrative support functions performed by the Secretary will be transferred to the Dean who will be assisted by the Administrative Officer.

The restructuring of the College of Public Administration is a product of almost a year and a half discussions in the College as part of its self-examination on how the College can respond to the present needs/demands for its services, to challenges arising from developments in the field and practice of public administration and developments in the nation, and an environment of increasing resource scarcities. Three reform areas were studied by the Committees created for this purpose. As a result, there was a reformulation of the College goals, a redefinition of its program thrusts and priorities, and the restructuring of the existing organization.