7.30 P.M.
I write this as I await some callers across the river.

To —

Feb. 1, 1971 Monday

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

"There is bound to be an inevitable confrontation between the communists and our democracy in the military front," I have always said. And some intellectuals who were with Imelda and whom she brought in to see me confirm this analysis of mine (Father Horacio de la Costa, Abe Cruz and Chitang Guerrero Nakpil)

The communists gamble that the Republic will be too weak by then as they will have sapped its vitality. Or that they will have become so strong that they can match their military against ours. Or they may be hoping that the China experience will be repeated where the economy became so debilitated, the inflation beyond control after Chiang Kai-shek failed to follow through his initial successes against Mao Tse-tung and allowed him to regroup his men in the north, fell to the trap of losing time by negotiations (at the insistence of the U.S. so he now claims) for unity, that Chiang's government fell by its own dead weight.

I have also said that if we do not now take measures of self-preservation, this will come about.

Feb. 1st (Cont)

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

Any democratic revolution will rally the great majority of our people around our republic. But it will not stop the communists from continuing their unrelenting fight. They will not be content with anything less than the overthrow of the republic, no matter how long it takes and at whatever cost.

So if there is going to be an inevitable collision, then perhaps we should induce it now while the communists are weak and unorganized.

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

The most touching letter I have received so far is one from Father Jose A. Cruz, a Jesuit and my retreat master several times. The letter was sent today through the daughter of Ex-Speaker Cornelio Villareal, who is now a nun.

It came when I was thinking the thoughts embodied in it — that contemporary writers will not appreciate what I am doing; that I face the sad prospect of present condemnation and future vindication; that I may lose all my friends and present admirers before my crusade is over; that even my family may not understand what I hope to achieve; and that my whole life is bound to be a life of controversy and tension and I shall know no peace.

So I was on the verge of tears when I read it.

I attach the letter.

Feb. 1st (Cont)

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

Ambassador Byroade came to see me about his trip to Washington. He says one half of his time was spent on the question I posed him in a most informal manner what the reaction would be to our decision which I told him was already made to establish trade relations with the USSR and other European socialist countries (and later on diplomatic relations)

I made him understand that after the Foreign Policy Council meets, trade relations and/or diplomatic relations would be a matter of time.

He had taken the proper attitude that this was an act of sovereignty that the U.S. could not intervene in.

But I insisted that what I wanted to know was the true attitude of the U.S. president, Congress, businessmen and public in general, not diplomatic niceties.

I had before this asked him to tell me frankly if the American government would support me if there was need to declare martial law to save the country from the communists. His answer was "Absolutely!"

I attach the two typewritten memos on the USSR.

100 -

Feb. 1st (Cont)

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

Amb. Byroade also informed me of the decision of U.S. government to transfer the Caribbean typhoon moderation complex from there to the Pacific possibly in Guam. They cannot possibly do so this year as they lack equipment (only four laboratory planes when they need 14) and personnel. The principle ~~that~~ is being developed is rain-making by cloud seeding to lower the strength of the winds to 60 miles which is moderate compared to the 200 mile ones we have been getting in some of the 20 typhoons last year.

Then we get the $20 million aid from PL 480, $15 million loan to our electrification program (jointly with Japan and as a part of the package of the Consultative group which meets in Paris, if the Japanese agree to this venue, on April 26th, this year.

There are other forms of aid - close to a million for the work on typhoon damage prevention - actually concrete roofing. And some other projects.

Feb. 1st (Cont)

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

I have ordered all the conflicts on the oil concessions to be settled so that we can get the oil exploration moving. Twelve applications were sent back to the Bureau of Mines for their study and recommendation.

Alex Melchor and Mrj. Almonte are showing an undue interest in the release of Masaluja and the dropping of the charges against him and the men caught with him who were armed. I have asked Sec. Pons Emile and Gen. Yan to review the case but to decide it on the basis of the evidence.

I feel that Alex is unduly influenced by the U.P intellectuals for whom we all have sympathy.

Feb. 1st (Cont)

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

The strike has failed to stop traffic but there are several incidents like the shooting of a student in the head by Prof. Inocentes Campos when a human blockade stopped his car and a fullbox was thrown at it burning it. He pursued his assailants and shot at the crowd ~~hitting~~ hitting a student in the head. The professor is a mathematics wizard and a ~~brilliant~~ fearless sympathizer in the U.P.

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jhs February 1, 1971

The Hon. Ferdinand E. Marcos
The President
Republic of the Philippines

Mr. President,

Peace of Christ!

I am taking the liberty to write these few lines to you. I am not sure if I can claim the right of friendship. It is only in the time of your yearly spiritual retreat that we meet. These times have not been too frquent.

I write more as one of the many millions who re-invested our confidence in your leadership, now entering its second term. Together with them, I experience the strong, subtle pressure of mass media trying to corrode this inner confidence in the government and in your capacity to lead us through these difficult times. Together with them, I have also learned to distinguish what is artificially fanned hysteria and what is hard fact. We also know full well that to lose this confidence in your leadership is at the same time to lose confidence in ourselves. We have freely chosen you to be our President for a second term. By that gesture alone, we have entrusted in your hands our renewed confidence in your leadership.

I have never yet witnessed a President of country who has been so villified and hated unjustly by mass media. It is for this reason that I cannot believe all they say. Men who are hated are feared not so much for the evil in them but more for their potential for good which can set aright what is evil. Of all the present contenders and pretenders who aspire or try to espouse the return of justice and rightiousness to our people, only you seem to possess that rare gift which can transform the noblest ideals of public service from pure eloquence to credible living fact. As a priest, it is also a common experience with me, to realise that many men will ascribe to goodness as long as goodness remains an

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ideal. Very few are willing to cross that frontier beyond which goodness is no longer just an inspiration but is living fact. Of all the luminaries and personages who try to dominate the center of our national scene, I still believe that you have this rare gift far more than any of your adversaries. This convinced me all the more after your state of the nation address. Somehow what impressed me the most was this. The full impact of the Christian social message in all its beauty and unpopularity was spoken to our people at long last. But this message came from the lips of our President when it should have been proclaimed long long ago from our Church leaders. That evening I was at the East Asian Pastoral Institute where the student body come from all over Asia, Europe and the United States. They remarked with a sense of hope, if not secret envy, that nowhere in the world today can be found a country which publicly from the lips of its President has faced the problem of change and national growth through Christian social justice, knwoing full well the unpopularity of such a message in certain priviledged sectors of our society.

I never aimed to write a sermon. I intended to say only a few words as a friend as a simple citisen who cannot be influenced much by mass media hysteria because I have met you as a person. To devote one's life to public service demands many unseen sacrifices, one's treasured time with one's family, one's own comfort and privacy in exchange for a constant state of tension which seem to escalate because we are a young nation in the process of growth. What a cross it must be to experience what you must be undergoing almost daily ... to have your best and most sincere hopes for the country and our good distorted by suspicion and groundless disbelief. And you may still be asked to make a greater sacrifice ... perhaps to go through a life time in which all you have tried to do for your own people will not be immediately appreciated. Many years hence, perhaps when you have already left the scene of this earthly life -- only then will history reveal your true self. I have