9:15 PM

2188

July 12, 1972
Wednesday

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MANILA

1st MIG and Gen Paraiso report that witnesses now in the custody of the military testify to the fact that it took two days for them (some were forced to act as cargadores) unload the Karagatan; the estimated number of firearms — 3,500, the ammo filled up a room 7 x 7 meters; the crew of vessel included two Chinese.

I have sent the media personnel to Palawan to cover the operations.

Confirmed casualties of government troops: three non-com's and one enlisted man.

Enemy strength estimated at 400.

Our troops are pressing them from all sides. But the NPA's seem to tenaciously cling to their entrenched position contrary to the guerilla rule of never holding ground. They have been bombarded from the air and the sea again.

It is my feeling that they are waiting for their recruits to come in and carry out the firearms and ammo. The 300 men sighted coming from the direction of Magan crossing the high mountains may be such cargadores they are waiting for.

I have ordered mortars to be employed. The witnesses also refer to a cave where the NPA's may be concealed with their supplies. I have

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ordered a search for the cave.

And to block all routes of withdrawal. The personalities caught in the pocket are many and high ranking.

I attach all reports on the Palauan operations

Declared the whole island of Fugon as a disaster area as all the national highways are under water and the report of damage from Typhoons Kansing, Edang and now Gloring keep pouring in. The reaction teams of the Dept of Public Works have to keep transportation and communications moving. I have prepared at ₱250 million Calamity Bill for Congress which I will take up with the leaders in a luncheon conference tomorrow.

Imee arrived from London at 10:15 PM, more than three hours delayed. Foreign Minister Yusuf of Indonesia and Pote Sarasin from Thailand arrived in the same plane for the Asean Foreign Ministers' Conference.