BOX #17

2124

June 12, 1972

Monday

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

Imelda and I have been reminiscing in bed — the long tortuous road from Congress to the Presidency; the sacrifices, her tears, pain and hard work that went into our struggle for power.

She put purpose into my life — the life of a spoiled bachelor congressman who was also a successful trial lawyer and a hero of the last war who tended to be too carefree and frivolous.

In eleven years I jumped from congressman to president.

And I have just written the children through Rory Laurence. Bongbong is our principal worry. He is too carefree and lazy.

So I wrote him the fatal secret of the Marcos men — "they are brilliant but lazy." And they tend to be so unless they buckle down to a dogged unrelenting resolve to fight off sloth or a traumatic experience turns them into bitterness that congeals into a determined resolve to achieve and be victorious.

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June 12th (Cont'd)

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

I wrote him about me — how the political and financial reverses of father had made me bitter. It had come to a point where I had to get a scholarship to continue my studies. So I became a scholar — a senior scholar in law.

I discovered that I had a brain and a photographic memory. And I made the best of it.

I must write him about the Valedictorian case and how I vowed to top the bar after graduating cum laude

For the boy must get character. I have told him that since we have enemies, he will have to fight the battles I fought in the past against myself and against circumstance. Although I told him that perhaps circumstance had been kinder to me because it had given me the motivation to work hard.

I must tell him of his ancestors, his great-grandfather of the revolution, the direct line of brilliant and brave men whose saving grace was the character of their women — how many failed like Antonio Mariano who had exceeded the record of

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June 12th (Cont'd)

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

excellence in scholarship of Rizal — but had not done much of his life because of wine, women and song.

The boy must realize his weakness — the carefree wayward ways that may have been bred in him.

I am recovering from my illness. I should be able to walk around tomorrow.

The Vice President took my place in the ceremonies today.