1304 Jr

139

Feb. 15, 1971
Monday

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

Imelda and I have just met with the congressmen from the Bicolandia, Visayas and Mindanao — 45 in number — all Nacionalistas. Some could not come because of faulty communications.

But I exhorted them to unity and courage to fight for our principles.

"I will not preside over the liquidation of the Nacionalista Party," I declared. "And I will fight for it alone if necessary."

But they were of the same persuasion.

I assured them that I would help them win the next elections for their governors and mayors. And that I would strengthen them.

Then they welcomed with applause. Then on motion of Cong. Macias, the whole meeting decided to present our set of principles for the Nacionalista Party — and seek the election of Ex-Pres. Garcia as convention chairman and Tony Ragunja as majority floor leader.

We divided amongst them the responsibility of riding herd over the individual delegates.

140

Feb. 15th (Cont)

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

They are all came out of it reinvigorated.

We continued the cabinet meeting this morning and then met the Ilocos Sur mayors with Cong. Canton.

There is a brewing rebellion against Gov. Carueling Crisologo who has been authoritarian and is keeping the public works releases for doling out at her will including PACD checks.

We must watch Ilocos Sur.