Malacañang Palace
Jan. 22, 1970

Office of the President
of the Philippines

I have been able to settle the Senate Presidency at 3:30 PM. Puyat remains and Roy becomes Executive Vice President of the Nacionalista Party as well as President Pro Tempore. Plaridel remains as majority floor leader.

Also have organized the panel of lawyers to handle the defense in the protest filed by Osmeña. They are Ex-Chief Justice Paras, Ex-Justice Ozaeta, Don Quintin Paredes, Dean Vicente Abad Santos, Joe Africa and my classmate Ramon Aquino. The offices of Jalandoni Pelaez and others who are ~~ex~~ senators ~~elect~~ disqualified from appearing before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, will be listed as appearing as counsel for me. Offices will be established at the Northern Luzon Bldg. Joe Africa will be the Vice Chairman of the panel, possibly Ex-Justice Ozaeta will be the Chairman.

A disturbing piece of news from Joe Araneta - tells us that Sens. Ibetas and Tañada have promised their support to the Aquino-Justin in their assassination campaign. We must check this and neutralize them. But I will first personally meet with Joe Araneta tomorrow night.

This is compounded by the fact that the prices will necessarily go up if we set free the rate of exchange. Then we will impose more taxes and for the next six months we will not be able to relax credit or governmental expenses, nor imports. I must increase the entry of taxfree goods into the Free Trade Zone and soon.

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(Conversation with Atty. Peluelo)

One of the PSA, a civilian clothes as a photographer was mauled by the student demonstrators today in front of the palace. No reason except that he was allegedly infiltrating. This should get us some sympathy.

The demonstrators (some ten of them) are still there with their mike shouting unprintable and vicious impressions at me, Imelda and everybody. You can hear them in all rooms of the palace except our bedroom and the study.

They want ₱10 million to be released to their schools for such things like a gym for the Phil. Normal College. These public works releases have been suspended in accordance with the new policy of priorities and savings in the last six months of this fiscal year of ₱2.43 million.

We will have to tolerate such irritating demonstrations until we lift this policy.