1:00 AM

990

Jan. 22, 1972

Saturday

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

The Manila International Airport Terminal burned down this morning. It is a complete loss. And the Manila Central Post including the communications equipment valued at ₱200 million was burned. The building costs ₱30 million.

When I visited it at 4:00 PM, it was still smoking.

I attach the reports.

We have just finished the State of the Nation address for printing.

Roy has resigned as NP acting president so he can contest the presidency of the Senate within the party.

Most of the NP senators are against Roy for the status quo, Puyat as Senate President, Roy as Pro Tempore and Tolentino as Majority Floor Leader.

991

Jan. 22nd (Cont)

MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

The speculations about the MIA fire are to the effect that the CAA personnel who are guilty of having received fixed shipments of communication equipment tried to cover up the anomalies by the fire; or that Roman Collector Rascardo who was removed from NAIA was trying to cover up illegal shipments, smuggling and other anomalies as Com. of Customs practice, before the fire had ordered an inventory of goods in custody or seized as well as an investigation of records.

Airport Manager Luis Tabuena says Friday morning he received a telephone call warning him to watch out about a possible burning of the MIA.

The man who slept at the Jumbo 747 of Northwest airlines says he heard an explosion when the fire broke out.

But intelligence reports made before the fire had warned of NPA plans to wreak havoc on or before Jan. 24. This could be part of the plans.

The quick spread of the fire indicates arson. The NBI is leading the investigation.