55—

Office of the President
of the Philippines
Malacañang

Jan. 28, 1970
Wednesday 11:50 PM

The pattern of subversion is slowly emerging. The danger is now apparent to me but not to most people.

The conspiracy to grab power and assassinate me and about a hundred officers. The terrorism in Central Luzon with the HMB's and the Huk-Reco holding some towns in their power. The repeated cases of liquidation of government sympathizers, informers and agents; the link intellectuals, writers, professors and students and fellow travelers. Then the time bomb in Jasmay. The riot in Congress last Monday. Then the UP faculty marches to Malacañang tomorrow and denounces police brutality and holds the administration responsible for the "police repression" and the "violation of rights". Then another mass demonstration that may lead to another riot next Friday, notwithstanding promises of Jorgetano the security officers of the student demonstrators that he will coordinate with the MPD chief Tamayo to maintain peace.

And I am certain this is just the beginning. The newspapermen I have in my list are busy placing the government in disrepute and holding it in contempt before the people. The sabotage and the killings will continue. The slow chipping at the people's confidence in government authority.

If we do not prepare measures of counter action they will not only succeed in assassinating me but in taking over the government.

So we must perfect our emergency plan.

Office of the President
of the Philippines
Malacañang

56

I have several options. One of them is to abort the subversive plan now by the sudden arrest of the plotters. But this would not be accepted by the people. For could we get the Huks, their legal cadres and support. For the MIM and other subversive or front organizations, for these underground.

We could allow the situation to develop naturally then after massive terrorism, wanton killings and an attempt at my assassination and a coup d'état, then declare martial law or suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus — and arrest all including the legal cadres.

Right now I am inclined towards the latter.

Office of the President
of the Philippines
Malacañang

57

The student demonstrators seem to want a parliamentary form of government.

If I want to be perpetuated in power, this is the easier way to it, with a constitutional provision that there shall be no elections unless a majority of all members of ~~the~~ a ~~Unicameral~~ legislature should adopt a formal resolution asking for such elections — and the powers of the Prime Minister are those of the President now.