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# U.S. defense official: Communist insurgency growing in Philippines

**Associated Press**  
WASHINGTON — A top Defense Department official said Wednesday the communist insurgency in the Philippines is growing steadily, and likely will triumph unless there is a "vigorous reform" of the country's military establishment.

Richard L. Armitage, assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, said a rebel victory would force the relocation of U.S. defense facilities from the Philippines "to the detriment of our vital interests throughout Asia and the Indian Ocean."

Armitage outlined his grim assessment during a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing at which he was joined by the assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, Paul Wolfowitz.

Wolfowitz expressed dissatisfac-

tion with the pace of the reform movement in the Philippines but rejected suggestions by several senators that cuts in U.S. economic and military assistance would be the most effective way of accelerating the reform process.

Asked about that option by Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., Wolfowitz said an aid cut would make the situation worse by causing economic ruin and destroying the effectiveness of the military.

Under an existing agreement, the United States is providing the Philippines with \$900 million annually in economic and military aid.

Most committee members said the United States faces a potentially grave situation in the Philippines, home of Subic Bay Naval Base and Clark Air Station, two of the most important U.S. military bases outside American territory.

Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., said, "I believe the best friend communists have in Manila today is Ferdinand Marcos. Every day Marcos continues to monopolize all the levers of power brings closer the day the communists will rule in Manila."

Kerry called the evolving situation in the Philippines "one of the great tragedies of the world." At the economic, social and other levels, the country is "disintegrating," Kerry said.

Wolfowitz said, the progress has been "halting and uneven, painfully slow. Time is of the essence and time is not being used very well."

He said he expects the Soviet Union, which thus far has no known links with the communist insurgency, will soon begin showing an interest in the movement. He also predicted the rebels will break with their policy of "total independence."

# Death row inmate: Khomeini is his leader

**Associated Press**  
HUNTSVILLE — Death row inmate Jay Kelly Pinkerton, scheduled to die by injection next month for the murder of an Amarillo housewife, said Wednesday he accepts Iran's ayatollah as his leader and would leave the United States if he could.

"I don't accept this government," Pinkerton said. "I don't accept this country any more. I

revoke it. If I had a chance to leave it I would and never come back."

A state judge last week gave Pinkerton a Nov. 26 execution date — his third — for the rape-slaying of Sarah Donn Lawrence in 1979.

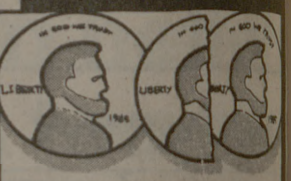
Pinkerton, 23, a former meat cutter, was convicted of stabbing the woman as many as 50 times during a burglary of her home.

He came within 26 minutes of execution Aug. 14, when the U.S.

Supreme Court issued a stay. Earlier this month, the high court rejected his case.

"I don't have faith in the system," he said Wednesday. "I believe God is responsible for my stay."

Pinkerton said he has found experts to refute trial testimony from an FBI agent who identified Pinkerton's palm print on the victim. But he says attorneys have been inadequate.



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