

World and Nation

Marcos calls Aquino 'monster'

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Ferdinand E. Marcos said Monday that he was not corrupt but that President Corazon Aquino is, and he may return from exile to rescue Filipinos from a "monster" bent on enslaving them.

The former president, who fled Feb. 26, commented in a message and handwritten letter, calling himself a victim of the "blackest of propaganda." He accused "elements of the American government" of helping oust him.

He said Aquino was the "No. 1 looter," a charge that has been made against Marcos. A source close to Marcos made a tape of the message and a copy of the letter available to The Associated Press.

Presidential spokesman Rene Saguisag said Aquino greeted the comments "with typical calm and equanimity." He said Marcos, 68, may be

allowed to return "in the distant future, but not just now."

"The greatest service Marcos has done to the Filipino nation is to leave it," he said. "He should not negate it by threatening to come back."

In a telephone statement from Honolulu, which the source said was taped Monday, Marcos said: "We must war again against the monster who imposes slavery."

A postscript to an eight-page letter dated March 21 and addressed to "My beloved Filipino countrymen" in his home province, Ilocos Norte, said: "Death, yes, we will accept perhaps, but slavery never, never, never."

Marcos told reporters in Honolulu on Sunday that he still considers himself president.

The letter was written on stationery of Malacanang Palace, which has become a museum to preserve what

Aquino's government calls the excesses of Marcos and his wife, Imelda.

Marcos accused Aquino of allowing her followers to loot his palace and try on the hundreds of dresses Imelda left behind.

"There was looting not only by the poor but by the rich and powerful... The more outstanding ladies in the opposition started fitting and using the dresses of the First Lady," he said.

Marcos said the "coup d'etat" against him "was apparently helped by some of the elements of the American government," but he gave no names.

"In one message from the U.S. Embassy to the Office of Media Affairs, the duty officer in the U.S. Embassy threatened the use of Marines, United States Marines, against Marcos to prevent President Marcos

from utilizing his superior military power against the rebels," he said.

Associates in Manila have quoted him as saying he could have crushed the uprising that drove him out but did not want to shed blood. His tanks turned away from hundreds of thousands of people guarding rebel soldiers in two Manila military camps.

Marcos said he had insisted on being taken from the palace to Ilocos Norte, but instead the U.S. Air Force took him to Clark Air Base and later Guam. He said his personal luggage was opened and ransacked.

He had Philippine currency with him because he intended to go to Ilocos Norte, Marcos said. U.S. Customs officials said he carried the equivalent of \$1.2 million, which Marcos said on the tape was from campaign and personal funds.

Peres says Waldheim must answer questions

JERUSALEM (AP) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Sunday he expected complete answers from former U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim about allegations that he is hiding a Nazi past.

"I think it's legitimate to ask these sort of questions and it is legitimate to expect an answer to them," Peres told West German reporters. "The questions were posed. Now the answers should be given, and then we shall be able to pass a definite judgment."

The World Jewish Congress on Friday demanded that Israel officially take a stand on the congress charges that Waldheim had a role in atrocities against civilians in World War II and belonged to the Nazis' storm troopers.

But Peres said he would not make a statement "before all the facts are very clear."

Waldheim, U.N. secretary-general from 1972-1982, is a leading conservative candidate in the May 4 elections for Austria's president. He has said the attacks on his past are attempts to hurt his chances at the polls.

Ortega says troops' attacks in Honduras were 'defensive'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said Sunday that attacks by government troops on rebel base camps in Honduras were "totally defensive operations."

Ortega also said he was willing to negotiate with the United States and "the chief of the Contras, which is President Reagan," but he refused to say whether his government would meet U.S. demands to negotiate with rebel leaders.

Appearing on the CBS program "Face The Nation," the Nicaraguan president said, "We have not in-

vaded Honduras. We have not committed any act of aggression against Honduras."

Ortega earlier justified last week's border incursion against rebel bases, calling the rugged area between the two countries a "war zone," where Honduras had given up its sovereignty by allowing the rebels to control and operate from the region.

Ortega cast aside suggestions that his government should negotiate with the rebels, saying, "The policy is decided in Washington, so we have to talk to the White House."

"Isn't it in the U.S. Congress where U.S. policy is being formed against Nicaragua, where the war is being directed and financed?" Ortega asked. "What other Congress in the world is discussing a policy of how to go about overthrowing another government?"

Ortega also said "as a product of a U.S.-Nicaraguan agreement," Nicaragua would support the removal of all foreign military advisers from Central America, a key component of the Contadora efforts to reach a negotiated settlement in Central America.

20,000 go to service for South African exile

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — About 20,000 blacks defied a ban Monday to attend a memorial for a Communist Party leader who died in exile, and an activist announced resumption of a regional boycott of white businesses.

The memorial for Moses Mabhida, a black nationalist who died March 8 in Mozambique, was held at a soccer stadium in Zwile, a black township outside the Indian Ocean city of Port Elizabeth.

Mkhulesi Jack, a prominent anti-apartheid activist, announced during the four-hour service that a black consumer boycott of white-owned

businesses in Port Elizabeth would resume April 7.

A boycott last year severely affected white businesses. It was suspended after four months.

Jack said the principal reason for renewing it was the recent killings of blacks by police, including 11 deaths last Wednesday during a disturbance in the township of Kwazakele near Port Elizabeth.

More than 1,250 people have been killed, nearly all of them black, during 19 months of violence against apartheid.

During a moment of silence for Mabhida during the service, many in

the stadium waved clenched fists.

Mabhida, who was buried with military honors Saturday in Maputo, Mozambique, was general secretary of the South African Communist Party and a member of the executive committee of the outlawed African National Congress guerrilla movement. He was 62 when he died and had been in exile for 25 years.

His family had planned to bury him in South Africa, with tens of thousands of mourners attending. The funeral was held in Maputo after South African authorities said they would restrict it to Mabhida's relatives and close friends.

1 killed in fire at 16th-century London palace

LONDON (AP) — Fire raged through the magnificent 16th-century Hampton Court Palace of Henry VIII Monday, burning out its south wing, damaging priceless royal art treasures and killing one person, believed to be the widow of a top British general.

The four-hour blaze sent the leaded roof of the three-story south wing crashing through into art galleries on the lower two floors, causing millions of dollars worth of damage.

Among the works damaged by smoke and water were two renowned Tudor paintings, the 1520 "Field of the Cloth of Gold," showing Henry VIII meeting the king of France, and the "Family Group" depicting the king and his family.

Officials said the blaze probably started in a

top-floor apartment in the south wing occupied by Lady Daphne Gale, the 86-year-old widow of Gen. Sir Richard Gale. She was thought to have died in the fire. Seven or eight other elderly residents were escorted to safety.

Queen Elizabeth II, who owns the palace set amid 50 acres of lawns overlooking the River Thames, 12 miles west of London, later picked her way through charred timbers to inspect what aides described as "a disaster."

The south wing was rebuilt by the famed 17th century architect Sir Christopher Wren at the palace constructed in 1515 by Cardinal Thomas Wolsey and presented to Henry VIII.

As flames billowed from the south wing, firemen and palace staff ferried dozens of paintings and other treasures from the galleries. By

chance, tapestries usually kept in the badly damaged Cartoon Gallery had been removed for cleaning before the fire. Most of the valuables were apparently salvaged.

Firefighters contained the blaze before it spread from the south wing through the Tudor part of the palace.

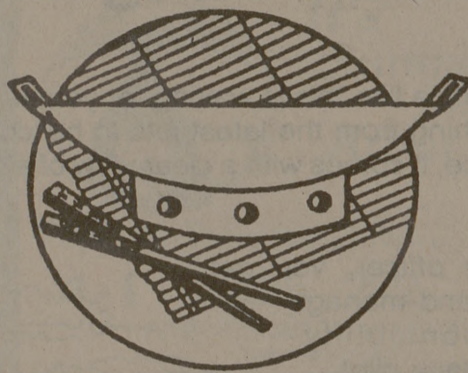
The south wing top floor consisted of "grace and favor" apartments, allocated by the monarch, at low rent, to retired top diplomats, military officers and administrators in the former British empire and their widows.

Deputy Chief Roy Snarey of the London Fire Brigade said that the cause of the blaze was not immediately known, but that it began in the "grace and favor" apartments and was possibly started by a candle.

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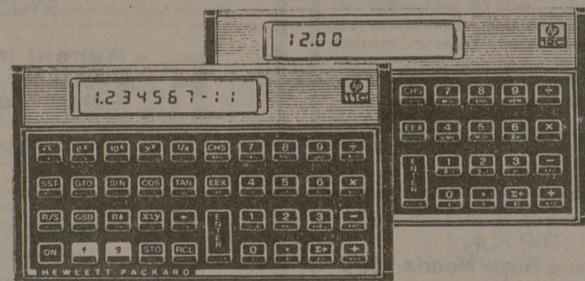
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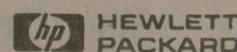
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