

World and Nation

Minister says resignation would break up Cabinet

CEBU CITY, Philippines (AP) — Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile said Sunday the Cabinet will break up if President Corason Aquino asks him to resign over his opposition to her peace policy toward communist rebels.

The 62-year-old minister, who held the same post under ousted President Ferdinand E. Marcos, gave the warning during a radio talk show. He said other Cabinet members have asked him to step down or stop publicly criticizing the peace policy.

Asked if he would resign, Enrile said he would "think about it when the time comes."

"The government is a coalition government," Enrile said. "And I think if they ask for the resignation of any member of the coalition, well,

that means the Cabinet will have to be dissolved."

It was not clear if Enrile envisioned Aquino as having to step down in the event of a Cabinet break-up. He recently said that by dissolving Marcos' constitution, she revoked her legal basis for authority. Enrile apparently sees Aquino as holding power solely because of an alliance between him and other leaders of the revolt that forced Marcos into exile in February.

Enrile's statements marked the latest stage in a growing rift between him and Aquino over strategy for ending the 17-year-old insurgency by the communist New People's Army.

Aquino has vowed to pursue all avenues to a negotiated settlement with the communists, but to crack down if talks fail. Enrile says the

communists are not bargaining in good faith, and has called for tough military action.

Commentators believe the rift could set off a government crisis because of Enrile's support among some military officers.

Government and rebel negotiators met Saturday for the first time since the Sept. 29 arrest of communist leader Rodolfo Salas.

Presidential executive secretary Joker Arroyo said the two sides discussed cease-fire proposals and rebel demands for immunity from arrest during negotiations, but with the communist rebels in August. The talks were suspended after the National Democratic Front, a communist-dominated umbrella group representing the rebels, accused the military of arresting Salas to sabotage negotiations.

GOP files 59,000 pages of reports

WASHINGTON (AP) — The National Republican Senatorial Committee says it wants to show it has nothing to hide. It has turned over 59,000 pages of financial disclosure documents in the largest filing the Federal Election Commission has ever received.

The party committee, an arm of the GOP whose goal is to help elect Republican senators, turned in 12 cartons of paper to meet last week's disclosure deadline for financial reports by candidates and campaign committees.

"It's 17 feet, five inches tall," committee spokesman David Narsavage said of the report, which amounts to nearly one-fifth the total volume of documents filed with the Senate Public Records office in all of last year.

The reason for the size of this quarter's report was the GOP committee's increased solicitation of what are known as "earmarked contributions."

Earmarking involves money given to the committee to be passed on to a specific Senate candidate.

The committee encouraged earmarking in a highly successful mass mailing that went out to contributors Sept. 2.

The report of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, which files on a monthly rather than quarterly basis, will fit "in less than one box" when it is filed Monday, said spokeswoman Diane Dewhurst.

Patients leave U.S. for non-approved drug treatments

NEW YORK (AP) — The first drug proved effective for a common psychiatric disease called obsessive-compulsive disorder is being obtained illegally in Canada by hundreds of Americans because it is not available here, a government researcher says.

"There's a tremendous black market in this drug," Dr. Thomas Insel of the National Institute of Mental Health said Saturday at the annual meeting of the Phobia Society of America.

"This is one of the most common psychiatric disorders in the United States," Insel said. "There's been no medical treatment for it until now."

He said surveys have found that 2.5 percent of the population, or about 5 million Americans, suffer from the disorder.

The drug, clomipramine, also called chlorimipramine, is in a category of drugs called tricyclic antidepressants. It is available as an antidepressant with the trade name Anafranil in Canada and Mexico, Insel said.

But in the United States it has not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration because its manufacturer has not yet supplied adequate evidence for its safety and effectiveness, Insel said.

Its manufacturer, Ciba Pharmaceutical Co. of Summit, N.J., a division of the Ciba-Geigy Corp., has begun trials of the drug at 20 research

centers across the country with the hope of seeking approval by July 1988, Insel said.

Studies by Insel and others have shown that clomipramine can produce a 50 percent improvement in the symptoms of the majority of patients who receive it.

For about 20 percent of patients, the drug is effectively a cure, Insel said. Some patients who took the drug for six months five years ago are still healthy, he said.

For about 10 percent of the victims of the disease, the drug has no effect.

Obsessive-compulsive disorder is characterized by recurrent impulses that are senseless and unpleasant — obsessions — and by repetitive behavior performed according to certain rules — compulsions.

For example, it can take the form of excessive handwashing to the point of causing skin disease, or excessive checking of locks on windows and doors.

Insel said he receives two or three calls a week from people who have obtained the drug in Canada and are looking for another source of it.

Customs inspectors at the Canadian border have recently increased efforts to confiscate the drug, in accordance with FDA regulations, and have begun opening mail from pharmacies known to supply it, Insel said.

Afghan leader seeks to establish 'independent path' from Moscow

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghan leader Najibullah, now in his sixth month as head of a Moscow-backed government, says reconciliation with Moslem guerrillas is his main goal and that he envisions political parties in the future.

Najibullah, 40, also indicated that he is not trying to impose a Soviet system on Afghanistan, but seeks an independent path.

He spoke during a 2½-hour meeting late Saturday with Western reporters who were invited to Afghanistan to witness the withdrawal of six Soviet regiments, or between 5,000 to 8,000 soldiers.

According to Western estimates, about 118,000 Soviet troops have been stationed in Afghanistan since

1979 to help the government fight the nationwide Moslem uprising.

Najibullah said his People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan is willing to accept rival political parties and a style of government markedly different from that of Moscow to end the fighting.

He said a reconciliation meeting with the guerrillas was expected to take place "in the next few days." He declined to elaborate, saying negotiations were too sensitive to discuss in public.

Najibullah also said Afghanistan was not developing according to a Soviet blueprint, and listed some of the differences between the two countries.

When asked about socialism's pro-

motion of atheism, he said, "Islam is the religion of the absolute majority of our people."

About 99 percent of Afghanistan's more than 17 million people are Moslems, said Najibullah, noting he has followed Islam all his life.

He also said 99 percent of the country's farmland is privately owned and public markets operate on the private enterprise system.

Najibullah laughed when asked to comment on views held widely in the West that he was installed by the Kremlin. He said neither his party nor his people would stand for an appointed leader.

Najibullah became general secretary of Afghanistan's communist party in May.



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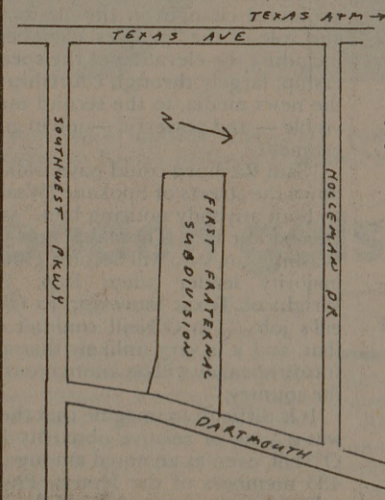
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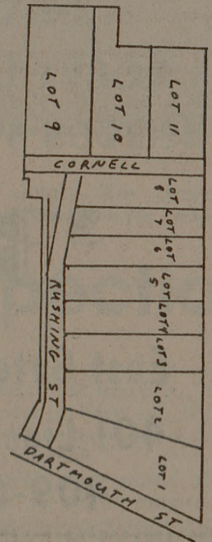
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