

Tuesday, February 20, 1990

# Cheney warns Aquino, Americans will leave bases if costs run too high

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, shunned by Philippine President Corason Aquino, told Filipino officials Monday that the United States will abandon its bases here if it finds that keeping them is too expensive or that Americans are unwelcome.

As violence was reported in several clashes between leftist protesters and police near U.S. installations, Cheney met for nearly three hours with Defense Minister Fidel Ramos in discussions that were described as "very cordial, very forthright."

Meeting reporters afterward with Ramos, Cheney said the United States "will stay only as long as the Philippine people wish it to stay—and only if the terms negotiated are acceptable to both parties."

At issue in Monday's discussions was a \$96 million cut Congress made in the Bush administration's request of \$360 million to compensate the Philippines for the six bases, which include two of the United States' largest overseas installations, Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Base.

"We recognize there is a shortfall of \$96 million over what we had anticipated," Cheney said.

"I also pointed out that in East Asia, in this part of the world, the United States provided a little over \$600 million, and about \$500 million of that comes specifically to the Philippines."

Cheney has said his discussions with Filipino officials did not amount to the beginning of negotiations to extend the base agreement, which expires next year.

An influential Filipino minority is pressuring Aquino not to renew the agreement. In addition, leading Filipino congressmen have urged her to postpone those discussions until this year's cuts are restored.

There are some 18,000 U.S. military personnel in the Philippines, plus 20,000 dependents.

For his part, Ramos acknowledged that the Bush administration needs congressional approval for aid commitments but said he had told Cheney that "time is of the essence" in meeting current U.S. obligations.

Aquino was so upset over the congressional cut that she announced before Cheney began his two-week tour of Asian nations hosting U.S. bases that she would not see him, leaving that

task to her defense minister.

The secretary pledged his "best efforts" to restoring the \$96 million cut, but U.S. diplomats have said that an austerity-minded Congress is unlikely to change its mind.

Despite the current differences, Cheney said that ties between the two nations are strong.

After the talks with Ramos, Cheney flew to the Subic Bay base, 50 miles west of Manila, to inspect a helicopter carrier and to chat with a group of Marines and sailors.

While there were no reports of violence at Subic Bay, about 300 militants hurled rocks at police trying to stop them from dismantling barbed wire barricades at the entrance to Clark.

Demonstrators said about 30 students had been injured. The protesters regrouped later and staged an "indignation rally," accusing Philippine police of being "puppets of U.S. imperialism."

In Manila, about 200 members of the militant League of Filipino Students, chanting "Yankees go home," marched to the U.S. Embassy and hurled bottles and rotten tomatoes at police, who charged with clubs and tear gas.

# Liberal Democrats keep control

Japanese party win despite scandals

TOKYO (AP) — Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Monday the voters gave his party a vote of confidence in its time of greatest crisis by keeping the Liberal Democrats in control of Parliament.

Some Japanese who voted Sunday said they were angry with the Liberal Democrats because of political scandal and an unpopular sales tax but still were not ready to entrust the government to the opposition Socialists.

Business leaders called the result a vote for the economic policies that have brought unprecedented prosperity to Japan.

Liberal Democrats implicated in the Recruit influence-bribery scandal were re-elected, including former prime ministers Yasuhiro Nakasone, 72, and Noboru Takeshita, 65. Nakasone ran as an independent.

Kaifu said they were "absolved" by the voters but added: "We must proceed with political

**"The result of the election is a vote of confidence of the people under the constitution..."**  
— Toshiki Kaifu, Japanese prime minister

reforms" in the party that has governed Japan since its founding in 1955.

"We started when the party was said to be in the greatest crisis since it was formed," he told reporters. "The result of the election is a vote of confidence of the people under the constitution, and our government has passed it."

Socialist Party leader Takako Doi also claimed a victory, on grounds that "our purpose was to reduce the Liberal Democrats' strength as much as possible."

Her party campaigned on opposition to the 3 percent sales tax introduced last year and reminded voters of the scandal, in which the Recruit Co. information and publishing conglomerate made large contributions to politicians and sold them stock at insider prices.

Doi said Nakasone, Takeshita and others touched by the scandal won re-election to Parliament because of their powerful political machines.

The Liberal Democrats got 275 seats in Parliament's powerful lower house, a 512-seat body that chooses the prime minister and sets the budget. Fourteen more candidates who ran as independents are expected to join them. Before the election, the party had 295 seats.

When the Liberal Democrats reached 271 seats Monday morning, giving the party control of all committees in the lower house, Kaifu filled in the blank eye of a papier-mache "daruma" doll in a traditional ceremony signifying fulfillment of a wish.

Socialists won 136 seats, up from 83.

One scandal-tainted candidate who lost was Kunio Takaishi, a former vice minister of education who benefited from low-priced shares of a Recruit subsidiary and is being tried on bribery charges.

# Ethiopia threatened by famine

## Rebels close key port of entry causing millions to go hungry

WASHINGTON (AP) — The lives of up to 5 million Ethiopians are at risk because anti-government forces have shut down a port that has been the key entry point for food assistance from foreign countries, U.S. officials say.

Further aggravating the situation has been the prospect of severely diminished harvests throughout northern Ethiopia as a result of poor rainfall in and around the region.

To the west, U.S. officials say a crisis situation is rapidly developing in the Sudan, where a bitter civil war has prevented the transport of relief supplies to rebel-held territories located in the southern region of the country.

President Bush sent a letter to the Sudanese president last week asking for his cooperation in restarting the international relief effort, to which the United States contributes \$15.7 million.

Renewed fighting has led to the recent suspension of flights containing food to southern Sudan, and the Ethiopian government is preventing the departure of a relief train along a route where food shortages are reported as severe. The rebels also have been blocking relief efforts.

Estimates of the number of Sudanese potentially affected by famine range between 1 million and 3 million.

In Ethiopia, the cutoff of relief supplies through Massawa, a deep water port on the Red Sea, affects not only Eritrea province but also Tigray and portions of three other provinces.

"The next six weeks to two months is the critical time," Andrew Natsios, director of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, said.

"We're trying to explore options for getting the food in," he said.

He added that a "worst nightmare" scenario is developing — a civil war and a famine in the same area at the

same time.

A Western relief official told the Washington Post, "If the port is closed for any length of time, then there is the possibility of tragedy in northern Ethiopia."

The situation evokes memories of the 1984-85 period in Ethiopia when more than a million people died, primarily because of drought.

Renewed drought last year in Ethiopia touched off a major international relief program led by the United States and the European Community, both of which funnel food donations through private voluntary organizations.

Other contributing countries include Canada and Australia.

Thus far, the United States has either delivered or pledged more than \$70 million to the relief effort. The figure for the rest of the international community is about \$84 million, according to estimates by U.S. officials.

The goal of the donor countries was to compensate for severe shortages expected early this year resulting from disappointing rainfall last summer.

But earlier this month, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front staged one of its most daring assaults in 27 years of warfare with its capture of Massawa and the road leading inland.

Massawa had been the entry point for food for the needy in Eritrea and also for provinces further south, including Tigray, where Ethiopia's Marxist government is in the process of being challenged by yet another rebel group.

Complicating the situation for Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam has been the reduced efficiency of his army.

The officer corps underwent extensive purges last year after an abortive army-led coup attempt occurred in May.

# Sandinistas use sex campaign to attract Nicaraguan youth vote

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Ajax Delgado snaps his fingers and plops his sneaker-clad feet on the table. The laces are electric green.

"Music!" he exclaims. "The campaign needed young music!"

On the wall hangs a glossy poster showing two pairs of naked thighs pressed together, jeans and a rose crumpled on the floor.

"It's beautiful the first time when you do it with love," reads the coy slogan.

Personally, Delgado doesn't like the poster.

"The guy's legs are too skinny," he says, dismissing it with another snap of his fingers.

Who is this fast-talking fellow in the black T-shirt and the tight jeans eating whipped cream cheese with his fingers?

A hip advertising executive? A rising record producer?

Not quite. Delgado, 28, is secretary-general of the Sandinista Youth, part of the leftist party that has ruled Nicaragua for more than a decade.

He is one of the keys to President Daniel Ortega's effort to beat the United National Opposition, led by Violeta Barrios de Chamorro.

Clearly, things have changed since the days when the Sandinista Youth motto was a dreary Marxist "Study, Defend, Produce."

The motto is now "Plug into the Future," and the sell is pure sex.

The youth vote will be a critical factor in Sunday's general election. A third of the 1.7 million registered voters are between the ages of 16 and 25.

Delgado is a mastermind of the campaign aimed at selling the Sandinistas as the fun party, the party of the future, the hip place to be.

It's a tall job in a country left shabby and tattered by war, a U.S.

embargo and a devastating economic crisis. But Delgado is convinced the Sandinistas have the youth vote wrapped up.

Membership in the Sandinista Youth, open to people between the ages of 15 and 30, has doubled to 50,000 in the past two months, he says.

Delgado laughs off the idea that the Sandinistas have shamelessly adopted one of the crasser advertising concepts of their capitalist nemesis: sex sells.

"It's a Sandinista invention," he jokes.

The poster with the naked legs and the double-entendre message for first-time voters is just one of a series of posters featuring amorous couples in the youth-oriented campaign.

The group also has sponsored beauty contests — "The feminists were critical," Delgado admits — kissing contests, dances, parties and even a Valentine's Day rally at which a member of the nine-man Sandinista directorate got married in the "Forest of Love."

Sandinista campaign headquarters bustles with young workers in brightly colored T-shirts bearing pictures of President Ortega and other candidates.

Young people wear Sandinista headbands, Sandinista tank tops and Sandinista baseball caps. They light up with Sandinista lighters, tote their books in Sandinista backpacks

and tap their toes to Sandinista tunes in Costeno-style, the reggae music from Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast.

The slick campaign is no hit-or-miss affair.

Delgado says the Sandinista Youth prepared by polling young people on their likes and dislikes, their worries and hopes.

The study showed that Nicaraguan teen-agers are a lot like teen-agers everywhere in many ways. They are vain and rebellious; they are interested in sex and having fun; their heroes and role models are athletes and musicians.

Their concerns, however, reflect the troubled reality of this politically divided and economically crippled nation of 3.5 million: the war, the draft, finding a job, getting a decent education and figuring out how to have a good time in a country where the inflation rate was 36,000 percent last year.

The Sandinista message doesn't dwell on this dreary daily reality. "Everything will be better," the main campaign slogan proclaims.

Chamorro, UNO's presidential candidate, is a white-haired and aristocratic widow of 60 whose image contrasts sharply with that of Ortega.

There were rumors her campaign would bring in Gloria Estefan and the Miami Sound Machine, but it didn't happen.

Before some of her rallies, young women danced to a tropical beat.

**"It's beautiful the first time when you do it with love."**  
— Sandinista slogan

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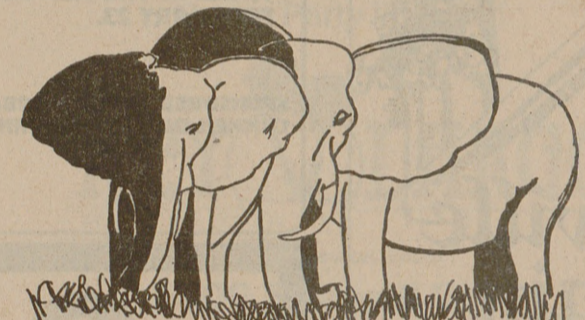


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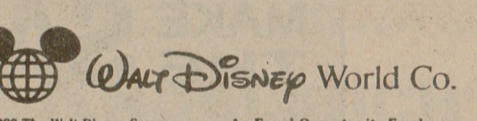
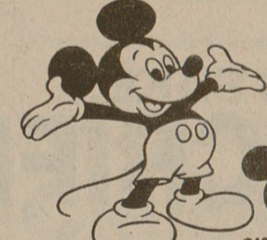
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