

The Philippines: scenarios and operations to remove Marcos

by Our Special Correspondent

October 16-17, 1985. In the plush Washington headquarters of Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), two 10-man teams are "war-gaming" the takeover of the Philippines by the Soviet-backed New People's Army. Composed of some of the highest-level figures of the U.S. diplomatic, intelligence, and military communities, including past directors and deputy directors of the CIA, two former chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and several former undersecretaries of state, the teams react to the unfolding events.

The scenario proceeds: Marcos died in August, presumably of a heart attack. Leading figures of the post-Marcos government and Philippine Armed Forces are now being assassinated by a combination of Soviet "spetsnaz" teams and NPA commandos. As the NPA takes over the Philippines, U.S. and Soviet ships face each other off its coasts, and the crisis moves to the brink of World War III. The U.S. President, at first hawkish, comes close to resignation in a state of psychological breakdown. Throughout the crisis, news is reported on "television" in the corner of the room, broadcast by real-life newscasters, Howard Schorr and Howard K. Smith. The simulation is so striking that the players, according to Kupperman, are "wandering in and out of delusional states."

The events at Georgetown on Oct. 16-17 were in fact no "scenario," but were themselves part of the plot to eliminate President Ferdinand Marcos and hand the Philippines over to the Soviet Union. The assassination lists are accurate, prepared by CSIS specialists and by "people who are quite involved in dealing with that part of the world," according to Kupperman. These people include "ex-government officials, some of whom have very, very recent experience" in the Philippines. The war-game procedure itself is standard practice, in particular for the overthrow of an ally. One of the key advisers to the CSIS scenario was former ambassador to the Philippines and Iran, William H. Sullivan. In the early 1960s, in the basement of the Pentagon, Sullivan, Averell Harriman, and others "war-gamed" the fall of South Vietnam. Repeated "games" determined that there was no way the war could be won by the U.S.-backed South. *The game was then played*

out in reality. Sullivan personally directed the bombing of Laos.

The CSIS scenario, filmed in documentary style for release on U.S. national television in the near future, takes place amid a steadily intensifying Eastern Establishment press campaign to prepare the elimination of President Marcos. In the weeks since Sen. Paul Laxalt (R-Nev.) delivered his "blunt message" to President Marcos from President Reagan, the U.S. press has been full of rumors of Marcos's imminent "death by natural causes." Typical was an Oct. 27 *Washington Post* article which noted that the U.S. move to dump Marcos is "strongly influenced . . . by intelligence reports that Marcos is gravely ill and probably has no better than a 50% chance of living until the next Philippines election, scheduled for 1987."

These reports are a conscious lie. Aside from the fact that President Marcos has recently been filmed jogging and playing golf, Laxalt himself reported, "I came in there fully prepared to see someone who was near dead and he was anything but. He didn't seem sickly at all. I can't believe it. No one made that assessment to me at all."

What is Georgetown CSIS?

Though the CSIS scenario was attended by former State Department officials, Kupperman, in order to keep a lid on the scandals which might arise, emphasized that *current* officials of the U.S. government did not participate. For anyone who knows the significance of Georgetown, a think tank which designs strategies implemented only months later by the U.S. government, the claim is a fraud. Not only is there incessant traffic of personnel back and forth from CSIS to the State Department, Pentagon, etc., but at least 20 *current* U.S. senators and congressmen currently serve on CSIS's Advisory Board and coordinate the CSIS "congressional working groups." Some of the congressional figures are presently active in the Philippines destabilization, such as Rep. Steven Solarz (D-N.Y.) and Senate Intelligence Committee head Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), who has been beating the drums for drastically cutting aid to the Marcos government.

The CSIS's executive director since its inception, David

Abshire (recently appointed U.S. ambassador to NATO), oversaw the transition team which set up the Reagan administration's entire foreign policy apparatus in 1980. One of the "team leaders" of the Philippines scenario, Nathaniel Samuels, was chairman of the Board of CSIS from its inception until recently, and has been a close friend and political ally of CIA head William Casey from the 1940s on.

Founded in 1962, as an adjunct to the Jesuits' Georgetown University, CSIS has been a crucial part of the back channel to Moscow, on behalf of a "New Yalta" redivision of the globe. CSIS is the operations center for numerous key figures in the New Yalta plot, including Henry Kissinger, the head of CSIS's International Councillors, Carter-era National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, former U.N. Ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick, Bernard Lewis, the British intelligence specialist who first floated the plan for the "Balkanization" of the Middle East, etc.

CSIS is also the place of origin of plans to sabotage the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative, and to wreck what is left of traditional U.S. military leadership, through Pentagon "reform."

Interview: Robert Kupperman

The following interview with Robert Kupperman, member of Georgetown CSIS's Executive Office and director of the Center's Science and Technology Programs, was provided to EIR by a Washington-area consultant. Kupperman directed the "Crisis Simulation of the Fall of the Philippines."

Q: How much was the Crisis Simulation scenario based on reality?

Kupperman: Given that it hasn't happened, it's always tough to tell, but we had two former chairmen of the Joint Chiefs, the former director of the CIA, lots of your former undersecretaries of state, U. Alexis Johnson, Marvin Kalb. Nobody thought the scenario was unrealistic.

Q: Did you have a timetable?

Kupperman: *Now.* The scenario was retrospectively taken back to mid-August, in which it was presumed that Marcos died of a heart attack, and then it was taken to two days in October, last Wednesday and Thursday, when the game was played. It's our belief that it can happen at any time.

Q: How much was State, Defense, and so forth involved?

Kupperman: Not at all—the *current* people. But we have people who are quite recent in their experience and we have people who are quite involved in dealing with that part of the world. And, of course, we're dealing with ex-government officials, some of whom have very, very recent experience, all of whom were undersecretary or higher.

Q: How did the idea for this come about?

Kupperman: It's an internal CSIS matter, and we internally developed it. I directed it.

Q: You're obviously well aware of the DIA/CIA evaluation?

Kupperman: Yes. I can personally deal on a classified basis in many cases, but the Center deals purely on an unclassified basis with everything. It may be purely coincidence that classified documents say the identical things as unclassified—it would not be a great surprise.

Q: Do you think, with [Sen. Paul] Laxalt out there—that's a pretty high-powered delegation. . . .

Kupperman: Yes, but he got rebuffed by Marcos. Marcos, to my mind, is living in a delusionary world. I don't think he can keep up what he's doing. He's going to get deposed, whether for reasons of natural causes or fairly malevolent attempts.

Q: Where would you see the time-scale?

Kupperman: I think our view of the time-scale is, I don't know whether it's a month from now, a year from now, or in a strange sense, yesterday. But it's *soon*. That place is shaky, the NPA is getting stronger and stronger. With sort of selectively designed assassinations of the right generals, the army breaks up into fiefdoms and therefore there is a tremendous loss of cohesion. . . . Look, if Marcos were to disappear for whatever reason, constitutionally the successor is the speaker of the House. If he were assassinated and a few key generals were assassinated and a few command and control sites were taken out, the Philippine government wouldn't *exist*. Not for quite a while.

Q: In your wargame, do you specify the specific generals that would be taken out?

Kupperman: Some of them, yes. We didn't dwell on it, because it was televised and I don't want to get too close. We're close enough to the truth, I think that's enough.

Q: Have you talked to Armacost and Armitage on this?

Kupperman: We invited Armacost, he didn't come. I have not spoken to Armitage about it, but I've mentioned it to Weinberger. Look, we had an interesting group of people. We had U. Alexis Johnson, Gen. Edward Shimire, Marvin Kalb, Howard K. Smith, Daniel Schorr, Murray Weidenbaum, we dealt with both the economic and the non-economic. Also Richard Helms. We didn't deal with amateurs. Plus quite a number of lesser known people who were government specialists in the Philippines and related matters. As well as specialists in Soviet operations, like Ray Garthoff. No matter what one thinks or doesn't think of the quality of the job done, it was not because of a lack of qualified people.

Q: You said it went out on television?

Kupperman: We had it taped. We had a broadcast-quality taping of it, that will be produced in several forms, and most probably shown on television. Exactly where and when and