

## EIR Investigation

# Marcos hits back against 'New Yalta'

by Linda de Hoyos

The Philippines will not expell U.S. Ambassador Stephen Bosworth from Manila for his blatant interference in the presidential elections scheduled for Feb. 7, President Ferdinand Marcos declared Jan. 30. "We do not conduct foreign policy that way," the President said, but then stated categorically: "I don't think there is any problem with the Reagan administration. The problem is with some bureaucrats and some members of Congress."

Later in the day, Philippines Labor Minister Blas Ople seconded the President, stating that President Reagan has retained his "essentially sound, pristine, political instincts" about Marcos, but was overwhelmed by the advice coming from the "lower echelons of the U.S. bureaucracy." The labor minister named those who, he charged, are bent on destabilizing the Philippines: Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Michael Armacost; Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Armitage; Assistant Secretary of State for Asia and Pacific Affairs Paul Wolfowitz; Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs; and Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

With these announcements, the Marcos government is beginning to strike back at the New Yalta gang in Washington that has worked to bring down the Philippines government for the last two years, even knowing that such a policy will likely force withdrawal of the United States from its strategically crucial and absolutely irreplaceable bases at Clark Field and Subic Bay.

This is the nexus, under the direction of New Yalta strategist William Sullivan, former ambassador to Iran and the Philippines and now chairman of Averell Harriman's American Assembly in New York, that has taken increasing control over U.S. policy—even including hatching plans for a military coup against Marcos this summer—and that directs the actions of U.S. Ambassador Stephen Bosworth.

In the last two weeks, Bosworth has come under steady fire from the Marcos government. On Jan. 16, legislators from the ruling KBL party placed a resolution to declare Bosworth *persona non grata*. In a statement to the press, Minister of Political Affairs Leonardo Perez declared that Bosworth's continued demand for a "credible election" is an insult to the Philippines people, because "it implies that all past elections in the country had not been credible and that the government is incapable of holding clean, honest, and orderly elections." Bosworth does not have to behave like an "American governor-general during the Philippine Commonwealth days," he said.

Bosworth reportedly desisted for a period of time, but by Jan. 27, the U.S. ambassador delivered what was taken to be the next-best-thing to an endorsement for opposition candidates Aquino and Salvador Laurel. In a speech to the Manila Rotary Club, Bosworth said the United States is "disturbed" about reports of election violence and that such violence "is to be deplored." In the next breath, he accused the government of preparing massive election fraud.

The ambassador then offered his sympathy to the narco-terrorist New People's Army (NPA). "They operate out of a sense of frustration, alienation, vengeance or whatever," Bosworth claimed. "Any counterinsurgency program must come to grips with the underlying political, economic, and social causes of the insurgency," as if Marcos were the cause of the insurgency.

Two days later, Political Affairs Minister Perez, Rodolfo Albano, assistant parliamentary leader of Marcos's party, and Vicente Millora, vice-president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, demanded that Bosworth be summoned to the foreign ministry to explain himself. His speech, they charged, was "patently insulting to the Philippine government and people and clearly constitutes foreign intervention into the elections." Bosworth is acting like "the self-appointed

ed Praetorian guard of democracy in the Philippines," Perez declared.

Perez warned: "Bosworth speaks of vote-buying and bribery through the use of government funds. This is a statement that in the past has led to the rupture of diplomatic relations between two countries."

The next day, Labor Minister Ople further accused the United States of carrying out a "mindless policy toward a close ally." "I can see a whole arsenal of destabilizing weapons being trained against the Philippine government. If the Americans do not watch out, this kind of naked meddling can lose them the Philippines," he said.

## Countdown to the elections

By Jan. 30, President Reagan was forced by the increasing friction between Washington and Malacanang Palace to release his own statement on the elections, affirming not support for Marcos but "a free and fair election," which, "if also followed by a genuine reform effort in the economic and security areas, will assist the Philippines along a path of growth, prosperity, and stability." Reagan promised that if the elections are deemed to be fair, the United States will "consider" a "significantly larger program of economic and military assistance" for the Philippines for the next five years.

A less supportive note came from State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb, who, coming to Bosworth's defense, stated that the United States is "completely neutral with regard to the candidates and contending parties and believed that only a credible election could freely express the will of the Filipino people."

U.S. neutrality, however, is not the perception in the Philippines. Along with Bosworth's shenanigans in Manila, two major operations have been launched against the Philippines with the clear attempt to interfere in the Feb. 7 elections to the advantage of Corazon Aquino.

Beginning in mid-January, Rep. Stephen Solarz opened hearings designed to prove that President Marcos and his wife Imelda have squirreled away millions of dollars in buying up real estate in the United States, especially New York. Under the demands of Solarz and Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), the General Accounting Office has sent not one, but two investigating teams to Manila to investigate the "possibility" that the Marcoses are embezzling U.S. aid money for their alleged real estate investments in New York. (It is not yet known how many U.S. taxpayers' dollars were drained in these junkets.) Columnists Rowland Evans and Robert Novak, writing from Manila Jan. 31, reported that the first GAO team "could find no evidence of first lady Imelda Marcos's converting U.S. foreign aid money to her own use. 'We can't go back to Kennedy empty-handed,' a GAO sleuth told a U.S. embassy official, who related the story to us. The result: a new four-member GAO team was sent to Manila"—with the same results.

In the Solarz hearings, no one except Solarz is satisfied that the subcommittee has "proof" that the Marcos owns any

property in the United States. Solarz was instead accused by Rep. Gerald Solomon (R-N.Y.) of running a "witchhunt" against Marcos to throw the Feb. 7 elections.

On Jan. 26, the *New York Times*, which has consistently demanded that the Reagan administration look for alternative base sites, aired a story by Alfred McCoy, an Australian intelligence operative forwarded to the CIA, to the effect that Marcos's record as a war hero is fraudulent. McCoy is the author of *Priests on Trial*, a propaganda piece on behalf of the Theology of Liberation-organized New People's Army.

The charge was laughed away by Marcos, but veterans of the Maharlika guerrilla group that Marcos worked with slapped the *New York Times* with a multimillion-peso libel suit for the "desecration" of the memories of the men fallen during the guerrilla war with the Japanese. From California, American war veteran Donald Jamieson stepped forward to state that during the time period cited by McCoy, Marcos had provided the Americans with invaluable intelligence of Japanese positions and had risked his own life to save the lives of Jamieson and six other GIs.

These "black propaganda" stunts are not designed primarily for consumption in the Philippines, where Marcos is already a known quantity. They are designed for consumption in the United States, and especially in the Oval Office. The message coming out from the State Department, and far more vociferously from Representative Solarz, is that if the elections in the Philippines are not "credible," then the United States would be forced to distance itself from a re-elected Marcos regime. Specifically, the United States would be prepared to cut all military aid to the Philippines, even though the military is already grossly underequipped to deal with the NPA insurgency.

This has handed the opposition the means to scream violence and fraud against the Marcos government, screams backed up by the Catholic Church in the Philippines, under the leadership of Theology of Liberation patriarch Cardinal Jaime Sin. Election violence has escalated daily, but in the last two days, this violence has been carried out by the New People's Army against mayors and others who are known to be organizing for Marcos. NPA leaders announced that they would be taking the guns from the troops on election day in their new role as self-appointed poll-watchers. A reign of terror is now shaping up behind Aquino, who has declared that, if elected, she will release all political prisoners—that is, jailed terrorists—allow the communists into the government if they "renounce violence," and make the Philippines a "neutral country."

This is the future if Aquino should win. Otherwise, she and her backers in Washington are preparing to make the Philippines ungovernable under a newly mandated Marcos government. But Marcos's winning is the first condition to resolving the Philippines crisis; the second is the removal of those "bureaucrats and some members of Congress" who have decided the Philippines is to be sacrificed as per the New Yalta agreement with Moscow.