

Our Nation Is in Grave Danger

Butch Valdes is the chairman of the Philippine La-Rouche Society and founder of Save the Nation Movement. This was his video to the Nov. 2 conference.

In the last two and half months, the Philippines has been struck by events which might aptly be considered as a perfect storm.

In an unexpected turn of events, the biggest corruption scandal in history of this country, involving no less than the President, and practically the whole legislature, congressmen and senators, as disclosed by whistleblowers, has resulted in a spontaneous uproar from all sectors of society and a massive protest rally at the Luneta National Park in Manila.

Almost simultaneously, a band of four to five hundred heavily armed renegade soldiers, allegedly from a coalition of secession groups called the Muslim National Liberation Front (MNLF), entered and occupied Zamboanga, a major city in southern Philippines, and declared independence from the Republic of the Philippines.

Furthermore, heavy rains and storms pummeled many parts of the country, causing devastating floods, destroying lives, homes, and agricultural crops, disrupting commerce, and causing widespread power outages in the whole of Luzon, costing the country in the hundreds of billions.

Possibly the *coup de grâce* was last week's earthquake in central Philippines, mainly hitting the islands of Cebu, Bohol, and many other neighboring provinces. Damages to property, infrastructure, crops, commerce estimated to run up to the trillions of pesos . . . not counting the loss of lives, homes, and jobs of the affected population.

It was immediately after this last earthquake, and what seemed like being kicked in the head while we were down and in pain, that President Aquino, on a prior scheduled state visit, flew to South Korea, to coincidentally purchase 12 fighter planes—I presume to im-

prove our capability to air-drop relief goods to flood and earthquake victims, but officially, we are told, to increase our capability to defend our territories from imminent threats and possible invasion from China.

So, this is the sorry state of Philippine affairs, and the sorrier state of mind of Philippine leadership.

The Challenges Ahead

But so too are the challenges the Philippine LaRouche Society and the accompanying Save the Nation Movement are confronted with. Despite the calamities that continue to plague our nation, and although the years of deterioration of the conditions of life have obviously exacted their heavy toll, our organization, through the weekly radio program, more frequent TV/radio interviews, participation in certain rallies, and continuous distribution of written material, has made a significant impact on important sectors of society. This has undoubtedly encouraged members of PLS to more vigorously, militantly, and openly discuss issues beyond the local and the popular.

Although we consider the legally questionable presence of the U.S. nuclear-armed warships here in Philippine waters as a principal concern, the general public has not caught on to the fact that the pre-positioning of U.S. naval forces in the Southeast Asian region started in the early part of 2012, with the Philippine President Aquino being told by Obama that the Subic Bay ports, airports, and other facilities should be available to the U.S. military, if and when they are needed. To this demand, Aquino readily obeyed, even if he would clearly violate the Philippine Constitution, and will bypass the required ratification by the Senate, as well as a referendum for the people's consent.

It was in early 2012 too, that President Aquino directed a prostituted Congress to impeach the Supreme Court Chief Justice on trumped-up charges, manufactured evidence, and the flimsiest of reasons. So much for the checks and balances of a fraudulent democracy. And for being an obedient boy, Aquino was given a Cutter Class Navy ship and a promise to help beef up the Philippine military, as we prepare to be used as pawns in instigating anti-China sentiment among the

patriotic Filipinos.

To the less familiar, it should be understood that the current president, when a young kid in the early '70s, was reportedly psychologically affected by the very volatile political environment in which his father, the late Ninoy Aquino [Benigno Aquino, Jr., imprisoned in 1973 and assassinated in 1983], the principal opponent of former President Ferdinand Marcos, was accused of trying to overthrow the president. Reportedly under the care of psychiatrists, young Noynoy, who preferred to be left alone, was never presented to the public/media as prominently as was his smarter and younger sister. Some suspect that it may have been during this trying period of being solitary, that toys such as Playstation games, started his keen talent for such sport,

which eventually evolved into more sophisticated computer games. He later on, in the '90s, developed a passion for guns and a variety of weapons which attracted other gun enthusiasts, who now, not surprisingly, comprise much of his governing cabinet.



Antonio "Butch" Valdes

'The Philippines Does Not Have Leaders...'

Lyndon LaRouche once said in answer to a question I asked about my country, "The Philippines does not have leaders.... It has had presidents, but not leaders." That response has haunted us in the organization for the past decade and a half. Indeed, intellectual competence and moral courage are qualities sorely absent among our current inventory of politicians. But the dearth of true leaders has never been any more distinct and critical, as it is today.

One cannot help but be apprehensive when the president of a nation of 95 million people, is a bachelor at 56 years old, incapable of maintaining a normal relationship, a passionate gun enthusiast, an expert at computer shooting games, and has just bought a dozen warplanes. Is he like a 5-year-old kid who may have inadvertently gotten his little hands on his dad's .45? Or, worse, is he something like a major disaster about to happen akin to Columbine, but on a much, much greater scale?

Whatever he is, he is definitely Obama's kind of guy. Beware world! Here they come.