

CONFIDENTIAL  
FM MANILA  
TO DESKBY 060830Z FCO  
TELNO 227  
OF 060100Z JULY 89

FOR SEAD  
PARIS TELNO 874: FRENCH BICENTENARY BILATERALS

1. IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE PRIME MINISTER WILL ONLY HAVE A CHANCE FOR A FEW WORDS WITH PRESIDENT AQUINO IN PARIS. BUT IF YOU ARE PREPARING A FULL BRIEF, THE FOLLOWING POINTS MAY BE USEFUL.

2. ON THE REFUGEE PROCESSING CENTRE, THE UNHCR ARE FINDING IT HARD TO INTEREST THE DFA IN THEIR FEASIBILITY STUDY. APART FROM MOSTLY BEING ABROAD AT MEETINGS, SENIOR DFA OFFICIALS SEEM UNINTERESTED IN PRESSING AHEAD WHILST THE CONDITION OF A PARELLEL VIETNAM CENTRE IS NOT MET. MRS AQUINO MAY BE RECEPTIVE TO ARGUMENTS ABOUT HELPING HONG KONG AND GENERATING EMPLOYMENT IN BATAAN.

3. IT MIGHT BE BEST NOT TO MENTION OUR TRAINING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY GROUP EXCEPT IN A ONE TO ONE TALK OR IF MRS AQUINO RAISES IT. SHE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY SEVERAL MINISTERS AND OTHER HANGERS - ON WHO ARE NOT AWARE OF THIS SENSITIVE PROJECT AND WHO COULD LEAK THINGS TO THE PRESS. IF EAVESDROPPERS ARE AROUND, THE PRIME MINISTER MIGHT PERHAPS REPLY 'WE ARE GLAD TO HELP WITH SECURITY TRAINING'. SUBSEQUENT ENQUIRERS COULD BE TOLD THIS INCLUDES THE ODA-FINANCED TRAINING OF AIRPORT SECURITY GUARDS HERE AND VISITS OF PHILIPPINE POLICEMEN TO THE UK.

4. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF MRS AQUINO'S JOURNEY TO BONN, PARIS AND BRUSSELS IS TO DRUM-UP TRADE AND INVESTMENT AND PROMOTE THE PHILIPPINE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME. SHE IS ALSO HOPEFUL THAT THE FRENCH AND OTHERS WILL WORK FOR ANOTHER MENTION OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE G7 COMMUNIQUE, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF DEBT RELIEF. IF ANY RESPONSE IS NEEDED THE GENERALLY UPWARD TREND OF OUR AID COULD BE MENTIONED ON THE LINES OF DINHAM'S STATEMENT AT THE TOKYO PAP MEETING THIS WEEK.

5. A DEFENSIVE LINE MAY BE REQUIRED IN CASE MRS AQUINO MENTIONS OUR 1986 INVITATION TO VISIT THE UK.

6. FOR BACKGROUND BRIEFING, YOU HAVE OUR LPR ENTRY. ONE POINT WHICH STRIKES PEOPLE ON FIRST MEETING MRS AQUINO IS HER PREFERENCE FOR SMALL TALK (FAMILY, DOMESTIC MATTERS) RATHER THAN POLITICAL DISCUSSION. THE HIGHLIGHT OF HER VISIT TO HONG KONG IN APRIL 1988 WAS THE SHOPPING. HER DAUGHTERS OFTEN GO THERE AND HER BROTHER CONGRESSMAN PEPING COJUANGCO VISITS THE UK AND IRELAND TO BUY HORSES. SHE MAY BE AWARE THAT SENATOR SHAHANI VISITED THE UK LAST MONTH AND THAT SENATOR MACEDA (A FORMER COLLEAGUE WHO HAS BECOME A CRITIC) WILL BE IN THE UK 11-16 JULY.

MACINNES

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