

NO PRICE TAG ON
PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY, SAFETY, AND SURVIVAL

The CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF THE PHILIPPINES (CLUP) views with grave concern the decision of the martial law administration to accept the continued presence of US bases in the Philippines. That decision is implicit in the ongoing negotiations which are premised on the assumption that the bases should be retained. All that the negotiating panels are really discussing is how much more money the US will pay for continued use of the bases, and how to render lip service to Philippine sovereignty.

A Filipino commander will be installed, the Philippine flag will fly alone over the bases, and probably US servicemen will be tried by Philippine courts for offenses against Philippine laws. But all these are mere window-dressing.

In 1946, Philippine independence was formally recognized by the US. A Filipino president was elected and installed in Malacañang. Our flag flew alone over our land for the first time. But in spite of all these, our sovereignty has been--and continues to be--repeatedly violated. Filipino presidents have all been influenced by the US embassy, and time and again, all have yielded to pressures from Washington. Our independence has been described as merely "flag" independence.

The negotiations are, in truth, dealing with peripheral issues-- peripheral, that is, to the very question of our people's survival.

The overriding fact is that the continued presence of US bases on Philippine soil poses the real and imminent risk of inviting a nuclear holocaust that would mangle and mutilate this nation and its inhabitants beyond recognition.

That danger is real because the US is engaged today in a lethal power struggle with a nuclear adversary. A nuclear war is not mere speculation. It has become progressively imminent, as the armaments race and nuclear proliferation make abundantly clear. The presence of US bases ensures that, in a global war, we shall be an inescapable target of nuclear attack, just as, in 1941, these same bases automatically drew Japanese attack and subsequent occupation of our land.

It is said that the Philippines shall receive \$ 1 Billion or more in aid and military equipment for the bases. But no amount of aid and equipment can ever be enough payment for our people's safety and survival.

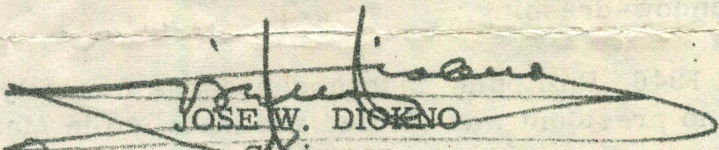
The CLUP demands that President Marcos stop the present negotiations and require that US bases be removed because they now constitute a clear and present danger to the lives of our people and our very national existence.

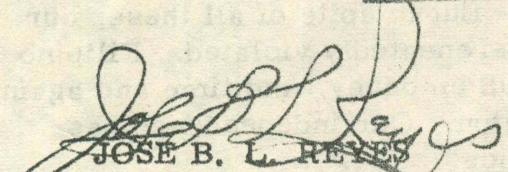
Should the US refuse to dismantle these bases, the CLUP demands that President Marcos abrogate all military agreements with the US, and bring the matter up before the United Nations, because the presence of these bases on Philippine soil would then be an act of belligerent occupation.

Makati, Rizal, November 30, 1977.

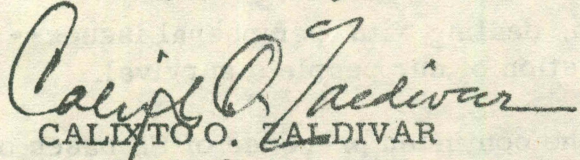
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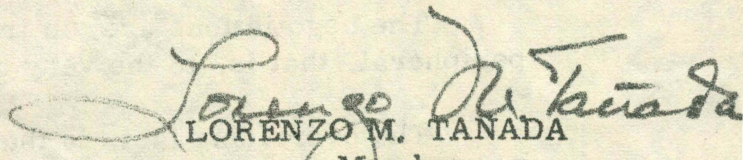
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