

CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF THE PHILIPPINES
12 Margarita St., Magallanes Village
Makati, Rizal
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RECALL U. S. AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN

On September 14, 1976, US Ambassador William H. Sullivan was reported to have said in a speech that "Filipino interests were not with developing countries (who are seeking better product prices through a common fund;" and that "the Philippines has to look toward accumulating capital through its own eyes and not through the eyes of other countries of the Third World."1/

The American Ambassador has not denied the remarks attributed to him. He made them in the course of a speech in which he predicted an "economic miracle" for the Philippines during the decade of the 1980's on condition that the country could raise \$19 billion in development capital "over and above what the Philippine export economy can earn", and that "the Philippines will have to look to private [foreign] inventors" for this capital.2/

Overt Interference In
Philippine Affairs

The Civil Liberties Union of the Philippines considers the remarks of the American Ambassador to be, not only an overt act of Interference in Philippine affairs, but an open attempt to incite the Filipino people against a declared and announced policy of the government.

CLU Stand

The CLU is opposed to martial law. It believes that the martial law regime is not a legal government, but at best a de facto government.³⁷

But the CLU also believes that martial law regime are Filipino problems that can and must be solved by the Filipino people without foreign intervention. No foreign government or representative of a foreign government has any business telling the Filipino people what to do.

Preview of Coming IMF Conference

The remarks of Ambassador Sullivan were made in obvious reference to, and criticism of, the position officially taken by the martial law regime on the proposal, advanced by the "Group of 77" at the Manila Meeting and in Nairobi, to establish a common fund to stabilize world market prices for primary commodities at satisfactory levels. They were also made in obvious disparagement of the general thrust of the declared Philippine policy to forge closer economic ties with the community of developing states, socialist and non-socialist alike, as a means of promoting the nation's internal development.

What the American Ambassador told his Philippine audience, in effect, was that the announced position of the government towards the Third World will prejudice the nation's development. His remarks are a preview of what we can expect from the coming IMF conference.

Undermining RP Foreign Policy

From the Ambassador's agitative and open defiance of a fundamental aspect of announced Philippine diplomacy, it becomes obvious that he is working actively to undermine, in the eyes of Filipinos, the announced efforts of the martial law government to steer an independent foreign policy.

CLU Condemns Sullivan Remarks

The CLU disagrees with the substance of Mr. Sullivan's remarks; but that is beside the point. The point is that, right or wrong, no foreign ambassador has the privilege--much less the right--to criticize, in a public speech in the Philippines, the foreign policy of the Philippine government, even if that government be merely a de facto government.

The CLU condemns Mr. Sullivan's remarks. They are an unpardonable breach of the hospitality the Philippine government has accorded him, and a gratuitous insult not only to Philippine sovereignty, but to the Filipino people; for Mr. Sullivan assumes that the Filipino people have such a colonial mentality that they will allow a foreign government to set Philippine foreign policy.

CLU Also Condemns Mr. Marcos's Silence

The CLU condemns, with equal force, the silence and the inaction of the martial law government on Mr.

Sullivan's remarks. Mr. Sullivan's speech was prominently called to public attention not only by newspaper reports on it but by critical comments of known columnists who spelled out its implications. Yet the martial law government, despite making so much of the "independence" of its foreign policy, has done nothing about Mr. Sullivan.

A Secret Understanding

The ominous silence of Mr. Marcos over the Sullivan speech, when linked to the sudden stilling of his previously vociferous demand for the removal of American bases from Philippine soil, are ample proof that there is a secret understanding between Mr. Marcos and the American government that the former does not mean a single word of his Third World diplomacy; that all this talk about an "independent foreign policy" is nothing more than sheer palabas (a mere show) at best, and, at worst, a contemptible attempt to play the role of America's trojan horse in the growingly restive community of developing nations, a restiveness directed primarily against the United States.

This can be the only reason why the American ambassador, official spokesman of his government, has had the unmitigated gall to tell the Filipino people that they should not take seriously the official pronouncements of the martial law government's new foreign policy.

Foreign Policy Cannot Be Independent
So Long As Economic Policy Is Subservient

The question at bottom is how we can have a truly independent foreign policy when the regime's domestic economic policies, characterized by give-aways to multinational companies and growing dependence on foreign loans, are themselves the embodiment of national subservience to western and Japanese interests.

If foreign policy is, as it should be, the extension of domestic policy, then the conclusion is inescapable that the self-described independence of the martial law regime's foreign policy is a sham, and that all its moves and all its talks supposedly intended to link the Philippines to the Third World merely reflect an American grand design to infiltrate the Third World with the purpose of diluting the latter's hard posture against U. S. domination with the sweet "moderation" and "reasonableness" of the Philippine view. No wonder the Philippines was denied membership in the Third World conference in Sri Lanka last August!

Demand Immediate Recall
Of Ambassador Sullivan

Let Mr. Marcos prove that there is no such secret understanding between him and the U. S. government. Let him take the only step consistent with his posture and with the nation's dignity: denounce Ambassador Sullivan; declare him persona non grata; and demand his immediate recall.

Makati, Rizal, Philippines, September 29, 1976.

CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
OF THE PHILIPPINES

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- 1/ Daily Express, September 14, 1976, p. 6.
2/ Ibid
3/ See "The State of the Nation after Three
Years of Martial Law", September 21, 1975;
"On the October 16, 1976 Referendum",
September 17, 1976.

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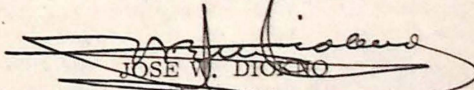
September 29, 1976

Hon. Carlos P. Romulo
Secretary of Foreign Affairs
Padre Faura, Manila

Sir :

In behalf and by authority of the Civil Liberties Union of the Philippines, I hereby furnish you with a copy of a public statement entitled "Recall U.S. Ambassador Sullivan" which the Union issued today.

Respectfully yours,


JOSE W. DIOKNO
Chairman

Note: A similar letter was sent to:

Office of the President
Malacañang Palace
Manila

Mr. William Sullivan
Ambassador of the United States
Manila

THE AMBASSADOR'S REPLY:

September 29, 1976

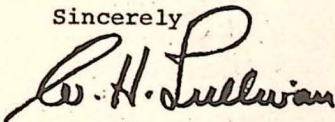
Dear Senator Diokno:

Thank you for sending me a copy of the statement issued by the Civil Liberties Union entitled "Recall U.S. Ambassador Sullivan." I have read the document with interest.

The assumptions on which the statement is based are taken out of context and represent a distortion of the remarks which I made in a talk to a Rotary Club luncheon on September 13. It is true that I have not denied the remarks attributed to me, but it is also true that I do not make it a practice to comment on erroneous statements which appear in the press, either here in the Philippines or elsewhere.

The talk which I gave was not an interference in the internal affairs of the Philippines but rather an effort to indicate how the developed countries viewed the problems of development in the various countries of the Third World, and to suggest that the development problems of the Philippines were different from the problems faced by some of the less favored nations.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. H. Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being more prominent than the middle initial.

William H. Sullivan
Ambassador