

New Yalta cult prepares U.S. abandonment of Philippines

by Linda de Hoyos

The degree of international pressures now being brought to bear to force the overthrow of Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos has not been matched since the similarly orchestrated campaign to overthrow the Shah of Iran in 1979. Over the period of the voting and vote count for the Feb. 7 presidential elections, the Philippines has been subjected to intense interference from those international oligarchical circles who are determined that the Philippines—like Iran in 1979—is to be sacrificed to the New Yalta deal with the Soviet Union.

It is no accident that among the leading operatives in the campaign against President Marcos and his government has been William Sullivan, the former ambassador to the Philippines, as well as to Iran during the last days of the Shah, who told the CBS "Morning News" Feb. 9: "*The facts as they emerge are becoming increasingly irrelevant because it's the perception that prevails both in the Philippines and, I think, internationally, that Mrs. Aquino won the election as far as the polling places were concerned, but the government, in the tabulation, changed the vote counts.*"

Leading with the British press and the U.S. media, headed by the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times*, the New Yalta appeasement faction has fired all its guns to stampede the international community—and especially President Ronald Reagan and the American people—into the "perception" that Aquino did win the elections, and that the re-elected Marcos government is illegitimate.

The facts are to the contrary—as anyone who has actually visited the Philippines recently will attest. President Marcos is not a "hated dictator," in the Philippines at least. As a member of the U.S. Federal Election Commission who worked with the pro-Aquino watchdog committee to tighten the election laws and who has toured throughout the country, stated Feb. 7: "If this were the purest, most squeaky clean

election in the world, Marcos would win with no problem. . . . The KBL [ruling New Movement Society party] machine is by no means collapsed. It is a political machine that works and it reaches to every village and town in the country. Any fraud that does occur will not be fatal to what the Filipino people want."

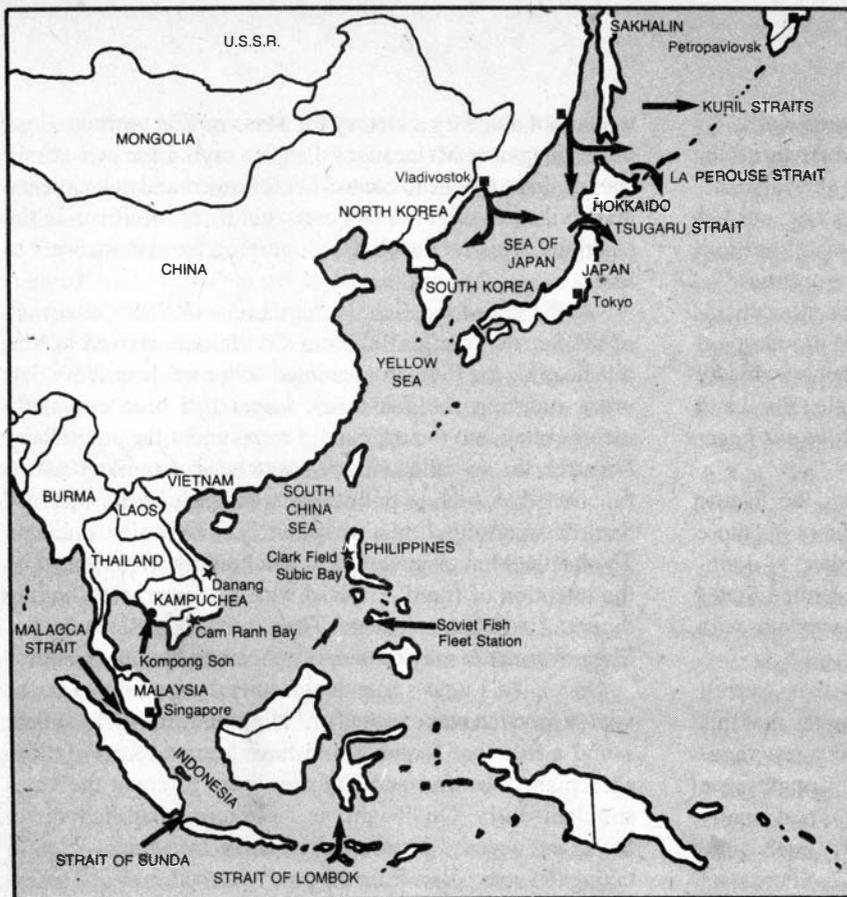
This is a reality that even the State Department desk would concede. On election day, desk officer William Harben told *EIR*, "The KBL is pretty effective at delivering the vote. But she did give him a close race."

But, one week later on Feb. 14, Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, declared in a letter to President Reagan: "The Philippine people want President Marcos out and they have elected Corazon Aquino." Nunn told Reagan to "issue a notification that U.S. aid to the Philippines will be terminated if the will of the Philippine people, as expressed by the ballot box, is not followed."

The strategic stakes

The withdrawal of support for the Shah of Iran, orchestrated by William Sullivan from Teheran, opened the gates for the coming to power of the Ayatollah Khomeini, the obliteration of American military presence in the country, and the transformation of Iran into a deadly tool for Moscow against the United States.

In the Philippines, the objective of the withdrawal of support from the Marcos government—in violation of the national sovereignty of the Philippines—is to pave the way, not for the rise to power of Aquino, but for civil war. Then, against the will of the Filipino and American people, the American bases at Clark Field and Subic Bay are to be withdrawn, in conformity with the New Yalta plan to hand the Eurasian land mass and Africa over to Moscow's hegemony.



As the map shows, the nation of the Philippines is right at the crossroads between the Indian Ocean and Pacific Oceans, at the center of the South China Sea. Before 1978, the Soviets had no presence whatsoever on the South China Sea—a crucial link in the supply line to Japan. Now they have bases at Cam Ranh Bay and Danang in Vietnam, and at Kompong Son in Kampuchea facing the Gulf of Thailand, and in key positions to block the Malacca and Lombok Straits. Were the U.S. bases at Clark Field and Subic Bay to be removed, the Soviets would have full hegemony over the South China Sea, by default, leaving the United States' other allies in Southeast Asia and Northeast Asia vulnerable and over-exposed to Soviet deployment.

On ABC's "Nightline" Feb. 5, President Marcos explained to the American people the necessity for the U.S. strategic bases in the Philippines: "I've always maintained that those bases are needed by the two governments and probably by Asia itself, if not the world. You cannot project your naval and air power beyond the South China Sea, as well as to the Indian Ocean and the Hormuz Straits in the Middle East, without those bases. And we also recognize that Asian countries may be in danger, if the balance of military power were not maintained between the two superpowers. And therefore, the ultimate and noble purpose of all of this is to maintain that military balance in order that we can avoid war in Asia. This is to the advantage of not only the United States and the Philippines, but the advantage of all Asia, and perhaps all of the Middle East, Europe, and perhaps the world."

President Reagan amplified on this strategic overview during his televised press conference Feb. 11: "One cannot minimize the importance of those bases, not only to us but to the Western world and certainly to the Philippines themselves. If you look at the basing now of the blue-ocean navy that the Soviets have built, which is bigger than ours, and how they have placed themselves to be able to intercept the 16 chokepoints in the world. There are 16 passages in the world, sea passages, through which most of the supplies and the raw materials and so forth reaches not only ourselves but our allies in the Western world. And obviously the plan, in case of any kind of hostilities, calls for intercepting and closing those 16 chokepoints. And we have to have bases so

that we can send forces to reopen those channels. I don't know anything that's more important than the bases on the Philippines."

Nevertheless, it has become the cry of the U.S. media that the bases are to be forfeited in the name of "democracy." *Washington Post* columnist Richard Cohen stated the New Yalta political gambit most succinctly Feb. 11: "The U.S. bases at Clark Field and Subic Bay are *not vital*, but they are important. Still, it would be better to abandon them than fight the Philippine people in the cause of despotism [emphasis added]."

Congress was already taking the appropriate steps. During the elections, Rep. Ron Dellums (D-Calif.) headed a five-man congressional delegation to the Philippines and Guam to study how to shift the location of the U.S. bases. On Feb. 13, Senate Majority Leader Sen. Robert Dole (R-Kan.) reported that he would propose legislation requiring the Defense Department to study the feasibility of moving Clark Air Force Base and the Subic Bay Naval Station in Luzon, Philippines to another location. "There's going to be some unrest in that country, and I think we ought to be prepared in any event."

This view has now gained hegemony in U.S. policy circles, with the exception of Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, President Reagan, and the National Security Council. The New Yalta doctrine that dictates this policy was stated clearly enough by William Sullivan in his autobiography, *Obligato: Notes on a Foreign Service Career*. Sullivan explains: "Most of the American public failed to understand

that much of our postwar paramountcy was artificial. . . . *Our apparent hegemony was destined to be of short duration, unless our leaders sought to perpetuate it unrealistically.* . . . We were, as a nation, deliberately reducing our hegemony and shrinking our international responsibilities to a scope more commensurate with our national capabilities.”

Or, again: “Our foreign policy during the decades considered . . . will ultimately be seen not as a series of rearguard actions by cohorts defending against assaults upon a jealously guarded empire, but rather as a constant struggle to find and develop worthy heirs to handle *those elements of our hegemony we no longer wished to dominate.*”

Western Europe, Africa, the Middle East, the Pacific theater—and the Philippines—fall into that category of “those elements of our hegemony we no longer wished to dominate.” Or, as Henry Kissinger put it in 1983: United States hegemony must be reduced to 25% of its postwar extent, with Moscow as the “worthy heir.”

Sullivan, a protégé of financier and diplomat Averell Harriman, long known as a Soviet appeaser, notes that this is the view shared by “at most never more than a few thousand” who “*were deployed* in the Cabinet and Congress, in the Armed Forces, in the Foreign Service, and occasionally in such private areas as the press; and we knew each other through mutual association or by reputation. . . . There is no doubt that we dominated the execution of our country’s international affairs during those middle four decades of this century. . . . My purpose . . . is not to extoll *our cadre of centurions* or even to try to explain *our cult* [emphasis added].”

It is this cult, with its mobilized minions in the press, that is orchestrating the campaign to brainwash the American people and President Reagan to acquiesce to the United States’ abandonment of the Philippines.

The perception game

From the very beginning, the Feb. 7 elections were shaped by the “perception game”—an effort by President Marcos to prove to the American people that he indeed enjoys the support of the Filipino people, as attested to by every poll that has ever been carried out, including that of the opposition Bishops Businessmen Council. The election was played out in the media in the United States as much as in the Philippines, as Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.) alleged Marcos plundering of millions of dollars into U.S. real estate, and then with new charges against President Marcos’s record as a war hero. This smear campaign was not effective in the Philippines—for which it was not designed—but in the United States. Solarz led the drumbeat that unless the presidential elections were “credible,” the United States should cut military and economic aid to the country.

The perception game was drastically escalated in the final week before voting day. On Feb. 5, Corazon Aquino announced in her flat monotone voice on ABC’s “Nightline” that she would win by a landslide, and proclaimed that she

would not abide by a victory for Marcos. She vowed to lead protests against Malacanang Palace, saying she was afraid she would be unable to control her followers and that violence and civil strife might in fact break out in the aftermath of the elections. This set the climate for crying fraud if she were to lose.

At the same time, Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, arrived in Manila heading the Reagan-appointed “observer team.” By Saturday morning (Manila time), Lugar had been completely incorporated into the opposition camp under the umbrella of Namfrel, the so-called citizen’s watchdog committee which functioned as Aquino pollwatchers throughout the vote. By Saturday morning, Lugar was publicly charging on American TV that the Marcos government was holding up the vote with the intention of fraud. “I plead with whoever is holding up the count to free it, to let it go. The vote has been slowed. . . . The government may be deeply concerned with the results.”

In reality, Lugar’s friends at Namfrel were holding up the vote, a *fact* that was exposed on “Nightline” the night of Feb. 7 and a *fact* that Lugar would have known. According to agreement, Namfrel and Comelec were to count the votes simultaneously. On “Nightline,” Comelec chairman Victor Savellano accused Namfrel’s chairman José Concepcion of taking the vote tallies from the precincts in Manila and sitting on them for hours—depriving Comelec of the tallies. On the basis of these tallies, the Namfrel issued its projection of an Aquino victory. Concepcion, also on “Nightline,” did not dispute the facts of Savellano’s charge.

Not only did the government not “slow down” the vote—Lugar’s Namfrel did. Yet, after this episode, “observer” Lugar said, “Now Namfrel is our eyes and ears.”

Then, on the basis of the skewed vote count released by Namfrel, giving Aquino the early lead, Aquino proclaimed that she had won the elections, and that in two to three days, she would begin negotiations with Marcos for “the transition.” If Marcos did not step down, Aquino stated, stepping right out of the constitutional process altogether, she would lead protests until he did.

By the night of Feb. 8 (Eastern Standard Time), a hoax swept the headlines: President Marcos was preparing to invalidate the elections, presumably because he had lost. The United States, news reports said, was preparing contingency plans to evacuate U.S. embassy personnel from Manila, denounce Marcos, and abandon the Philippines.

Meanwhile, for three days, Namfrel’s percentage of the vote count was well ahead that of Comelec’s, with Namfrel placing Aquino in the lead throughout. Then, abruptly, with only 66% of the vote tallied, Namfrel ceased issuing its count—as the pro-Marcos votes surged into Manila from the hinterlands. Namfrel charged that these votes were null and void, because Namfrel (that is, Aquino’s machine) had no pollwatchers in these areas.

These realities, however, did not stop Lugar and his cronies from crying from Manila that vote fraud was being

perpetrated by Marcos on an enormous scale, and that the elections were likely not "credible." Lugar even went so far as to state that the United States would have to reconsider its aid policy toward the Philippines.

By the morning of Feb. 11, however, Corazon Aquino emerged "grim-faced" to call upon the United States to force Marcos to step down, stating that "now we will learn who our real friends are." The following day, she made an "address to friends abroad"—especially those in Washington—to overturn "one of the most shameful electoral frauds ever perpetrated against a people in the name of democracy. Do not make the mistake, in the name of short-sighted self-interest, of coming to the support of a failing dictator."

She then called for civil war, with an "appeal to our brothers in the military and policy" to come to "the gallant defense of our peace."

From Washington, the press corps hounded White House spokesman Larry Speakes demanding to know what the United States would do to overthrow Marcos. NBC's Leslie Stahl even went so far as to ask if the United States would call in the Marines to overturn the "stolen" elections.

Reagan draws the line

By the night of Feb. 10, however, the signs began to surface that President Reagan was not being fooled by either Lugar or the press. In an interview with the *Washington Post*, Reagan issued a statement of neutrality in regards to the outcome of the elections, which was taken as a rejection of Aquino's bid for Marcos's violent overthrow. "What we want once the Filipino people have made their decision and a government has been chosen," the President said, "then we would like to have the same . . . historical relationship we've had with the people of the Philippines and with their government."

Reagan rejected the idea of "credible elections" as the key issue, saying: "I'm sure that . . . even in elections in our country, there are some evidences of fraud in places and areas, and I do not know the extent of this over there. But also, do we have any evidence that it's all been one-sided, or has this been sort of the election tactics that have been followed there?" He then applauded the emergence of a two-party system in the Philippines. In an interview the same day to a group of regional reporters, Reagan said that the outcome of the elections must not be determined in Washington, but in the Philippines.

The President reaffirmed this stance at his press conference Feb. 11, three times pushing back attempts to force him to withdraw support from a re-elected Marcos government.

According to a Feb. 14 Reuters wire, the President's remarks "were seen to set back the work of the State Department by two years." The U.S. embassy in Manila, said other reports, felt "undercut." There was "consternation" at the State Department. President Reagan's response to the Philippines elections "is evidence that the White House has been transformed into an opium den," Representative Solarz was

quoted as saying in the Feb. 11 *Wall Street Journal*: "They've lost all touch with reality."

By Feb. 12, the State Department and allied forces regrouped for the counterattack. When President Reagan refused to issue a State-composed "harshly worded statement" on the elections, he was pressed to accept their fallback option—sending Kissingerian diplomat Philip Habib to Manila as a personal envoy. Accompanying Habib, who arrived in the Philippines Feb. 15, is John Maisto, State Department desk officer whose ties to the opposition have been documented in detail.

On Feb. 14, the State Department issued its "Human Rights Report" charging the Marcos government with "serious violations."

In Manila, U.S. Ambassador Stephen Bosworth, who has come very close to being declared *persona non grata*, met with Corazon Aquino to reassure her that President Reagan's statements did not connote a withdraw of support from her—and presumably her calls for civil war.

From Washington also, the International Monetary Fund declared Feb. 12 that it was postponing sending a delegation to the Philippines. Mooting a credit freeze like that perpetrated when Benigno Aquino was killed in August 1983, the Fund declared that it would now scrutinize the "political situation" to see if any further funds would be released.

Taking the lead in official abandonment of the Philippines was the British Commonwealth's Australia. The Australian defense ministry, the *Sydney Herald* reported Feb. 12, was reviewing its aid policy to the Philippines. And from Rome, the Christian Democracy International sent a telegram to President Marcos demanding that he step down since he had clearly "stolen" the election.

In the Philippines itself, the Catholic Church under Cardinal Jaime Sin, the protector of the Theology of Liberation priests who originally created and today run the New People's Army, came to the fore to back Aquino's bid for civil war. The Bishops Conference Feb. 14 declared that if "such a government [elected by fraud and intimidation, the statement asserts] does not of itself freely correct the evil it has inflicted on the people then it is our serious moral obligation as a people to do so. . . . The way indicated to us now is the way of non-violent struggle."

In this wave of international opinion against the Marcos government, two nations have stated their total unconditional support for the Philippines: South Korea and Japan. On Feb. 10, Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone stated that Japan would support the Philippines no matter who is elected President. Two days later, Tokyo followed with a 3% interest loan to Manila. South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan issued a statement similar to Nakasone's. For these two American allies, it is the hard reality of a massive Soviet threat on the borders of their countries that counts. If the Philippines goes—as Sullivan's New Yalta cult are now projecting—the lifeline extending between Northeast Asia and the United States, will be fatally cut.