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**THE PEACE AND ORDER  
CONDITION IN THE PHILIPPINES  
----PAST AND PRESENT**

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## THE PEACE AND ORDER CONDITION IN THE PHILIPPINES—PAST AND PRESENT

### *Introduction*

Philippine Society by the middle of 1972 was in a state of turmoil. The extent of lawless violence had reached alarming proportion. Robberies, killings, kidnappings and daylight assaults were almost daily occurrences. Fear and anxiety became the emotion of the times. The situation had deteriorated to such a point that walking the streets at night time was a dangerous adventure. Gun-totting was prevalent. There was no way of distinguishing a law-abiding citizen from a criminal. The politicians have entrenched themselves in power by raising private armies which established the rule of the gun. Smuggling and illegal trafficking of drugs were rampant and accused criminals who were coddled by politicians walked in and out of court almost with impunity. Peace and order was at its lowest ebbs.

From June to September, the subversives no longer operated clandestinely but in the open, skillfully utilizing the mass media and the studentry as instruments for inciting mob actions. Two days before martial law was announced, the subversives and their allies in the media and studentry were calling on the masses to join their "cause" at Plaza Miranda in Manila. This was further aggravated by the increasing incidence of assassinations of public officials and prominent citizens perpetrated by criminal elements in many parts of the country.

In June, the Motor Vessel (M/V) "Karagatan" landed arms and ammunitions at Digoyo Point in Northern Luzon for the underground movement. By June also, the militant campus had developed into a critical mass. Riotous and violent demonstrations set the fuel to an academic insurrection. At one stage, the students converted the University of the Philippines into the "Diliman Enclave".

By mid-September, the politicians, media and the radical studentry indulged in an orgy of ferocious denunciations that undermined faith in the government.

This state of affairs had come to a point where a valid defense against the neurosis of a sick society and philosophies of blood and violence had to be availed of. So when martial law was declared on September 21, 1972, the conditions of anarchy were present in the Philippine society.

The crime situation and the attendant problems of subversion and activism and drug menace, from 1970 to 1974, including the measures taken to solve them are presented here in detail.

#### *The Problems of Lawlessness and Disorder (1970-1971)*

*The Crime Situation.*—During the two-year period immediately preceding the inception of the New Society, or during the 1970-71 period, to be precise, the average crime rate in the Philippines for all types of crimes, was 189.08 per year. For all "index crimes", the average was 105.02 for every 100,000 of the population.

The most predominant offenses among the "index crimes" were robbery and theft with an average rate of 55.83 per year, followed by physical injury with 28.08 and homicide and murder with 18.47. The other "index crimes" of parricide, kidnapping, rape and abduction, all taken together, had an average rate of 2.64 only.

The statistics cited above, however, depicted only a part of the crime picture because there were numerous criminal incidents which were not reported to the authorities.

*Subversion and Activism.*—In addition to crime, subversion also constituted a threat to peace and order in some sectors of the country. This threat cast a pall of gloom over our people since more than four decades ago. This situation took a varying twist of severity through the years. It assumed graver proportion in the early part of 1950 when the subversive leaders, believing that they had already acquired sufficient power, defied

the law by pillaging the countrysides. However, this threat was suppressed by the government with the support of the aroused and indignant segments of the citizenry. As a consequence, the subversives went underground for more than a decade until they resurfaced again in the later part of the 1960's. While the extent and intensity this time was not as serious as before, their modus operandi assumed a new direction. Aside from continuing to harass the rural folks in the isolated sectors of the country, they exploited the youth whose deep sense of nationalism was then at its feverish height. They subverted and provoked them to create disturbances in major urban centers of the country. Thus, in 1970 alone, about 300 demonstrations and rallies were conducted by the student and youth groups throughout the country, many of which were accompanied by violence.

Taking advantage of the freedom of expression for the furtherance of their cause, the subversives utilized the mass media in their psychological offensive to involve the uncommitted sectors in violent demonstrations. But instead of winning the support of these sectors, their violent mass demonstrations generated apprehension on the part of the uncommitted sectors, resulting in the alienation of the people they hoped to win over to their side.

The mass demonstrations and rallies, however, persisted on their upward trend in 1971. During the first five months alone, 126 were held as against 96 for the same period in 1970. Student casualties also increased. Not only did the number of mass protests increase, but the manner in which most of them were conducted became even more violent. Among the most destructive mass demonstrations held that year were the barricading of the University of the Philippines by the militant student groups and the Labor Day demonstration in front of the Congress of the Philippines. The most tragic incident perpetrated by the terrorists, however, was the bombing of a political rally at Plaza Miranda, Manila on August 21, 1971 in which prominent leaders, senatorial candidates and scores of

innocent civilians were killed and maimed. This incident hastened the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus by the President.

The suspension of the writ of habeas corpus was the product of a long and serious study. During the early part of 1971, the documents seized from the subversive organizations revealed a massive plan of assassination, kidnapping, arson and terrorism not only in the Greater Manila Area but in other major urban centers as well. But despite the evidence gathered tending to show the need for suspending the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, the same was not effected until after that infamous incident at Plaza Miranda on August 21, 1971. This move was intended to thwart the insidious movement of the subversives to create a state of anarchy in the country. The basis for the suspension of said writ was Article VII, Section 10 of the Constitution which states that:

"The President shall be commander-in-chief of all Armed Forces of the Philippines and whenever it becomes necessary, he may call out such armed forces to prevent or suppress lawless violence, invasion, insurrection, or rebellion. In case of invasion, insurrection, or rebellion, or imminent danger thereof, when the public safety requires it, he may suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, or place the Philippines or any part thereof under martial law."

With this suspension, the spread of terrorism to urban centers was abated. This resulted also in the arrest of some leaders of the subversive organizations from whom vital information on their organizations, plans and sources of logistics were obtained. The implementation, however, of the suspension of the privilege of the writ was carried out sparingly and liberally. Only those who were identified as genuine leaders were arrested, but they were treated with generosity.

Due to the pressures exerted on the President by some powerful groups, the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus was lifted on January 11, 1972.

*Drug Addiction.*—As early as 1965, the problems of narcotics and drug addiction posed a grave threat to the well-being of

the country. The problem came at a time when the country was least prepared to cope with the menace. This was aggravated by the fact that the government agency designated to combat the same was lamentably inadequate.

Statistics compiled by the National Bureau of Investigation revealed that there were about 7,000 hard-core addicts in the country in 1970. What was then considered disturbing was the tremendous increase in the number of young people involved in drug addiction. Several surveys conducted by agencies concerned with drug and narcotics addiction in the Greater Manila Area alone disclosed that about 60,000 students were drug abusers. This revelation about the increasing drug addiction among the young created much alarm since the victims were youngsters between 15 and 20 years old. The surveys also disclosed that most of the young drug users belonged to the below average income level; that about 46 percent of them were without employment; that about 80 percent were school "drop-outs"; that 95 percent became addicts due to curiosity, or association with addicts; and that 60 percent had criminal records.

But what caused much apprehension was that the problem had seeped into almost all strata of society. While most of the narcotics addiction cases during the pre-World War II period involved aliens, the surveys conducted during this two-year period showed that 99 percent of those apprehended were Filipinos. Where before, opium dens were located only within the dingy confines of the slum areas in Tondo, Manila, the campuses of both public and private schools in 1970 became the new haven for dope pushers. This menace had reached such a point that not only students were victimized by drug syndicates, but addicts, during this period, included hostesses, sidewalk vendors, drivers, proprietors, mechanics, laborers and even prison inmates.

This situation only served to aggravate the peace and order problems. Most of these addicts turned to crime to satisfy their pernicious habit. And it was established that subversives deliberately conveyed student activists to the habit to make them more docile and audacious allies and followers.

**The Programs.**—In dealing with those problems, the government based its program on the concept that all levels of the government and the private sectors must join hands to contain them. In accordance with this concept, the national government provided leadership, coordination, technical and financial assistance while the private sectors and the local government were requested to lend their resources in order to generate success and wider implementation of the programs. Among the projects initiated during the period was the creation of Provincial Anti-Crime Coordinating Council in every province. The functions given to the Council were: (1) to establish an integrated anti-crime drive within the territorial limits of the province which will involve the active participation of both the government and private sectors; (2) to promote a more affective utilization of available local government resources in the area in pursuing the drive; (3) to coordinate and facilitate cooperation among local police forces and the legal prosecuting arms of local governments in the execution of the drive; (4) to involve the participation and cooperation of civic, educational and religious organizations as well as the general public in the implementation of the programs; and (5) to recommend to the Peace and Order Coordinating Council of the National Government such measures as may be necessary to enhance the anti-crime campaign. The Provincial Anti-Crime Council is composed of the Provincial Governor, Provincial Fiscal and Division/City Superintendent of Schools, the Constabulary Provincial Commander, and two prominent civic leaders in the province. To sustain the momentum of the integrated approach in combating crime and other peace and order problems, a complementary project was initiated calling for the organization of a provincial strike force in each province capable of undertaking independent, fast and sustained action in combating armed bands (including the armed subversive groups), cattle rustlers, organized/syndicated offenders, and the province-wide pursuit of criminals, wanted persons and escapees from justice. It also served as a nucleus for bigger forces that were mobilized during emergency situations which posed serious threat to the peace and order condition in the province. The Constabulary

Unit in the province provided the base for the strike force. It was augmented by available members of the local police forces in the province.

The other major projects initiated during the period were:

1. The expansion and revitalization of the Philippine Constabulary Metropolitan Command to complement the efforts of the local police forces in coping with the law and order problems in the Greater Manila Area;
2. The establishment of a common emergency telephone reporting system in the Greater Manila Area to facilitate the citizens' call for police assistance;
3. The establishment of a reward system for the capture, arrest or surrender of wanted criminals/police characters and the seizure of loose/illegally possessed firearms;
4. The establishment of a system providing for the protection and security to government witnesses in criminal proceedings;
5. The organization in big police departments of a unit that could handle juvenile delinquency cases;
6. The crash training program for members of the local police forces;
7. The organization of Constabulary Task Forces in areas harassed by subversives;
8. The organization of Barrio Self-Defense Units in trouble-afflicted areas;
9. The organization of the Constabulary Anti-Narcotics Units to operate against violators of the anti-drug law and to assist in the rehabilitation of drug addicts;
10. The creation of the Citizens' Committee on Order and Justice in the Greater Manila Area;

11. The establishment of provincial law enforcement communication networks; and

12. The improvement of police equipment.

However, some of the major projects cited above were not fully realized. For instance, the creation of Provincial Anti-Crime Coordinating Council in every province and the organization in big police departments of a unit to handle juvenile delinquency cases were partially implemented due to excessive political intervention. On the other hand, the establishment of common emergency telephone reporting system and a reward system for the capture/arrest or surrender of wanted criminals were not also fully implemented due to insufficiency of funds.

#### *The Inception of the New Society (1972)*

*The Peace and Order Situation*—Despite the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus on August 21, 1971, the incidence of crime, subversion and the drug menace continued to create an atmosphere of constant peril, violence and terror. In the Greater Manila Area, for instance, the situation had reached the point where most of its residents were forced to limit their movement outside their homes. Kidnapping, murder, robbery, violent demonstrations and illegal trafficking of narcotics proliferated almost beyond the capability of the police. As a result, the crime rate during this year rose to 201.23, or 12.15 percent over the average crime rate registered during the 1970-71 period. The crime of robbery and theft increased by 10.5 percent, physical injury by 3.3 percent, kidnapping by 60 percent, while murder and homicide remained at a high level.

Compounding further the peace and order problems was the fear created by the increasing harassment of the rural folks by the subversives complexed by the growing violent demonstrations by subversive-inspired youth organizations in metropolitan areas. The situation became so serious that public centers such as cinema houses, markets, restaurants, entertainment places and many shopping centers suffered economic dislocations due to lack of sufficient patronage.

The increase in the extent and intensity of violent activities had been attributed to the increasing number of subversive organizations and in the number of its mass base. From 1970 to the first half of 1972, the number of one militant youth organization alone increased by 58.5 percent, while the subversive mass base had gone up by 100 percent. In spite of these, however, the overriding consideration which compelled the government to take drastic and decisive step was the attempt of the subversives to shift its movement to open armed confrontation with the government. This attempt, however, was forestalled when a shipload of arms and other military hardwares was intercepted and seized by government forces shortly after it landed on July 4 to 5, 1972 at an isolated place in the northern seaboard of the country. Notwithstanding this setback, the subversive and their front organizations continued to strengthen and broaden systematically their membership through coercion, threats, intimidations, deceit, violence and other model of terrorism. Realizing the clear and present danger posed by these acts to the political, social and economic security of the country, the President, in pursuance of the powers vested in him by the Constitution, placed the country under martial law on September 21, 1972. The government was compelled to adopt this decisive measure to save the nation from disaster arising from impending total anarchy, to maintain law and order, to prevent or suppress all forms of lawless violence, to eliminate graft and corruption and to develop national discipline among the people, or in short, to develop a New Society in the Philippines.

The martial law setting, however, was unique in the sense that there was no military takeover of the government. The President continued to exercise the powers vested in him by law. The civil courts remained in operation. However, Congress was temporarily suspended and its legislative function was assumed by the President.

*Measures Taken to Safeguard Peace and Order*—In order to attain the ends for which martial law was proclaimed, the first

act of the President was to cause the arrest and holding of the following until otherwise released by him, or his duly authorized representative:

1. Those who have committed crimes against the national security and laws of nations;
2. Those who may have committed the crime of usurpation of authority;
3. Those who may have committed the crimes of kidnapping, robbery, carnaping, smuggling, gunrunning, trafficking in prohibited drugs, and hijacking;
4. Those who may be engaged in price manipulation to the prejudice of the public;
5. Those who may have evaded the payment of their tax obligations to the government;
6. Such government employees who may have committed the crime of bribery and other corrupt practices;
7. Such persons who may have committed crimes as public officers;
8. Those who may have committed crimes against public morals;
9. Those who may have committed the crimes of forgeries;
10. Those who may have committed crimes relative to opium and other prohibited drugs;
11. Those who may have committed frauds and illegal exactions;
12. Those who may have committed crimes against liberty;
13. Those who may have violated any provision of the "Dangerous Drug Act of 1972"; and
14. Those who may be found in possession of prohibited bladed weapons.

This measure not only yielded the desired result of preserving national security and political stability, but also enabled the government to overhaul the complacent bureaucracy, restore law and order, and break up the economic stranglehold of the old oligarchy. It also paved the way for the development of national discipline among the citizenry.

The next step taken by the government was the prohibition to stage rallies, demonstrations and other forms of group actions, including strikes throughout the country which used to sap much of the energy of law enforcement agencies. This was followed by the promulgation of a law limiting the possession of firearms by qualified individuals to one low-powered handgun and one shotgun or .22 caliber rifle and at the same time prohibiting the carrying of the same outside the residence without a duly authorized permit. This statute led to the immediate dismantling of the "private armies of the politicians which for years served as the principal weapon of coercion and terrorism to perpetuate themselves in power. This also reduced to a considerable degree the volume of violent crimes committed with the use of firearms.

Since Martial Law, 529,297 firearms have been collected. The collection of over 500,000 of these foreign and locally made firearms was achieved in a very short span of two (2) months under this emergency. This is a very glaring contrast to the many years of often fruitless sacrifices of our government and the turmoil and despair our people had to endure in the almost impossible task of loose firearms collection. In the old society, no more than four firearms were gathered per day. At that snail's pace, it would have taken our government through the Philippine Constabulary no less than 400 years or until 2373 A.D. to collect the total loose firearms collected to date.

The other significant projects initiated during this year were:

- (1) The development of discipline among the people;
- (2) The strengthening of the local police forces by weeding out the misfits;

(3) The shortening of the process of conducting preliminary investigation of criminal cases to speed up the administration of justice; and

(4) The decongestion of the national prisons by establishing regional prisons.

To cope with the increasing menace posed by prohibited drugs, the Dangerous Drug Act of 1972 was enacted. In essence, this law provided for an integrated approach in the prevention and control of drug abuse through community information and preventive education, law enforcement, threatment and rehabilitation of addicts, and manpower training and research. This law was later amended by the President to give more "teeth" to it. The most stringent provision of the law calls for the imposition of the death penalty for any individual found guilty of illegally manufacturing prohibited drugs as well as illegally selling or administering any of such drugs which subsequently causes the death of the recipient.

The stern impact of this law was felt when a Chinese was sentenced to death after he was found guilty of manufacturing heroin. The consequent residue of this action contributed to the elimination of the illicit processing of dangerous drugs.

*The Peace and Order Condition Under the New Society (1973-1974)*

*The Crime Situation.*—During the two-year period immediately following the declaration of martial law and the inception of the New Society, the level of crime had gone down considerably. This was particularly so with respect to murder and homicide whose rate was reduced by 60 percent compared with the average rate registered for the 1970-71 period. The rate for crime against property also dropped by 8.5 percent while "other crimes" was reduced by 5 percent.

With the improvement of the criminogenic condition in the country, the people were able to move about again in relative safety. Their social mobility was greatly enhanced. From the

socio-cultural standpoint, the people once more experienced fuller and richer lives with most of the obstacles to effective social transformation substantially eliminated. From the economic standpoint, the country's economy acquired the momentum that triggered off mounting economic progress. The improved situation, likewise, motivated the people for mature participation in the political democratic processes.

*Subversion and Activism.*—The timely imposition of martial law on September 21, 1972 created confusion among the subversives and militant youth. Shortly after the round-up of the identified members of the subversive organizations, their agitation-propaganda activities were curtailed to a significant degree. Those who were able to elude the law took refuge in the far-flung countrysides. But, in the early part of 1973, the student activists started again their politicalization activities among the rural folks. Those who remained in the metropolitan areas engaged in clandestine recruitment activities. Thus, in 1974 the number of radical organizations increased to 217.

However, with the cooperation and support given by the general masses to the New Society, the government was able to prevent the growth of an effective propaganda and organizational machine of the subversive movement. The other factor which had won many subversives to the government side was the granting of amnesty to those who violated the anti-subversion law. As a result of the granting of such amnesty, those who were detained after the declaration of martial law were released with the exception of those facing charges other than for the violation of the anti-subversion law. Many of those who fled to the hills took advantage of the offer, and took their oath of loyalty to the New Society.

*Drug Addiction.*—After the advent of the New Society the menace of narcotics started to diminish. Illicit trafficking of prohibited drugs had also been reduced. As a result, the quantities of narcotics seized by law enforcement dropped sharply during the 1973-74 period. Similarly, the number of drug dependents was reduced by 70 percent compared with the hardcore addict population registered in 1970.



The success of the campaign against the illicit use of drugs and narcotics addiction could be attributed to several counter-measures, among which were the integrated approach of preventive education, law enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation; the stringent penal provisions for violation of the Dangerous Drug Act; close collaboration with the ASEAN, Colombo Plan Bureau, the United Nations Agency concerned with the control of drug abuse, Interpol and other international agencies involved in activities related to the control of dangerous drugs; the propaganda of the sense of national discipline among the people; and the sustained campaign waged against all persons and/or entities dealing in prohibited drugs.

*The Strategies*—There are a number of factors that have made possible the reduction of crimes, the elimination of violent activism, the abatement of subversive activities and the bringing down to a low level the incidence of narcotics and drug addiction in the country. One of them, and this is considered basic to all efforts, is the development of discipline among the people. Towards this end, the government has instituted relevant measures aimed at instilling a strong sense of belonging among the people, a determination to sacrifice for the national good and establishing a rule of conduct that will mean survival under the most trying national circumstances. It is, in essence, making the people conscious of their obligations to the government and to society. The present Philippine Constitution has set down in a four-section article the duties and obligations of citizens. The first section makes it a citizen's duty "to be loyal to the Republic, to defend the state and contribute to its development and welfare, to uphold the Constitution and obey the laws, and to cooperate with the duly-constituted authorities in the attainment and preservation of a just and orderly society." The second reminds the individual citizen that his rights impose upon him "the correlative duty to exercise them responsibly and with regard for the rights of others." Section 3 obligates the citizen to engage "in gainful work to assure himself and his family a life worthy of human dignity."

And the last makes it "an obligation of every citizen qualified to vote to register and cast his vote."

Another factor which proves useful in the successful prosecution of the various programs of the government, is the involvement of the citizens through the "barangay," or community in the campaign against lawlessness, criminality and other forms of civil disturbances. The underlying considerations arrive at to involve the "barangays" as an instrument in carrying out this strategy are: (1) that crimes occur mostly in the barangays; (2) that those persons or groups directly affected by criminal disorders reside in the barangays, and (3) that those individuals and groups who have the greatest impact on the problem and its solutions also reside at the barangay level of our social organization. Since crime is a community, or "barangay" problem, it must be solved at the community level. Following this premise, a presidential decree was issued making all barangay leaders throughout the country responsible in helping the law enforcement agencies in the maintenance of peace and order in their respective zones.

Tremendous effort is also being exerted for the sustained collection of loose firearms and the effective control of the possession and carrying of the same. The job of keeping peace and order in the country was extremely difficult to pursue during the pre-martial law days simply because of the big number of loose firearms in the hands of criminal elements. Since the imposition of martial law, a total of 529,297 firearms has already been collected by the law-enforcement agencies. Most of these firearms were collected from the "private armies" of the politicians.

There is also the constant checking of the "backsliding" practices of government officials and members of the law-enforcement agencies to completely rid the government of graft and corruption. Before the advent of the New Society, massive graft and corruption reeked throughout the country. This condition spawned a vast network of lawlessness and criminality,

the public dimension of which was, indeed, very alarming. With the inception of the New Society, the President immediately dismissed 40,000 employees from the government services for inefficiency and dishonesty. This step restored the faith and confidence of the people in the government. For, indeed, the demand of the times is a norm of conduct that could only be achieved by good example and purposive leadership.

Hand in hand with the foregoing strategies is the strengthening of the machineries of the criminal justice system—the police, prosecution, courts and corrections. In the field of police work, for instance, the government initiated the total integration of the police forces throughout the country. This move eliminated the ruinous and pernicious problem of inter-agency rivalry and competition, resulting in the improvement of police efficiency and capability in the suppression of crime.

In the field of prosecution, the government took the necessary step of shortening the process of conducting the preliminary investigation so as to speed up the administration of justice without, however, sacrificing fairness. As a consequence, this step facilitated the preliminary investigation of criminal cases, resulting in an appreciable decongestion of the dockets of the prosecution offices.

The judicial set-up was also revamped in pursuance of the provisions of the new Constitution by transferring the administrative supervision of the lower courts to the Supreme Court. In addition, a law was promulgated which enjoins the courts to decide cases within a definite period of time from the date of submittal so as to minimize delay in the adjudication of pending cases. And lately, a new Judiciary Code of the Philippines is being promulgated in order to elevate the standards of the legal profession and make the judicial processes in the country more effective, efficient and just, an objective essential in the prevention of crime.

In the sphere of corrections, there are a number of on-going projects and studies, chief among which are the establishment

of an adult probation system, establishment of regional prisons; improvement of the rehabilitation programs of the national prisons; standardization of prison policies, management and training; and the integration of all prisons/corrections/jails for sentenced prisoners under the Bureau of Prisons.

In addition to the major programs mentioned above, there are other strategies formulated to enhance the maintenance of peace and order. These are: (1) the strengthening of the Philippine Constabulary; (2) the development of the private security guard agencies into effective auxiliaries of the police in the prevention of crime; (3) improving the efficiency of the national and local anti-narcotics units through training and modernization of equipment; (4) the formulation of a national crime prevention program; and (5) the establishment of a national crime information system.

With these, together with the other relevant undertakings initiated since 1970, the New Society is meeting the challenge of crime and lawlessness.

### *Conclusion*

The year 1972 marked the beginning of a purposive, concerted action for national progress, the beginning of our national metamorphosis. The birth of the New Society has, to a significant degree, enabled the government to check massive graft and corruption in the entire governmental machinery; minimize lawlessness, the drug menace and subversive activities; eliminate the inefficient and corrupt from the public service and break up the stranglehold of a defective political system which spawned widespread lawlessness and criminality. These constitute the chief obstacles to Philippine progress.

The vital reforms initiated by the government particularly in the maintenance of peace and order have brought about significant changes in the profile of a nation once wracked by traumatic crises. Today, law and order in every nook and corner of the land has vastly improved, except in some portions in

the southern part of the country where a small minority is agitating for a new political set-up. The restoration of social order and political stability has assured a higher degree of continuity in prosecuting long-term programs for economic growth. The character of our social, economic and political institutions has been restructured to meet the pressing needs of national development. Freed from the evil forces of lawless violence and immorality, chaos and despair, graft and corruption, the Philippines is now talked about all over the world as Asia's next economic miracle.

The wind of change now sweeping across the Philippine Archipelago has shown that peace and progress are inseparable. Prosperity is possible only in a period of peace. The economy continues to show strength because nation-building has become a program of faith among all sectors of society. Discipline has become a way of life. And the people have proved themselves equal to every challenge of the New Society.

The Philippines has, in barely three years, become a nation transformed.

**END**

*7 11/15/1986*