



Students at the University of the Philippines protesting the assassination of Benigno S. Aquino Jr.

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# INQUIRY ON AQUINO UNCOVERS LITTLE

## In His First Detailed Account, Police Investigator Admits Finding Few Answers

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MANILA, Aug. 26 — The chief police investigator assigned to the assassination of Benigno S. Aquino Jr. gave the first detailed account of his inquiry today. He acknowledged, however, that he had no firm answers for nearly every key question in the case.

Five days after the slaying of the leading opposition figure, he said, it still was not known who the assassin was, how he had broken through a supposedly tight security net, how he had determined exactly where to position himself and what his motive had been. Again and again, the police official, Maj. Gen. Prospero A. Olivas, prefaced his statements with the disclaimer, "I am not in a position to say."

With the Government of President Ferdinand E. Marcos under pressure, notably from the United States, to conduct a thorough inquiry, the pace of the investigation has become an issue. General Olivas said he was working without a timetable and did not know when he would be finished.

His findings, it appeared, would have to be turned over to a special commission studying the slaying last Sunday of Mr. Aquino, who was shot to death as he left an airliner that had brought him home after three years of exile in the United States.

### Eight Bullet Wounds

The purported assailant was killed moments later by security guards, and suffered what General Olivas today described as "eight clear-cut bullet wounds" as well as an unspecified number of "grazing wounds." The assassin's body has undergone two autopsies, it was disclosed today, but the specific reason for the second one was not known.

General Olivas said the chief of airport security, Brig. Gen. Luthur Custodio, had been confined to quarters while the investigation is under way. On Thursday it was reported that the 14 soldiers who were part of the Aquino security detail had also been questioned and ordered confined but it was not clear whether this was a routine procedure or whether they were under suspicion.

Tonight, for the first time since the slaying, a major opponent called for President Marcos's resignation.

Former Senator Jose W. Diokno said

that "the Government itself created a climate of fear and insecurity that has bred crimes of violence" and that the "only way out of the morass" was for the President and other high officials to step down.

### A Weak Political Base

What effect this appeal would have was not clear. Mr. Diokno's political base is weak and he is to the left of the moderate politicians who form the core of organized opposition to Mr. Marcos.

However, the former senator is one of the country's most respected human rights advocates and has an appreciable following, especially among youths and labor unions.

While there was no sign of immediate danger for the Marcos Government, emotions created by the assassination continued to percolate today.

The most visible manifestation was the long lines of Filipinos waiting to view Mr. Aquino's open coffin, which lay in the nave of a Roman Catholic church in the Manila suburb of Quezon City. Thousands of people formed lines that stretched several blocks from the church, and although some were simply curiosity seekers, all of them nonetheless came prepared to wait for up to an hour in broiling heat.

There was also a demonstration by about 800 students on the suburban campus of the University of the Philippines.

The possible political benefits of the killing have not been lost on the anti-Marcos forces, and the body will be given the widest display. Saturday

morning it will be transported north to Mr. Aquino's native province, Tarlac. The funeral, in Manila, is not expected until next Tuesday, nine days after the assassination. Both events are likely to draw large crowds.

In discussing his investigation at a lengthy news conference this afternoon General Olivas said that, while no motive for the killing had been established, he believed that unnamed opponents of Mr. Marcos had the most to gain. This was a theory also suggested by the President this week.

"The Philippine Government, of course," stood to lose the most, the general said, while beneficiaries would be those wanting to "destabilize the situation."

### Lack of Progress in Inquiry

Underscoring the apparent lack of great progress in the inquiry, General Olivas said that the murder weapon had been identified as an American-made .357-caliber revolver, but that its ownership had not been traced to later than Sept. 25, 1970, when it was shipped from the United States to a trading

company in Bangkok.

One of the larger questions has been how the airport security detail — and the assassin, for that matter — knew exactly which plane was carrying Mr. Aquino home when the Government had been insisting that it had no advance knowledge of his arrival plans.

General Olivas said that officials knew the approximate time, and so arranged to have every plane landing at Manila International Airport about then boarded by security guards. These guards moved from plane to plane in a van, he said, and suggested that the assassin had observed this vehicle and then leaped out from cover when he thought the right airliner had been found.

Film footage taken by the Government-owned television station showed the plane taxiing to the gate, and then it cut to shots of Mr. Aquino and his presumed assailant lying mortally wounded on the ground. General Olivas said he did not know if film existed of the intervening sequences — the actual shootings. If there was footage, he said, he did not know what had become of it.