

# Manila Links Assailant to Plot on Marcos

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MANILA, Dec. 8—The Philippine Government charged in a statement tonight that the man who stabbed the wife of President Ferdinand E. Marcos yesterday had been part of a long-standing conspiracy aimed at killing both Mr. and Mrs. Marcos.

The statement, read over television by the Information Secretary, Francisco S. Tatad, said the attack marked the eighth time plotters had tried to kill either the President or Mrs. Marcos since early 1970.

Mr. Tatad asserted that the intention of the plotters in striking at Mrs. Marcos alone might have been to provoke the President into blind, destructive anger "and ultimately make him and his office meaningless to the very people who have given him support." This will not happen, the Secretary declared.

The statement reaffirmed a commitment to the aims and programs of the martial-law regime President Marcos established on Sept. 21 with the stated purposes of seeking justice and social equality.

Mrs. Marcos was slashed and cut by an assailant who lunged at her with a foot-long dagger as she was awarding prizes in a televised civic beautification contest. She parried his blows so that they fell on her arms and hands. Her attacker was hauled down by bystanders and then shot to death by a security guard.

Mrs. Marcos suffered deep injuries that severed tendons in her arms and fingers but is resting well in a city hospital

and is in danger now only from infection.

Dr. Robert A. Chase, a specialist in hand surgery from the Stanford University Medical School, is expected to arrive here to help Filipino medical men. He is coming at the instance of President Nixon.

The body of Mrs. Marco's attacker was claimed by relatives.

There were no signs of special security precautions. President Marcos, who flew to the hospital by helicopter yesterday, spent the night and most of the day there.

Mr. Marcos said at the hospital that the attack had made him and his wife all the more resolved to push forward with his reform program. He said that when he embarked on it two months ago with the declaration of martial law, "we knew we had to pay a price, but I cannot forgive myself that it had to be her to pay such a price."

The Government statement did not use the phrase "rightist conspiracy" to which the President and his spokesmen have given much publicity in recent weeks, but it was clear that the broadcast was attributing the attack to the same rightist group charged with plotting the assassination of the President.

No names have been mentioned officially, but Mr. Marcos has said that persons who have been detained and questioned have admitted the existence of such a group. He has said that before he established

martial law and began a severe crackdown on subversive elements, the plotters wanted to assassinate him to take power and fight Communism because they felt his Government was weak and would fall.

The President has said that he has not decided whether to prosecute those he suspects of being in the rightist conspiracy but that his inclination is not to do so since it would only cause bitterness and increase division.

The statement said that the plotters "will persist in the belief that their control of government can only be founded on the death of the President" and that they will continue their conspiracy until it is fully liquidated — a statement that seems to presage stern governmental measures.



*Associated Press*

**President Ferdinand E. Marcos comforting his wife, the former Imelda Romualdez, in a hospital in Manila after she received treatment on Thursday for knife wounds.**