

# Wife of President of Philippines Is Stabbed and Her Assailant Slain

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MANILA, Dec. 7 — A man in a dark suit drew a foot-long dagger and stabbed the wife of President Ferdinand E. Marcos today as she was presiding at a ceremony.

Mrs. Marcos, though her wound required 75 stitches, was not gravely injured. Her assailant was shot to death on the spot. His identity has not yet been established.

The attack came as Mrs. Marcos was presenting awards to winners of a national beautification and cleanliness contest. Two other participants in the ceremony, Congressman Jose Aspiras and Linda Amor Robles, secretary of the beautification campaign, grappled with the attacker and were injured.

Mr. Aspiras had a deep head wound and Miss Robles a deep wound in the back. The secretary, a 22-year-old employe of the Education Department, was carried from the scene, the Nayong Filipino, a group of structures set up near the international airport to show traditional Filipino architectural styles.

Mrs. Marcos, 42, the former Imelda Romualdez, was taken by helicopter to the Makal Medical Center, where she was reported to be resting well. Her condition was described as "safe."

The Philippines Secretary of Information, Francisco S. Tatad, said in a statement tonight that the attack could have been part of a right-wing conspiracy aimed at killing both the President and the First Lady.

"We wait particular findings," Mr. Tatad said, "but in the absence of anything that disputes this theory, we can say that the plot is active." He said that an hour before the incident, which occurred at 4:30 P.M., someone had phoned the palace to inquire whether Mr. Marcos would appear at the Nayong Filipino.

The President sometimes pays surprise visits to ceremonies over which his wife presides. Television cameras caught the whole episode at the exhibit, where Mrs. Marcos, at the end of the ceremony, was handing out awards to the delegation from Cotabato City, winner of this year's city-beautifi-

cation prize.

The man in the dark suit mounted the stage. As the last Cotabato delegate was starting away from Mrs. Marcos, the assailant moved in, drawing the dagger from a sheath concealed in his left sleeve, and lunged toward Mrs. Marcos.

He was apparently aiming at her chest but Mrs. Marcos stooped, moved sideways and parried the blow with her hands and arms. The man's momentum carried him forward. He appeared to be making two more thrusts with the knife.

The TV tape, replayed often, showed him recovering, wheeling and charging back at the First Lady, who had fallen. The assailant failed out at those seeking to seize him, including Mr. Aspiras and Miss Robles.

There were no security guards around Mrs. Marcos when she was attacked. They arrived only after the attacker had been downed by other participants in the awards ceremony. One guard killed the man with two bullets in the back. Authorities at the hospital

said that Mrs. Marcos, at one time a beauty queen, had cuts on her hands and deep cuts on her arms and that tendons in her arms had been severed.

Mrs. Marcos is a highly popular First Lady who makes many public appearances, travels around the country constantly and has traveled abroad a great deal since her husband was elected six years ago. She is particularly highly regarded by the peasants and has represented the President at most public ceremonies held since he decreed martial law in September. His duties since then have in large part kept him at his office in Malacañang Palace.

President Nixon telephoned

the place to offer his sympathy to the Marcoses.

It was at the international airport here that, on Nov. 27, 1970, an attempt was made to stab Pope Paul VI, who was passing through at the end of a tour of Asia, Australia and the Philippines. Benjamin Mendez Y Amor, a Bolivian painter who pleaded that he had acted only symbolically, has been sentenced to two to four years as the assailant.

In an interview today before the attack, President Marcos said that interrogations conducted under martial law since September had confirmed the existence of a right-wing conspiracy long before he decreed martial law in September.

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## Man Is Shot Dead After Wounding Wife of the Philippine President



Associated Press

A man approaching Mrs. Ferdinand E. Marcos, right, with a knife with which he stabbed her as she presided at a ceremony. He also wounded two others before he was killed.

Mrs. Marcos, not gravely injured. Details, Page 4.