

Manila to Review Links With U.S.

Manilla

Defense and economic agreements between the Philippines and the United States must be urgently updated for "reasons of survival" because the balance of power in Asia has been disturbed by current developments in Indochina, President Ferdinand E. Marcos said yesterday.

He also said the Philippines will seek closer ties with the Socialist states as "the only way to insure our security . . . and survival."

Marcos, speaking at a law alumni dinner, said the "balance of quadrilateral power in Asia between the U.S., China, the Soviet Union and Japan has been disturbed" by the events in Indochina.

"Refusal of the U.S. Congress to provide military aid to Cambodia and South Vietnam suggests Indochina . . . and Southeast Asia are no longer of vital interest to the U.S." and casts doubt on whether American defense commitments entered in by U. S. presidents could bind the Congress and the entire American people, he stated.

"We (the Philippines) are now facing conditions different from those obtaining when we signed our defense

agreements with the U.S."

The Philippines must now question whether the American military bases here are still vital to the U.S. and whether these bases are valuable to the Philippines, he added.

The Indochina developments "have led to an urgent and intensive examination of the security of the (Southeast Asian) area as a whole," Marcos said.

With the fall of the Indochina states, America's defense front line running from the Aleutians down the Korea-Taiwan-Vietnam perimeter will have been moved back to the Japan-Australia-New Zealand line, Marcos said. This "projects into the front line for the U.S. . . . Are we ready to accept this role in our national interests and survival?"

Associated Press