

Manila Acts to Change Pacts With U.S. on Defense and Bases

NYTimes

APR 26 1975

Special to The New York Times

MANILA, April 25—The Philippine Government has formally notified the United States that it wants to discuss changes in the long-standing security agreements between the two countries, especially those authorizing the existence of American bases here.

Information Secretary Francisco S. Tatad said in a press briefing that a review of existing military agreements between the Philippines and United States had led to the conclusion that "the status quo is no longer tenable in the light of present realities."

He said President Ferdinand E. Marcos had met with his foreign-policy advisers to discuss a number of alternatives that ranged from outright abrogation of the agreements to maintenance of the status quo. He would not disclose the specific course adopted.

But he said the United States has been notified of Manila's desire for consultations. The agreement signed by the two countries in 1946 provides for such talks if any party notified the other of a proposed change in the terms of the pact.

Mr. Tatad expressed confidence that as an old ally

the United States would appreciate the position of the Philippine Government in the light of the new situation in Indochina.

The alteration in this country's close alliance with the United States was first made known a week ago when President Marcos told a gathering of lawyers that the power balance in Asia had been disturbed by recent events in Cambodia and Vietnam.

He also said that recent U. S. Congressional restrictions on the use of American military aid had made clear that the U. S. would not necessarily come to the country's assistance in case of attack. The bases therefore are of doubtful value, Mr. Marcos said.

In another speech yesterday, Mr. Marcos asked 41 member nations of the Asian Development Bank to adjust to the times by accepting socialist states into the bank.

Observers interpreted these statements as signs of an evolving policy of nonalignment that would be confirmed when Mr. Marcos makes a state visit to Peking. The date of that visit has apparently been advanced, some sources say, to early June.