

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation Between the President and President Corazon Aquino of the Philippines (Ø)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Douglas Paal, Director of Asian Affairs, NSC, Notetaker

President Corazon Aquino

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: April 12, 1989, 9:20 a.m. - 9:25 a.m.
Oval Office

The President called President Corazon Aquino to inform her that he understood her reasons for being unable to accept the President's invitation to make a State Visit to Washington in June. The President explained that he had received a message from Ambassador Platt explaining her reasons for postponing the visit to the Fall, if possible. The President said that he understood that perfectly. He said that he knew that this decision was forced by matters, including upcoming events and timing considerations. He continued that the Fall would be fine if that suits Mrs. Aquino. Both sides should try to find a time in September or October that will be satisfactory. The President repeated that he understood perfectly the point that Mrs. Aquino had made to Ambassador Platt. He said that he wanted this relationship between the United States and the Philippines to be one where both sides will feel free to speak up when necessary. (Ø)

President Aquino responded that she was a little afraid that the President would think that she did not regard the invitation with due seriousness. She explained that unfortunately she had to go to Europe in June, and she was afraid that to leave so early for the United States after that trip would be a matter of delicacy. (Ø)

The President responded that he understood, that she should not be concerned about the feelings on the U.S. side. The U.S. will be very flexible. (U)

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President Aquino said that she appreciated the importance of the invitation from the President and thanked him for his gesture of the call. (U)

The President explained that he wanted to have her visit take place with the proper protocol. He explained that there would be one or two boring things to do but he wanted this to be seen by all as a first-class State Visit, one that would symbolize the importance of the relationship between the two sides. (U)

President Aquino said thank you and expressed her appreciation. She said she hoped all was well with the President. (U)

The President responded that he has a problem or two but in general things are going well. (U)

President Aquino continued that she will keep the President in her prayers. She said that God and events have been very kind to her in the past three years. (U)

The President said that on a personal note the First Lady hoped to plan a special family event during Mrs. Aquino's visit. He wants to invite Mrs. Aquino and her family upstairs at the White House to talk on the family-side of things. (U)

President Aquino responded that she appreciated that very much. (U)

The President concluded the call by saying that he is confident all will work out well. (U)