

World news

Marcos leading Aquino in official count

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — President Ferdinand Marcos was well ahead Thursday in the official vote count by the National Assembly, which his party controls. Corazon Aquino, who claims she won the election, said he must resign to prevent violence.

Aquino's aides reported that another of her campaign workers was killed Thursday, bringing the total since the Feb. 7 presidential election to more than 20.

After seven hours of tabulating tally sheets from the archipelago's 74 provinces and more than 60 cities, the assembly had Marcos ahead with 6,403,785 votes to 5,584,581 for Aquino. That gave Marcos an edge of about 53 percent to Aquino's 46 percent with about 46 percent of the votes tallied.

The assembly's count determines the outcome under Philippine law.

The National Movement for Free Elections, an independent poll-watchers' group called Namfrel, had Aquino ahead in its unofficial count. It gave her 7,158,679 votes to 6,532,362 for Marcos, based on 64 percent of more than 86,000 precincts reporting.

The tally sheet delivered to the National Assembly from the president's home province of

Ilocos Norte said the votes came from 761 precincts. The province has 624 registered precincts.

Aquino claims the elections were fraudulent and the National Assembly's canvass is rigged.

Marcos, who has governed the Philippines for 20 years, appeared on government television and pledged to "honor, without reservations, the people's verdict at the polls."

The president deplored the violence and said he also had lost supporters, including a town mayor he said was killed by communist rebels "encouraged by the opposition."

Aquino said the president should resign because "the failure of the electoral process to move swiftly to a fair conclusion has dangerously heightened tensions." An aide read her statement soon after the Marcos broadcast.

She said the resignation would "defuse some of the swelling political anger" of Filipinos who feel they have been cheated, and allow the question of who won the election to be settled in a manner acceptable to all. She did not say how that could be done.

Origin of investigation shocks DEA officials

WASHINGTON (AP) — Justice Department officials were aghast Thursday over statements by the head of the Drug Enforcement Administration that led to exposure of an undercover investigation into alleged cocaine smuggling by Eastern Airline baggage handlers in Miami, sources said.

A federal grand jury in Miami is receiving evidence in the case, and the investigation, which has involved the use of undercover operatives, is continuing, said several law enforcement sources here, who spoke on condition they not be identified.

DEA Administrator John Lawn disclosed the existence of the probe Tuesday following a speech in San Jose, Calif., after answering a question from the audience concerning cooperation with major airlines in fighting drug smuggling.

When an Associated Press reporter later asked for further details of the case, Lawn said the Justice Department is preparing indictments against about 50 employees of a major airline, for smuggling cocaine from South America.

Lawn did not name the airline. But he did say charges would be filed on the East Coast. The DEA chief also said "the indictments will go within the next several weeks." The next day in San Francisco, Lawn again discussed the investigation with reporters.

Several Justice Department officials, insisting they not be named publicly, said they were dismayed that Lawn would have revealed so much about an ongoing and sensitive undercover operation.

One department source characterized his comments as "stupid," while another said officials were "amazed" that Lawn would have revealed so much.

"It was unfortunate, there's no question about it," said a federal law enforcement source outside the Justice Department, also speaking on condition of anonymity.

A third department source, noting that officials discussed the matter at a morning meeting in the Justice Department, described these officials as "aghast" over the disclosure.

Election watchers report no fraud on Aquino's side

WASHINGTON (AP) — Several members of the U.S. team sent to observe the Philippine election dispute President Reagan's assertion that violence and fraud can be blamed equally on supporters of President Ferdinand Marcos and his challenger, Corazon Aquino.

The election watchers said Wednesday that because the election machinery was controlled by the Marcos government, there was little opportunity for cheating by Aquino's supporters, while there was apparent manipulation of the government's vote count.

A congressional aide, who asked not to be identified by name, said the delegation head, Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., believes the Reagan administration should not concede the election to Marcos because "it was our impression that Marcos apparently did not steal enough votes to win in any legitimate way."

Reagan told a news conference Tuesday night that he was "concerned about the violence... and the possibility of fraud, although it could have been that all of that was occurring on both sides."

But according to Lugar spokesman Mark Helmke, "The delegation received 100 times more reports of alleged fraud by the Marcos side than came in about the Aquino side. But no one was able to confirm reports of fraud" by Aquino supporters, by Unida, her opposition party, or by Namfrel, the National Movement for Free Elections.

One delegate, Mortimer Zuckerman, publisher of U.S. News & World Report, said he agrees with the president's efforts to distance himself equally from both sides to avoid prejudicing the eventual outcome.

Paper shut down, mayor arrested as Haiti's new rulers reorganizing

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haiti's new rulers shut down the government newspaper, announced the arrest of the capital city's mayor and said they may consider confiscating the property of deposed President Jean-Claude Duvalier.

The six-man National Government Council on Wednesday ordered the paper Le Nouveau Monde closed "for reorganization," but did not say when it might be reopened.

Other newspapers, some of which had been pro-Duvalier

but privately owned, continue to publish.

The military-civilian council took power Feb. 7 when Duvalier, "president for life" since inheriting the title from his father Francois Duvalier in 1971, fled to temporary exile in France.

Police said they arrested the capital's mayor, former army Col. Frank Romain, Tuesday night and that he was in protective custody. Neighbors said a convoy of police vehicles whisked him off as a mob was threatening his home.

Friday, February 14, 1986

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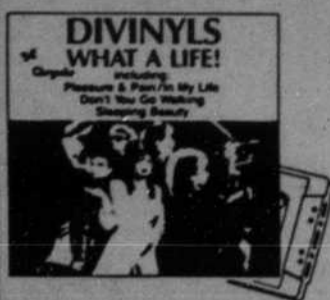
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