

# Marcos reportedly planned bribery scheme

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Top generals pledged loyalty Wednesday to new President Corazon Aquino, and a Cabinet official left for Washington in an attempt to recover millions of dollars allegedly hidden by ousted President Ferdinand Marcos.

Jovito Salonga, head of the Commission on Good Government, said before leaving for the United States that he would consider investigating a claim that Marcos had schemed to influence Washington with huge campaign contributions.

Salonga said he had received a letter, purportedly from a group of Filipino bankers, saying Marcos planned to donate \$57 million to President Reagan's 1980 and 1984 election campaigns and \$10 million to other U.S. candidates.

The letter provided no documentation to support the claim and there was no independent verification. It also did not say that any money actually was paid or that any U.S. official agreed to accept it.

Salonga said he received the letter Saturday from former banker Antonio Gatmaitan, who said it was written by 14 Filipino bankers whom he refused to identify. In Washington, White House spokesman Larry

Speakes said he was unaware of any such influence-buying scheme by Marcos.

Aquino met for more than an hour with 61 top generals and regional military commanders at Camp Aguinaldo, where the revolution that put her in power Feb. 25 began.

A videotape of the meeting showed Aquino telling the officers, "I'm sure the Filipino people will be forever grateful to you."

It was apparently a reference to the military's role in installing her. The military officials who led the revolution backed Aquino's claim that she won the Feb. 7 presidential election although Marcos was declared the victor by the Marcos-dominated National Assembly.

Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel Ramos, who was Marcos' deputy military commander before he defected to support Aquino, said all the officers "pledged our support and loyalty to the commander-in-chief."

Earlier Wednesday, Aquino met with her full Cabinet. The ministers put off a decision on whether to declare a revolutionary government, assigning the matter to a committee.

Such a proclamation would free Aquino to dismiss

the National Assembly and make changes in the autocratic administrative system left by Marcos.

A second committee was assigned to plan a new course for the troubled economy. A report submitted to the Cabinet said the country overspent its budget by \$250 million during the first quarter of 1986. Officials blamed it partly on Marcos' election spending.

The letter lists a series of proposed contributions by Marcos, including \$7 million to the 1980 Reagan campaign, \$50 million to his 1984 re-election bid and \$10 million to "various candidates" in the 1982 congressional race.

The letter did not say how the bankers learned of the planned contributions.

U.S. Embassy spokesman Allan Croghan said any implication that the payments were made was "false and without foundation." He said the letter failed to "take into account any of the U.S. election laws which would make it impossible for something like this to take place."

Meanwhile, the Manila Times quoted an unidentified source on Salonga's commission as saying papers found in the presidential palace showed Marcos had \$2.5 billion to \$3 billion in Swiss bank accounts.

# White leaders join anti-apartheid movement

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Prominent whites joined anti-apartheid groups Wednesday in angry response to a report that police fired into a black crowd without provocation the day before, and to banning orders against two black leaders.

"A culture of (black) resistance is being born before our eyes," said Frederick van Zyl Slabbert, a white politician. "I say there cannot be any peaceful change in South Africa. We are caught up in violence."

Police said the crowd of 2,000 people outside a courtroom in Kabokweni township Tuesday refused to disperse and got out of control. A teen-age boy was killed and 80 people were wounded.

Another boy was killed by police gunfire in the township later Tuesday.

On Wednesday, a black man was

speared to death in the KaNgwane homeland adjacent to the township, and three blacks were injured by stone-throwers outside Kabokweni.

Police said a black officer was killed early Wednesday in Alexandra township near Johannesburg, scene of bloody rioting last month.

Enos Mabuza, chief minister of the KaNgwane homeland, demanded a full investigation of Tuesday's shooting. "Most of the pupils who were interviewed at the Themba Hospital had birdshot wounds on their backs," he said.

Kabokweni is near White River 155 miles east of Johannesburg, near the Mozambique border.

Albertina Sisulu, president of the anti-apartheid United Democratic Front, called the shooting "an act of cowardice."

The Progressive Federal Party, the

main political opposition, said it had begun its own investigation. Slabbert resigned as party leader and member of Parliament recently in the belief that the Legislature will not reform the race policy that gives South Africa's 5 million whites privilege and denies rights to 24 million blacks.

The international Anti-Apartheid Movement said in London that the shooting was "an unspeakable act of violence."

Police said they fired tear gas and then birdshot at the crowd that gathered outside the small courtroom in which black youths were facing riot charges.

An official statement said a 14-year-old was shot dead and 80 people were wounded, and a 15-year-old was killed and another youth wounded in later shooting.

"When you have a situation where a courtroom can accommodate only 30 people and thousands are milling around, then the situation can very easily get out of control," police spokesman Capt. Henry Beck said.

Beck said officers used bullhorns to warn the crowd to disperse.

In another episode Tuesday night, at Kwa-Thema township east of Johannesburg, police said they fired on blacks setting fire to a car, slightly wounding 14 women.

Police in the eastern Cape Province town of George found the charred body of an unidentified black apparently killed by other blacks.

Almost 1,300 people have died in South Africa's 18 months of violence against apartheid; nearly all of them black.

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