

The original documents are located in Box 4, folder “11/19/75 - Tea with Imelda Marcos” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MRS. FORD

EVENT: Appointment with Mrs. Imelda Marcos, wife of the
Philippine President

DATE: Wednesday, November 19, 1975

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Arrival: South Portico
Visit: West Hall, Residence

SEQUENCE: (The Ushers Office will call immediately when Mrs. Marcos' car has arrived at the Southwest Gate in order that Mrs. Ford may be downstairs at the Diplomatic Reception Room to greet her as she arrives.)

3:00 pm Mrs. Ford greets Mrs. Marcos at her car upon her arrival.
(NOTE: PRESS COVERAGE)

3:02 pm Mrs. Ford will escort Mrs. Marcos into the Residence and up to the West Hall, Second Floor.

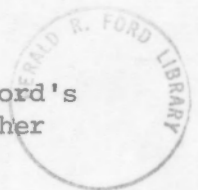
-Simple refreshments will be served

3:30 pm Susan Porter will return at the conclusion of Mrs. Ford's appointment with Mrs. Marcos and escort her back to her car at the South Portico.

NOTE:

- Press coverage only of Mrs. Ford's greeting Mrs. Marcos at her arrival.
- White House photographer will be present.
- Background material is attached.
- Mrs. Ford's next appointment is a drop-by at 6:30 at the Fund for a Representative Congress Reception.

susan porter
November 18, 1975



Talking Points for Visit of
Mrs. Imelda Marcos
November 19, 1975

Background

Imelda Marcos, the wife of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, will be in Washington November 18-19 to deliver the keynote address at an international conference on population. The World Population Society, which former Special Assistant to the Secretary of State Philip Claxton heads, is sponsoring the conference at the Mayflower Hotel.

Mrs. Marcos recently created some controversy in her heavily Christian country (95%) when she publicly stated that she was not totally opposed to divorce and abortion. She reportedly said that she favored more positive (preventive) birth control measures over abortion, but would not totally rule out the latter in all cases.

Mrs. Marcos has developed a considerable public role during the past year. In 1974, she traveled to Peking to promote better relations between the People's Republic of China and the Philippines. Her husband has just named her as governor (mayor) of metropolitan Manila, which encompasses the entire urban area of that capital city and includes a population of 5.4 million. Apparently she plans to involve herself in the day to day operations of the city.

Mrs. Marcos is noted for her tremendous energy, growing political and financial power, and striking beauty. She was formerly a beauty queen holding the title of Miss Manila.

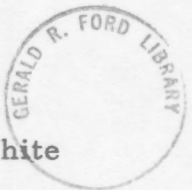
She and her husband have three children: Maria Imelda, 19, now studying at Princeton; and Ferdinand, Jr., 17, and Irene, 14, both of whom are in England.

President Marcos has been his country's chief executive since 1965, and has made two official visits to the U.S. in 1966 and 1969. Mrs. Marcos has been to the White House before and has visited the United States privately on many other occasions.

Talking Points

-- It is a pleasure to welcome you to the United States and the White House.

-- With your extremely busy schedule, I was afraid you would not have the time to stop by for a visit. I understand you arrived here yesterday and will be leaving for New York this evening.



-- I understand you and your husband have been to the United States and the White House on several occasions. Do you find that much has changed?

-- I am looking forward to our forthcoming visit to the Philippines in December, but I regret that we will only be able to stay for one day. I have not visited Manila before and look forward to seeing places of interest.

-- I understand you came to Washington to make the keynote address at an international conference on population, which the World Population Society is sponsoring. What were the key points you made and what are your general views on this subject?

-- The question of population growth is one of the most urgent facing us in the last quarter of the century. As it becomes increasingly clear that the world's resources are limited, the problems an expanding population creates are more evident.

-- This issue is compounded by the many religious beliefs and prohibitions which deal with population.

-- Your recent statement on abortion and divorce, which I read about in the press, is a good example of this phenomenon.

-- I am delighted to see that we both agree on the necessity to speak frankly and candidly on such issues, even if it means we may be criticized. I admire your honesty.

-- I also admire your energy. I have been told that you have just taken the position of Governor of Metropolitan Manila, an urban area of over five million people.

-- What are your immediate priorities going to be and what projects do you intend to initiate?

-- Does Manila have problems similar to large American cities such as New York and Washington? What differences are there?

-- I understand you made a visit to Peking as a special representative of your country and that this trip was a significant step in improving relations between your two peoples. I compliment you for your diplomatic skills.

-- I will soon be going to Peking. Tell me how you found it. What did you like and dislike?



-- Tell me about your children. I understand your oldest daughter is about the same age as my daughter Susan. Is she in school? What subjects is she taking?



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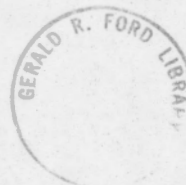
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susan porter
November 18, 1975



For immediate release
Tuesday, November 18, 1975



THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford will receive Mrs. Imelda Marcos, wife of the President of the Philippines, Ferdinand E. Marcos, at 3:00 P.M. Wednesday, November 18, 1975, at the White House for tea.

Mrs. Marcos is in Washington to deliver the keynote address to an international conference on population sponsored by the World Population Society at the Mayflower Hotel.

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Press Coverage: Photo coverage of arrivals at the South Portico