

The original documents are located in Box 42, folder “Philippine First Lady Telephone Conversation” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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November 21, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: MRS. FORD

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Your Telephone Conversation with
the Philippine First Lady

You have agreed to greet by telephone the First Lady of the Philippines, Mrs. Imelda Marcos, who is making another of her annual informal visits to the United States. As you know, Mrs. Marcos has assiduously sought a meeting with you, and if possible with the President as well. She was told that your schedule did not permit such a meeting. The problem lies in her tendency to exploit these meetings afterward, including publicly misquoting her conversations to benefit her viewpoints.

Although Mrs. Marcos tends to be highly political at times, she personally is a very attractive and charming person. We recommend that in order to minimize the risks of misrepresentation, you avoid being drawn into discussing substantive policy issues with her.

Mrs. Marcos arrived in the U. S. on November 7 and plans to leave for Mexico tentatively on November 24. She will be seeing the Henry Fords and the David Rockefellers, who are old friends, as well as her daughter Imee, who is an undergraduate student at Princeton University. Mrs. Marcos will also open a new Philippine Center in New York, which will promote trade with the U. S. and other activities.

Suggested Talking Points

- I want to welcome you to the U. S. and I hope that your stay has been pleasant.
- I regret that my own schedule has not made it possible for me to get together with you. (You should avoid regretting the President's not meeting with her, as she may use this as an opening to suggest that she prolong her stay to meet with him on his return.)

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E.O. 13526 (as amended) SEC 3.3
 NSC Memorandum 3/30/06, State Dept. Memorandum
 By *WHD* NARA, Date *2/24/2016*



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- I hope that your daughter Inee (pronounced I-may) is enjoying her college experience at Princeton. How does she find life at an American university?

- Please convey to President Marcos my regards and those of President Ford. I hope that the remainder of your stay will be pleasant, and that you will have a safe journey home.



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