

## State Dinner

The 180 formally dressed guests passed one by one through a metal detector, of the sort used to thwart hijackers but decorated with ferns and ribbons, before proceeding to the second floor of the Presidential palace for the dinner. Security at the palace had been tightened generally for the dinner. Security at the palace had been tightened generally since the murder of a Presidential assistant in his office in the palace compound three weeks ago, but local press said the metal detector was newly installed, especially for tonight's dinner.

Sword ferns lined the red carpet leading up the stairs and into the grand old-fashioned Maharlike Hall with its dark wood paneled ceiling. It was decorated with ferns and tropical flowers, and each table had a floral centerpiece with crossed flags and a candelabrum. Service included four gold-rimmed plates and four gold rimmed glasses at each place.

The guests, most of the men wearing the barong tagalog, were greeted in a receiving line by the two Presidents, their wives and Susan Ford. President Ford wore a black tuxedo with plain white dress shirt.

Guests included the Rumanian charge d'affaires but not the Chinese charge. Philippine reporters had been told that China would not be represented at the dinner because the ambassador had not yet arrived in Manila. The Soviet Union does not have relations with the Philippines, but a Tass correspondent was in the press pool. Sixteen members of the Ford traveling press corps had been invited, but only nine showed up. President Ford spoke several sentences to one attractive young woman; she said afterward that he had told her he enjoyed being here but added, "Yes, I'm tired."

The 14 persons at the head table, seated under an embroidered awning, included Kissinger, Imelda Marcos, President Ford, President Marcos and Mrs. Ford in that order at the center. U.S. Ambassador William Sullivan was at one end and Susan Ford was near the other.

There was only one untoward incident. Milton Friedman was sitting near a large candelabrum standing on the floor. Just as President Marcos was commencing his toast, one of the glass shields, like the glass of a hurricane lamp shattered and fell--possibly someone had tripped on it-- and Friedman's head and shoulders were showed with glass and melted tallow. He left the table but stood at one end of the hall and did not appear to be hurt.

The menu, in French, included l'essense de calle "Jenny Linde", filet of sole, and la cote de boeuf "perigourdine."

There followed an hour of folk singing and folk dancing.

Richard Dudman, St. Louis Post  
Dispatch

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