

May 8, 1995

BY FACSIMILE

632-817-9309

Mrs. María Elena A. Cruz
Personal Secretary to Mrs. Aquino
25 Times Street
Quezon City
Philippines

Dear Elena:

Thank you for your fax of April 26 with Mrs. Aquino's preferred schedule for her visit to Eugene. Since then we have been busy with preparations, as you might imagine. I have in mind that the Philippine elections happened yesterday (your time), and I hope that the outcome is to your and Mrs. Aquino's liking.

I have a series of questions, listed below, that I would like to present to you and Mrs. Aquino to help us in our planning. I would like to suggest that we discuss by telephone the answers to these and any other questions that may arise. If you agree, please send a fax informing me of the best time and day to call you; I found the timing of our other call (around 10:15 a.m. your time) to be convenient, so we could plan a similar arrangement if it would be convenient for you.

1. Since Mrs. Aquino will be traveling with two companions, we have reserved three rooms (including the presidential suite) at the Valley River Inn, our finest hotel and one with a view of the Willamette River, which winds through town. Is this the correct number of rooms that will be needed?
2. Does Mrs. Aquino have any particular needs or requests, such as extra pillows or a refrigerator stocked with certain items of food, that she would like me to convey to the hotel staff? The university's director of public safety will be working with either the U.S. Department of State or the Federal Bureau of Investigations, or both, to arrange for proper security throughout Mrs. Aquino's visit, but if there is anything we can do to help make her stay as comfortable and pleasant as possible, please let me know.
3. Would Mrs. Aquino be agreeable to giving a few brief remarks at the dinners on Saturday and Sunday night? As currently planned, the program on Saturday will include brief remarks by our Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. John Moseley; a few words by Dr. Glenn May, whom Mrs. Aquino met several years

ago, or another faculty member; and the presentation of a modest gift for Mrs. Aquino from our faculty in the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies and the Center for the Study of Women in Society. Would Mrs. Aquino be interested in making a brief response at that point? Approximately 40 guests will be present at the dinner on Saturday.

The presidential dinner program on Sunday will be simple, in keeping with the conclusion of a long and eventful day, though group will be larger. (The attendance list will be around 75 to 100 people.) We are thinking of having the President say a few words of introduction, followed by a few remarks by Mrs. Aquino commenting on her experience over the past two days at the UO, or some such topic. We then would conclude the program with songs by our Fil-Am students, who have formed an impressive singing ensemble as part of their association in the UO's Kultura Pilipinas student organization. Does this plan meet with Mrs. Aquino's approval?

4. Father José Pimentel of the Newman Center has asked me to inquire whether Mrs. Aquino would be interested in addressing the congregation at Mass on Sunday morning. If she is interested, she could speak, either briefly or at more length, at the time of the homily or after communion, whichever she would prefer.
5. We already are receiving inquiries on the topic of Mrs. Aquino's commencement address. Does Mrs. Aquino have a topic in mind at this point, as well as an idea about the length of her speech?
6. Mrs. Aquino has indicated that she would like to have 2:00 to 6:30 p.m. as personal time on Saturday. I do not wish to impose myself inappropriately in this matter, but if she wishes to do some local sightseeing or some such activity, I will be happy to make the necessary arrangements.

Mrs. Aquino may be interested to know that we have made one minor adjustment to the revised schedule that you faxed on April 26. We have added an hour of personal time from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday to allow Mrs. Aquino and her party to rest between the commencement ceremony and the public reception. I have reserved a room in a building near both the commencement and the reception sites.

Finally, I hope that these questions do not cause offense in any way. As I have indicated to Mr. Perez-Rubio, I am a novice at planning the visit of a person of such high international stature as Mrs. Aquino, and I am eager to do each task properly and with appropriate honor to Mrs. Aquino. Please do not hesitate to inform me if I make, or seem about to make, any error or offensive remark.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you and perhaps to speaking with you soon.

Sincerely,

Susan E. Plass
Assistant Vice Provost for International

Affairs