

May 23, 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 dated May 16, informing me of Mrs. Aquino's flight plans and answering my few questions. I am enclosing a copy of a slightly revised schedule so that you will have the latest information. I now have another series of questions for you; I apologize for any inconvenience that they may cause you this close to Mrs. Aquino's departure for the U.S.

1. A colleague and I recently examined the rooms that we reserved at the Valley River Inn for Mrs. Aquino and her two companions, and we found them to be far below the standard of quality we had expected. We therefore wish to make other, more pleasant arrangements for lodging. Dr. Joseph Cox, the Chancellor of the Oregon State System of Higher Education, and his wife, Regina, extend a delighted and enthusiastic invitation to Mrs. Aquino and her two companions to stay at their home not far from the UO campus. The house, called Treetops, is large and in a quiet hilltop location, with a security alarm system that will be buttressed by additional security personnel as needed. We believe that the Chancellor's house will be a much more inviting and restful place than the hotel. If Mrs. Aquino would prefer the original lodging plan, however, please let me know.
2. We also would appreciate receiving the names of the two daughters who will be traveling with Mrs. Aquino. This would help us as we prepare in advance name tags and dining table place cards for various functions.
3. Thinking ahead to the Friday evening arrival at 6:28 p.m., I wish to inquire whether Mrs. Aquino and her companions will have dined on the plane before arriving in Portland. If not, we will arrange a dinner stop en route to Eugene.
4. Dr. and Mrs. Cox will be pleased to serve breakfast for Mrs. Aquino and her companions during the stay at Treetops. Because there will be a Commencement

Day brunch at 10:30, would a light breakfast be in order before the 8:30 Mass? Are there any preferred foods or beverages for breakfasts?

5. At the public reception, we are arranging for a raised podium in the expectation that the public will want to hear a few words from Mrs. Aquino. It is also becoming quite clear from various telephone calls and word-of-mouth messages that the public will want an opportunity to shake hands with Mrs. Aquino. In your opinion and experience, would the best approach be to establish a receiving line? Or would you propose some other method?
6. The students at the lunch on Saturday are extremely excited by this opportunity to spend some private time with Mrs. Aquino. They plan to show some excerpts on video of past cultural Filipino cultural nights that they produce for the local community each spring. They also have asked me to ask you about options for further programming during the luncheon. Would Mrs. Aquino be agreeable to a question-and-answer period, fielding questions from the students (we are mindful that she will have just come from a press conference and may be tired by then of answering questions)? Or would Mrs. Aquino prefer for the “program” to be more informal, where each student briefly introduces himself or herself and then everyone waits to see how things develop?
7. I have spoken with Mrs. Maria Stanley’s assistant, and I am informed that Mrs. Stanley will come to Eugene for a quiet visit with Mrs. Aquino (and her daughters if they wish to be part of the discussion) on Saturday afternoon sometime between 2:00 and 6:30 p.m.. I am inquiring into possible locations in town where a nice afternoon tea service would be available. I will schedule about a two-hour block for the meeting, unless I hear otherwise from you.
8. One of our local newspaper reporters, Ms. Joni James, has asked me to ask you if Mrs. Aquino could provide a quotable response to the question: “Why did Mrs. Aquino decide to accept the invitation of an honorary degree from the University of Oregon?”
9. Finally, I am assuming that you will accompany Mrs. Aquino to New York. If my assumption is correct, could you provide telephone and fax numbers where I can reach you in the event that I have some last-minute questions? (And if you do not wish me to contact you in New York, please do not hesitate to let me know.)

I hope that all is going well with you. This week we finally have some beautiful, warm spring sunshine, which makes it a little difficult to stay indoors. We continue to hope for this kind of weather during Mrs. Aquino’s visit; despite Eugene’s reputation for rain, it rarely rains on Commencement Day.

Thank you, as always, for your assistance and advice.

Sincerely,

Susan E. Plass

Assistant Vice Provost for International

Affairs

enclosure