



MALACAÑAN PALACE  
MANILA

16 September 1991

Dear Senator Dole:

Allow me to inform you that the Philippine Senate, in a vote of 12 to 11, has rejected the RP-US Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Security.

The Senate's negative action has indeed thwarted the expressed will of the majority of our people for the ratification by the Treaty. For our people continue to recognize the importance of maintaining and preserving good relations with your country, a staunch and long-term ally of our country.

My main concern has always been the welfare of our people. Unfortunately, the rejection of the Treaty would unnecessarily burden the poorest of us most severely. The local economic units and the labor sectors that would suffer the most are those already mired in volcanic ash and mud.

I have thereby led a determined fight for the ratification of the Treaty. I talked with the Senators, meeting with them singly and in groups. The Vice-President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and a preponderant majority of Congressmen, Governors and Mayors, including leaders of opposition parties, joined me in that appeal. Our industrialists, our workers, religious and other sectors and the people themselves have made known their sentiments on the issues for the continuation of our relationship with the United States.

I have also led a march of tens of thousands of our people in the hope that the senate would listen to the voice of the people, whose sovereign will they ought to reflect and represent my efforts have, however, been in vain.

Please understand that this rejection by the Senate has no support from the broad range of sectors of Philippine society. In fact, the reverse is true.

I therefore intend to persevere with my firm determination to respect the people's will. I have supported the move to call for a referendum on the resolution of the Senate of non-ratification. I shall invoke, Republic Act 6735 which allows the people through a system of initiatives and referendum to

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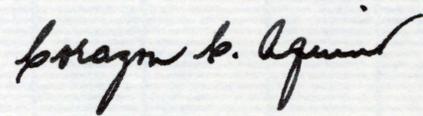
directly prepare, enact, approve or reject in whole or in part, the constitution, laws, ordinances or resolution passed by any legislative body.

I feel very confident that the referendum will overturn this unfortunate act of the Senate.

May I ask for your continued support in the U.S. Senate. I am appealing for your assistance in conveying the message of the Filipino people to the rest of the US Congressmen and Senators for our desire to maintain the precious goodwill between our two countries.

My warm personal regards.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Borayn B. Aquino". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end.

Senator Robert Dole  
The Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510