

## **December 31—**

PRESIDENT MARCOS started his new term as President of the Republic.

Highlight of the President's activities was his issuance of an official statement in which he made public his decision to give away his worldly possessions.

Full text of the President's statement follows:

Moved by the strongest desire and the purest will to set the example of self-denial .and self-sacrifice for all our people,I have today decided to give away all my worldly possessions so that they may serve the greater needs of the greater number of our people.

I have therefore given away, by a general instrument of transfer, all my material possessions to the Filipino people through a foundation to be organized .and to be known as the Ferdinand E. Marcos Foundation.

It is my wish that these properties will be used in advancing the cause of education, science, technology and the arts.

This act I undertake of my own free will, knowing that, having always been a simple man, my needs will always be lesser than the needs of many of our people, who have given me the highest honor withii1 their gift, an honor unshared by no other Filipino leader.

Since about a year ago, I have asked some of my closest confidantes to

study the mechanics of this decision. Today studies have been completed, and a foundation will now be formed to administer these properties and all funds that may be generated therefrom.

My wife, Imelda, is in full agreement, and wholeheartedly supports me in this decision.

Provisions will be made for my children, so that they shall be assured of satisfactory education and be prepared to meet their lifetime duties and endeavors.

For the moment, my most sincere hope is that this humble act shall set the example, and move to great deeds of unselfishness and compassion, many of our countrymen whose position in society gives them a stronger duty to minister to the needs of our less fortunate brothers and countrymen.

Early in the morning, he relaxed a bit with former Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi of Japan, Ambassador Toshiro Urabe, also of Japan, and Ambassador Jose Laurel HI, Philippine envoy to Tokyo, and others at the Malacañang Park golf course.

Refreshed, the President began his paper work, then at 9:30 knocked off to receive the special representatives of 44 countries to the Inaugural. He and the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, greeted the guests as they were presented.

He then individually received Korean Prime Minister Chung Il Kwon, former

Prime Minister Kishi of Japan, Foreign Minister Gregorio Lopez Bravo of Spain, and U.S. Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, in that order.

During the meeting with the Spanish foreign minister, the President was presented with a Katipunan battle flag and several bladed weapons used by the revolutionaries against Spanish troops.

Vice President Agnew gave the President a moonrock and the Philippine flag flown to and from the moon by the Apollo II astronauts. Astronaut Eugene Cernan, Apollo 10 Commander was also present.

Speaking of the Katipunan weapons consisting of two sabers, two krises and a bolo, the President said he was overwhelmed “by these symbols of courage and manhood that are returned to our land,” adding that “our land was occupied, but our hearts were not conquered.”

The Katipunan flag, which showed its age, measures about three feet by nine, and was the battle standard of one of the Katipunan field units:

In receiving the moonrock from Astronaut Cernan, the President recalled that when President Nixon visited here last June he promised Bongbong a ticket on the first commercial liner to the moon.

“I remind the Vice President (Agnew), or rather, at the instance of Bongbong, I am reminding the Vice President about this,” the President remarked in a light vain.

In the afternoon, the President presided at several meetings with NP leaders, beginning at 4 p.m. He first met governors and mayors at the residence of Gov. Isidro Rodriguez of Rizal at Mandaluyong; then sat down with representatives at Speaker Jose B. Laurel's home, also in Mandaluyong; then he drove to the house of Senate President Gil J. Puyat in Quezon City, to meet with the senators and other NP leaders.

In the evening, he conferred with the members of the Blue Ladies and the COSEC at the house of NACIDA Administrator Pacita Gonzales in Makati.

On the eve of New Year's Day, the President issued the following message:

As at no other time in the past perhaps, a new tide of change is upon us, and the new year as well as the new decade brings us to heart of unusual and not easily understood problems which mankind has not had to face before.

While it has been our good fortune as a people and a nation to surmount the problems of the past decade, it shall be our fate to wrestle with the essential difficulties of the 70's.

Because progress creates its own problems, it cannot be hoped that technological and industrial progress will automatically bring about a period of general ease.

Our main task, as I pointed out on my second inaugural address, will be not only to seek to excel the performance of other nations, but to transform the

character of our people so that there shall grow in this nation a new heart and a new spirit that relies solely in the capacity of the individual to understand and apply himself to his burdens, without depending on the generosity of others.

But on the other side of this ethic is the even more demanding moral responsibility of those endowed with material possessions that offend and oppress the stations of the poor.

Henceforth, they will be called upon to share whatever they can of their lot with all your people. Having the duty to lead in this endeavor, I have today renounced my material possessions in favor of the Filipino people.

United in effort, singular in resolve, let us now work together to make this new year a new era in which our people will continue to be free and secure in their freedom because they concern themselves not only with their personal interests but above all the nation's well-being.

### ***January 1—***

PRESIDENT MARCOS spent a quiet New Year's day with his family at home in Malacañang.

However, because state matters could not wait, he also worked a while in his study, as urgent papers came up for action.

Among other matters, he decided to defer the implementation of the plan