

# **Charge part of strategy**

**SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) —** The money laundering indictment of a member of the Marcos legal team may be part of a strategy to pressure the attorney into helping prosecutors with new criminal charges against Imelda Marcos, sources said Wednesday.

Two independent sources close to the investigation, who asked not to be named, said the indictment of Philippine attorney Helen Teodoro Rivilla may be an attempt to pressure her into cooperating in U.S. government efforts to renew criminal charges against Mrs. Marcos.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John Peyton in Honolulu said he "couldn't possibly confirm or deny" the speculation. He said the money laundering indictment was based on "sufficient evidence a crime was committed" and that the Honolulu grand jury returned the indictment "based on the evidence."

Rivilla, 31, and her wealthy husband Antonio C.M. Rivilla, 39, of Foster City, Calif., were indicted in Honolulu last Friday on 39 counts of laundering \$2.9 million for Ferdinand Marcos in 1987 and 1988.

Imelda Marcos, 60, was acquitted in a New York trial in July on charges of fraud and obstruction of justice in an alleged conspiracy to loot the Philippine treasury of \$200 million along with her husband. The deposed Philippine president fled in 1986 to Hawaii, where he died Sept. 28, 1989.

Helen Rivilla faces 390 years in prison and \$19.5 million in fines for her alleged role in laundering cash deposits through a series of Honolulu banks for Ferdinand Marcos "and others," according to the indictment.

Rivilla, who is not licensed to practice in California, assisted the legal team of the presidential couple before Imelda turned to flamboyant Wyoming lawyer Gerry Spence for her New York trial.

Rivilla's husband faces 80 years in prison and \$4 million in fines if convicted.

**A government source involved in the case said of efforts to charge Marcos with new crimes: "Is this an organized attempt to get Imelda Marcos ... a political vendetta ... no, not any more than there ever has been."**

**"Could this lead to additional charges (against Imelda Marcos)? Sure," he said.**

**"If the Justice Department keeps a steady eye on double jeopardy and if Rivilla rolls over on Imelda, there is hope Justice will prosecute," he said. He added that others around Marcos have been under investigation and more indictments could result.**