

In Philippines, Corruption Torrent Has Slowed;
Expulsion for Marcoses

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Body

To the Editor:

While Ferdinand E. Marcos and his wife, Imelda, cannot be extradited from the United States for lack of an extradition treaty ("Marcos and Wife, 8 Others Charged by U.S. With Fraud," front page, Oct. 22), that does not mean they cannot be expelled from this country.

Assuming the accuracy of your report that the Marcoses entered the United States in a "refugee parole" status, and that this status has not changed, they stand in the anomalous position of legally not having been "admitted" and are still potentially subject to "exclusion and deportation" under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Even if their immigration status has changed, since they are not naturalized citizens they might well still be subject to deportation, assuming in both cases that they are eventually found guilty of the charges levied against them.

While the Marcoses, once in exclusion or deportation proceedings, have certain substantive avenues of relief open to them, like any other aliens, it is by no means certain that such relief would be granted, depending on the facts that develop during the criminal trial, as well as other extrinsic factors, and they could find themselves forced to leave the United States, if not perhaps to the Philippines, then to any other country that would accept them.

PETER HIRSCH

New York, Oct. 23, 1988

The writer is chairman of the committee on immigration and naturalization of the New York County Lawyers' Association.

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