CONSULATE, MARCOS AGENTS LINKED TO ESPIONAGE CASE

Movement for a Free Philippines documents stolen; SF, LA police, district attorney handling the case

SAN FRANCISCO — An official of the Philippine Consulate in San Francisco, Querube Makalintal, and persons connected with the Filipino Reporter and Times Journal have been linked to another case of illegal activities now under investigation by the San Francisco and Los Angeles Police Departments.

Makalintal is the internal revenue attaché of the Philippine Consulate.

The Filipino Reporter is a weekly newspaper published here in San Francisco known to be pro-Marcos and allegedly financed by the Times Journal of Manila.

The Times Journal is a daily newspaper in Manila published by Philippine Journalists, Inc., but known to be controlled by Governor Benjamin (Kokoy) Romualdez, brother of the Philippine First Lady.

The incident involved the theft of important confidential documents of the Movement for a Free Philippines belonging to Hernie Rotea, chairman of the Los Angeles Chapter of the MFP. The theft occurred during the recent national convention of the MFP held at the Embassy Auditorium in Los Angeles last November.

Preliminary police investigation of the incident shows that a folder containing the documents was stolen from a locker of the podium of the convention hall. It was not ascertained, at this time, exactly at what point, during the convention the documents were stolen, but apparently they were removed surreptitiously from the podium while the delegates were either out to lunch or attending the public rally in the adjacent convention hall.

There were two places occupied by the convention: one where the deliberations were conducted which was open only to the accredited official delegates of the Movement, and another where the public rally was held and where attendance was open to the public.

The documents were missed immediately after the rally; the importance and reasons for confidentiality of the documents were reported by Rotea to the Los Angeles police who filed an appropriate complaint for their theft.

The stolen documents have not yet been recovered by the police. However, films and prints of the documents were discovered three days later in San Francisco in the possession of commercial photographers who are normally utilized by the Filipino Reporter for the photographic needs of the newspaper. The films were picked up by the photographers from the San Francisco office of the Filipino Reporter.

The films and prints discovered in the possession of
Consulate, Marcos men linked to espionage case

From page 1

The commercial photographers have been confiscated by the police and are now held as evidence of this case. The confiscated films do not only include pictures of the documents themselves but also pictures of all participants of the MFP convention entering or leaving the convention hall as well as pictures taken inside the convention hall.

The pictures of the participants entering and leaving the convention hall were obviously taken by Marcos agents from a window in the hotel room across the street from the entrance to the hall. Pictures taken inside the hall were presumably taken by secret Marcos agents present in the convention hall.

Rotea and other high officials of the MFP assert that the obvious reason for photographing all participants of the MFP convention is to harass and take other retaliatory actions against them and their friends and relatives of the MFP supporters who are residing in the Philippines.

The policemen who discovered and confiscated the films proceeded immediately to the San Francisco office of the Filipino Reporter where, according to the photographers, a Filipino Reporter staff member was anxiously awaiting the delivery of the prints.

When the policemen arrived at the office, at approximately 9 o’clock in the evening, the person who was then at the office was a certain Mr. Honorio Viray. Viray, reportedly visibly shaken, denied to the police having any knowledge about the films or any other information relating to this case.

The ongoing police investigation has confirmed that the films were in the possession of Querube Makalintal. According to information available at press time, persons connected with the Filipino Reporter had requested the photographers to develop and make prints of the films as soon as possible because the prints had to be urgently hand-carried to New York. A certain Mr. Oriniges Montes, who is reportedly employed in the San Francisco office of the Filipino Reporter, gave the urgent instructions to the photographers in writing. However, payment for the services rendered by the photographers was made by Makalintal with a check. The check has also been confiscated by the police as evidence of the case.

When Montes was questioned by the police as to the reason for his written instructions on the urgency of the delivery of the prints to New York, he stated that he was simply conveying to the photographers the instructions given to him by Makalintal and that (Montes) had no knowledge of the contents of the films or the reason for the urgent need to have the prints hand-carried to New York. At that time, Mrs. Imelda Marcos and her brother, Kokoy Romualdez, were visiting in New York.

Reached by Philippine News at press time at the Filipino Reporter office, Montes claimed that he is not directly an employee of the Filipino Reporter but is an employee of the Manila International. When asked further what business is the Manila International engaged in, and whether it is a California or foreign corporation, Montes said “he does not know.” However, he confirmed to Philippine News that one of his duties is to mail the weekly Filipino Reporter.

A check with the operations of the Filipino Reporter located in San Francisco shows that the Filipino Reporter, the Times Journal and Interport and the Manila International hold offices in the same address. However, several of the above companies are not officially registered in the California Department of Corporations.

Also at press time, Philippine News contacted Mr. Honorio Viray at the offices of the Filipino Reporter. He denied being connected with the Filipino Reporter but claimed that he is a “correspondent” of the Times Journal.

Philippine News called the Office of the Internal Revenue Attaché within the Consulate to interview Makalintal. A clerk in the office who identified herself as Pelciana Cabral stated that Makalintal has not reported to office since Monday, December 15, and has no idea of his whereabouts.

Makalintal is being represented by the law firm of John F. Dwyer and Robert Sheridan who informed the police that their client will not issue any statement at this time. Dwyer and Sheridan were members of the staff of the District Attorney’s office before they established their private practice a year ago.

Attorney Robert Sheridan, who was reached at his office at press time, informed Philippine News that he has not been authorized by his client to make any statement on the case.

The investigation of this case is headed by Inspector Thomas Dixon of the Intelligence Division of the San Francisco Police Department. During an interview with Philippine News, Inspector Dixon stated that San Francisco Chief of Police Donald Scott has personally been informed on the case. Dixon further stated that a preliminary report has been submitted to the San Francisco District Attorney’s Office.

The police inspector further stated that the key person in the investigation, Makalintal, has refused to issue any statement on the case.

Meanwhile, top officials of the MFP are reportedly taking the necessary legal steps to effect the prosecution of Marcos agents who are connected with this most recent illegal activity.

The case becomes the third specific incident of reported illegal activities of Marcos government officials and agents being investigated by the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Police Department.