

## The U.S. State Department's gifts to the Soviet Navy: the global chokepoints

The U.S. State Department's beginning of formal proceedings for the transfer of the Asian theater to the Soviet Union, the overthrow of the President of the Philippines and the pending destabilization of South Korea, is treason. However, the State Department "list" of nations slated for such treatment, or already in the throes of it, has another significance: It is the beginning of the biggest gift to the Soviet navy ever. Every country on the State Department list for destabilization is a strategic naval choke-point in some part of the world.

**1. The Philippines:** South China Sea. The State Department enforced a bankers' coup, which has created a highly unstable situation (articles, page 32 and 58).

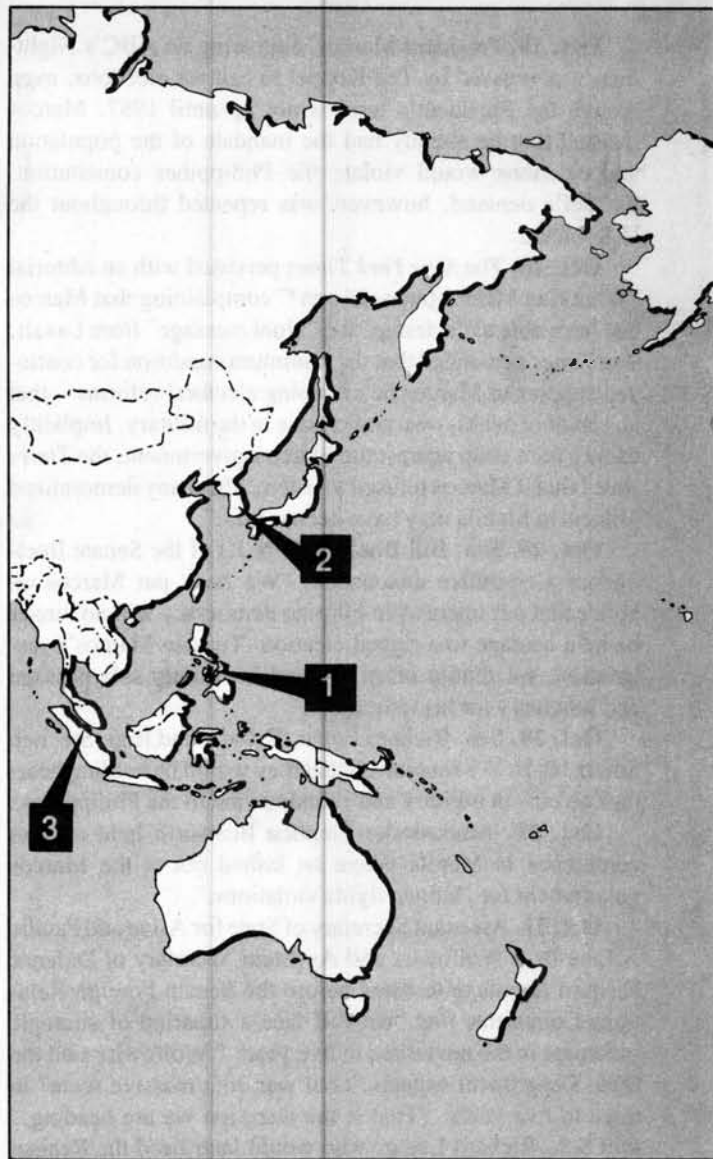
**2. South Korea:** Sea of Japan. The *Financial Times* of London warned on Feb. 24 that the Republic of Korea's government may face the fate of Ferdinand Marcos. The State Department backed opposition is campaigning against the government, and State has already issued strong warnings to South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan, to halt a police crackdown on opposition forces.

**3. Indonesia:** Strait of Malacca. Jesuit operations are reported in progress by the same groups that started the Filipino destabilization.

**4. Yemen-Ethiopia:** Gulf of Aden. Ethiopia's Mengistu government is a Soviet satellite, as is the government of South Yemen. Although the United States has naval basing rights in Somalia, it does not use them. U.S. backing for International Monetary Fund policies in the famine- and disease-wracked Horn of Africa has opened the door wide for Soviet consolidation. State Department and Trilateral-linked circles have thus far sabotaged projected moves by the Italian government to grant Somalia a debt moratorium (see *EIR*, Feb. 28, page 6).

**5. Saudi Arabia:** Persian Gulf. The region is threatened by the Soviet-directed Iranian offensive in the Gulf War, with State Department circles cheering for Iran (page 54).

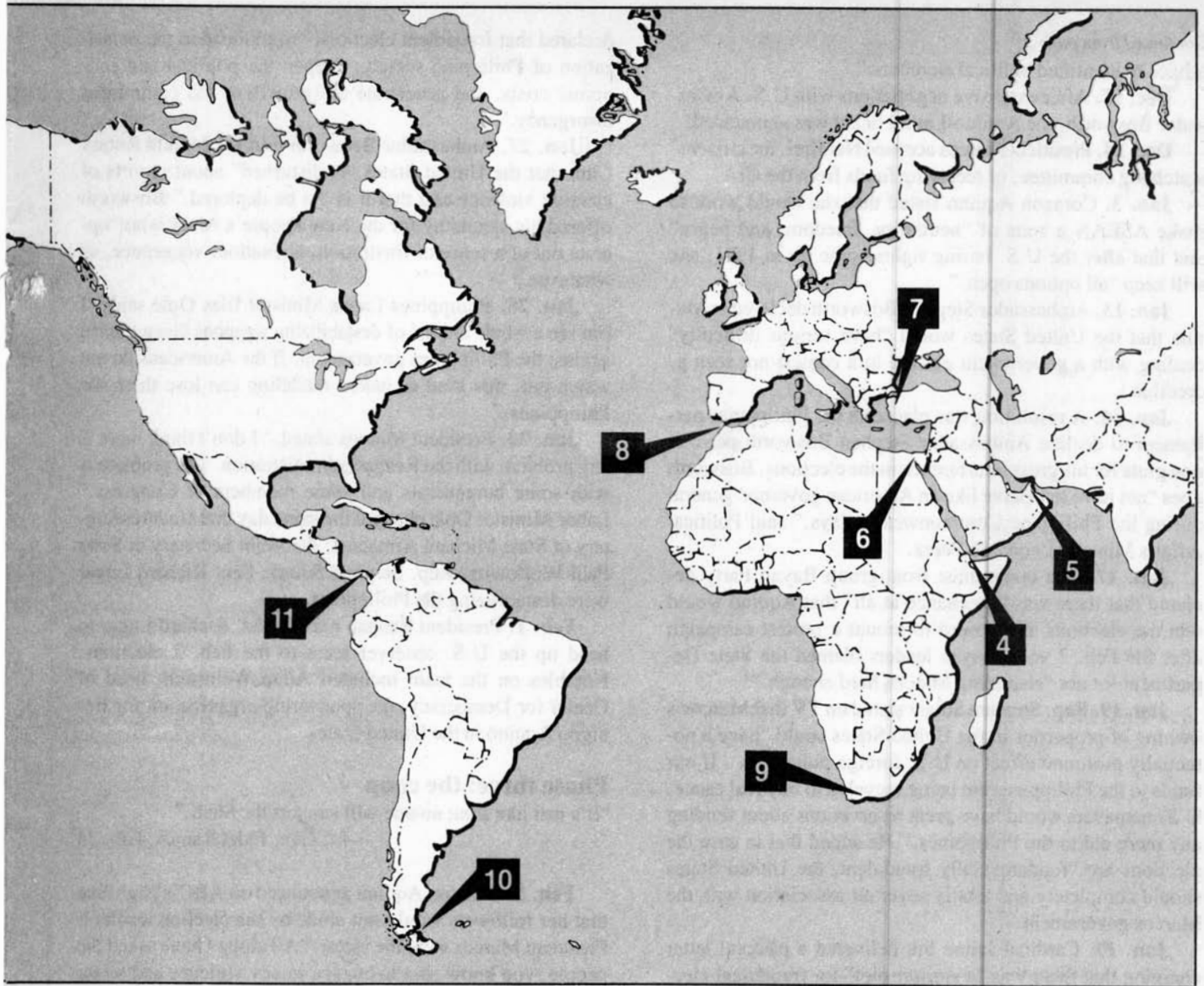
**6. Egypt:** Suez Canal. The riots which erupted in Cairo on Feb. 25, and in the upper Egypt cities of Assiut, Sohag, and Isma'aliyah on the Suez Canal, are the first phase



of a well-orchestrated plot aimed at the overthrow of the regime of President Hosni Mubarak. On hand are some of the same State Department figures who oversaw the Khomeini revolution in Iran (page 51).

**7. Turkey:** Bosphorus/Dardanelles. As reported in *EIR* of Feb. 28, pages 40-41, the Turkish military urgently requires modernization to meet the Soviet threat on its immediate borders. The State Department is willing to supply only *one-third* of Turkish requirements.

**8. Spain/Morocco:** Strait of Gibraltar. Spain, whose Prime Minister Felipe González has called a referendum on March 12 on whether Spain should stay in NATO, controls the Balearic Islands in the western Mediterranean, the little enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla in Morocco, and the Canary Islands. The military commander of the Canary Islands at a news conference on Feb. 7 called for increasing the



defense capability of the islands, since they are "difficult to defend in the face of powers with a great naval and air superiority." The Canary Islands are constantly encircled by hundreds of "fishing" and "scientific" vessels of the Soviet Union, having on board sufficient personnel to be rapidly activated to take over the islands, which are crucial to the control of the southern transatlantic routes.

In the enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla, on Jan. 28, some 2,000 Islamic women demonstrated against the new law on foreigners recently approved in Spain, leading to clashes with the police, resulting in 15 wounded. The leaders of the "Islam versus Spain" revolts are described as present or former members of Premier González's PSOE party. The Spanish press hints that the Moroccan secret service may be behind the clashes, in an effort to kick Spain out of these areas, whose strategic relevance to the Strait of Gibraltar is obvious. Morocco signed a unity pact with Qaddafi's Libya last year.

**9. South Africa:** Cape of Good Hope. The State Department is backing the Soviet-run, pro-terrorist African National Congress against announced reforms by President Botha which would lead to abolishing apartheid (see *EIR*, Feb. 14, pages 42-50).

**10. Argentina:** Straits of Magellan. International Monetary Fund conditions imposed on that nation, at the behest of the State Department, Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, and Treasury Secretary James Baker III, are leading to conditions so desperate that the future of democracy is in grave danger (see *EIR*, Feb. 28, pages 10-13).

**11. Panama:** Panama Canal. State Department circles, abetted by "conservative" spokesman Sen. Jesse Helms, are seeking the ouster of armed forces chief Manuel Antonio Noriega and imposition of a banker's coup, like that just enacted in the Philippines (page 28).

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advice to identified political elements."

**Dec. 12.** After extensive negotiations with U.S. Ambassador Bosworth, the Aquino-Laurel ticket was announced.

**Dec. 14.** President Marcos accused Namfrel, the citizens' watchdog committee, of receiving funds from the CIA.

**Jan. 3.** Corazon Aquino stated that she would work to make ASEAN a zone of "neutrality, freedom, and peace" and that after the U.S. basing rights come up in 1991, she will keep "all options open."

**Jan. 13.** Ambassador Stephen Bosworth declared in Manila that the United States would "have serious difficulty" dealing with a government elected in a contest not seen as credible.

**Jan. 16.** A resolution was placed in the Philippines parliament to declare Ambassador Stephen Bosworth persona non grata for his gross interference in the elections. Bosworth does "not have to behave like an American governor-general during the Philippine Commonwealth days," said Political Affairs Minister Leonardo Perez.

**Jan. 17.** The communist front-group Bayan Party declared that there was "no chance at all" that Aquino would win the elections and vowed to mount a protest campaign after the Feb. 7 vote. Bayan leaders blamed the State Department for not "slamming Marcos hard enough."

**Jan. 19.** Rep. Stephen Solarz stated on TV that Marcos's owning of properties in the United States could "have a potentially profound effect on U.S. foreign policy. . . . If our funds to the Philippines are being recycled to buy real estate, U.S. taxpayers would have great reservations about sending any more aid to the Philippines." He added that in case the elections are "fundamentally fraudulent, the United States should completely and totally sever all association with the Marcos government."

**Jan. 19.** Cardinal Jaime Sin delivered a pastoral letter charging that there was "a sinister plot" for fraudulent elections. He called for "pog vigilantes."

**Jan. 21.** Rep. Stephen Solarz opened hearings on alleged charges that President Marcos had salted billions of dollars into real estate in the United States. Rep. Toby Roth (R-Wisc.) denounced the hearings, saying that there is "not one iota of proof" to the charges which "wouldn't stand up anywhere but in a kangaroo court."

**Jan. 22.** Upon the initiative of Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), the General Accounting Office sent a team of auditors to the Philippines to investigate charges that U.S. aid money had been siphoned off by Marcos for personal real estate speculation. The team found no evidence backing the Solarz's charges.

**Jan. 24.** The *New York Times* released revelations conjured up by Alfred McCoy, an Australian intelligence agent on loan to the CIA, to the effect that President Marcos's record as a war hero is a fraud.

**Jan. 25.** Assistant Secretary of State Paul Wolfowitz

declared that fraudulent elections "would lead to the polarization of Philippine society, deepen the political and economic crisis, and accelerate the growth of the communist insurgency."

**Jan. 27.** Ambassador Bosworth told the Manila Rotary Club that the United States "is disturbed" about reports of election violence and that it is "to be deplored." Bosworth offered his sympathy for the New People's Army who "operate out of a sense of frustration, alienation, vengeance, or whatever."

**Jan. 28.** Philippines Labor Minister Blas Ople said: "I can see a whole arsenal of destabilizing weapons being trained against the Philippines government. If the Americans do not watch out, this kind of naked meddling can lose them the Philippines."

**Jan. 30.** President Marcos stated, "I don't think there is any problem with the Reagan administration. The problem is with some bureaucrats and some members of Congress." Labor Minister Ople charged the same day that Undersecretary of State Michael Armacost, Assistant Secretary of State Paul Wolfowitz, Rep. Stephen Solarz, Sen. Richard Lugar were destabilizing the Philippines.

**Feb. 1.** President Reagan named Sen. Richard Lugar to head up the U.S. observer team to the Feb. 7 elections. Notables on the team included Allan Weinstein, head of Center for Democracy, the sponsoring organization for Benigno Aquino in the United States.

### **Phase three: the coup**

"It's just like Iran; no one will support the Shah."

—Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos, Feb. 24

**Feb. 5.** Corazon Aquino announced on ABC's Nightline that her followers would not abide by the election results if President Marcos were the victor: "All along I have asked the people, you know, not to engage in any violence and so far they have listened to me. . . . The people who are with me now are so convinced that I will win, and if Marcos resorts to terrorism or to gross cheating, then the people who have supported me may finally think that the electoral process is just not advisable anymore."

*Ted Koppel:* "Are you raising the spectre, the possibility of something approaching even civil war?"

*Aquino:* "No, no, not civil war, as long as I can manage it. In fact, I have said that if Mr. Marcos cheats me out of this election, then I will call for daily demonstrations. However, if these daily demonstrations will still not get us the desired results, then I am afraid that the people might not listen to me anymore."

**Feb. 5.** Ramsey Clark, known to be working with the left wing of the opposition, predicted from Manila that after the elections there would be such unrest that the United States would pull a military coup.

**Feb. 7.** Election day. Namfrel, the citizen's watchdog

committee which functioned as the Aquino organization at the polls, broke its quick count agreement with the government commission Comelec. Namfrel took the vote tallies from the precincts in Manila and sat on them for hours—depriving Comelec of the tallies. On the basis of these tallies, the Namfrel issued its projection of an Aquino victory.

**Feb. 8.** On the basis of the skewed vote count released by Namfrel, giving her the early lead, Aquino proclaimed that she had won the elections, and that in two to three days, she would begin negotiations with Marcos for “the transition.” If Marcos did not step down, Aquino stated, she would lead protests until he did.

**Feb. 8.** Sen. Richard Lugar from Manila accused the government of holding up the count. “I plead with whoever is holding up the count to free it, to let it go. The vote has been slowed. . . . The government may be deeply concerned with the results.” “Now Namfrel is our eyes and ears,” Lugar said.

**Feb. 8-13.** Namfrel and Comelec votes continued to diverge, with the Comelec percentage count lagging behind. Comelec has Aquino in the lead until approximately 50% of the vote is in, with Marcos taking the lead thereafter. Namfrel had Aquino in the lead until it stopped counting at 66% of the vote. Namfrel charged that since the remaining vote came from areas in which it had no pollwatchers—that is, Marcos strongholds—these ballots were invalid.

**Feb. 10.** President Reagan put a damper on the destabilization in an interview with the *Washington Post* in which he took a stance of strict neutrality in regards to the election outcome.

**Feb. 11.** *Washington Post* columnist Richard Cohen summed up the mood in the State Department with an op ed entitled: “Pull the Plug on Marcos.”

**Feb. 11.** President Reagan adheres to a position of neutrality in his press conference, stating that there was evidence of fraud on both sides.

**Feb. 12.** An unnamed State Department official reported to the *Washington Post* State’s “consternation” at the Reagan stance, saying policy options under consideration range from “just about swallowing this apparent fraud to telling the Filipino government that we’ll help overthrow the government of the Philippines.” According to Reuters, Reagan’s position “ruined two years of work by the State Department.” The State Department wrote up a harshly worded statement for the President, which he rejected, but he did follow their suggestion to send Philip Habib to Manila as a special envoy. In Manila, Ambassador Bosworth rushed to Aquino to tell her that Reagan’s statement did not imply a withdrawal of support for her bid to power.

**Feb. 13.** The Philippines Bishops Conference, in violation of the 1898 Philippines constitution and the separation of church and state, issued a declaration of war against the Marcos government, calling upon the population to engage in non-violent struggle to bring down Marcos.

**Feb. 15.** Sen. Richard Lugar declared the elections “not credible” and called for a full cut-off of aid to the Philippines.

**Feb. 15.** President Reagan changed his position, issuing a statement from California that was written by Secretary of State George Shultz, saying: “Although our observer delegation has not yet completed its work, it has already become evident, sadly, that the elections were marred by widespread fraud and violence perpetrated largely by the ruling party. It was so extreme that the election’s credibility has been called into question both within the Philippines and the United States.”

**Feb. 21.** President Marcos declared President by the Philippines parliament, with the inauguration set for Feb. 25.

**Feb. 22.** Afternoon Manila time, Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos seized the defense ministry at Camp Aguinaldo, and called for Aquino supporters to rally to their defense in a military coup against the Marcos government. On early Feb. 23, their call for “people power” defense was endorsed by Cardinal Jaime Sin. Enrile reported that he was in constant touch throughout the three-day coup period with Ambassador Bosworth.

**Feb. 23.** The United States officially signaled its endorsement of the coup. After a National presidential spokesman Larry Speakes read a Reagan statement appealing to Marcos “to avoid an attack” on Camp Crame, to which the coup forces had moved. The White House statement then threatened: “The United States provides military assistance to the Philippine Armed Forces. . . . We cannot continue our existing military assistance if the government uses that aid against other elements of the Philippine military which enjoy substantial popular backing.” This statement was a near direct call to the military to desert the Marcos government. The Pentagon followed up this order with a telephone call to every field commander in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, “asking” the officer if he would fight for Marcos. According to UPI, “Informed sources said they had been told by responsible Pentagon officials that all but one Philippine general had been persuaded by the Americans to keep his troops off the streets as the Marcos-Aquino confrontation escalated.”

**Feb. 24.** The State Department and Donald Regan induced President Reagan to tell Marcos publicly that all attempts to defend his regime would be “futile.” The State Department, anxious that President Marcos had already held on for three days, studied the possibility of freezing all Filipino assets in the United States—to force Marcos to resign. Such an action has only been taken by the United States against Libya and Iran—in the latter case, *after* the State Department had brought the Ayatollah Khomeini to power.

**Feb. 25.** After two telephone calls to Sen. Paul Laxalt in the early hours of Feb. 25 Manila time, President Marcos called Ambassador Bosworth and asked for transportation for himself, family members, and close associates to Clark Air Field Base.