

## US recognises

# Marcos

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos left office today and the U.S. Government has recognised opposition leader Corazon Aquino as the country's new President. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said, reports Reuter.

Shultz said Washington would work with Aquino's government. A Manila report adds: President Ferdinand Marcos and his family have left Malacanang Palace in two helicopters for the U.S. Clark Air Force base to be transported out of the country, a Manila radio station said.

The radio said the Marcos family left the palace at 9.05 p.m. (1905 GMT) for Clark 65 km north of Manila.

Corazon Aquino the widow who challenged President Ferdinand Marcos' 20-year grip on power, was Tuesday sworn in as President of the Philippines by her supporters to cap a three-day-old rebellion.

She was sworn in at 10.40 a.m. (0240 GMT) by Supreme Court Justice Claudio Teehankee in the plush suburban club Philippine packed with a largely elite crowd in dress white and yellow Mrs Aquino's campaign colour.

Prominent in the crowd were rebel army leaders Juan Ponce Enrile former Defence Minister and Lieutenant General Fidel Ramos who flew by helicopter gunship to the club from their nearby rebel headquarters in suburban Camp Crame.

A senior U.S. diplomat, First Secretary Earle Scarlett was also present, but said he was there in an unofficial capacity.

The rebels who back Mrs Aquino's claim that she was cheated out of victory in the February 7 presidential election launched their revolt on Saturday and have gained strength despite efforts by Mr Marcos to clamp down.

Applause erupted and the national anthem rang out as Mrs. Aquino widow of slain opposition leader Benigno Aquino arrived with her five children all dressed in yellow.

They were flanked by Mr. Enrile and Mrs Aquino's vice-presidential running mate, Salvador Laurel.

"I and Senator Laurel are

taking our oath in the name of the Philippine people" said Mrs Aquino who was sworn in after her running mate.

President Ferdinand Marcos, insisted that he will hold onto the presidency for another six-year term despite mounting pressure here and in Washington to step down, planned to stage his own inauguration Tuesday at his palace.

Eyewitnesses described the atmosphere at Mrs Aquino swearing-in as electric with hundreds of supporters on their feet cheering and shouting "Cory, Cory". The jubilation spilled over outside the club where another 3,000 people gathered.

The 53-year-old Mrs Aquino, hatless and in a simple yellow short dress, declared immediately that Mr Laurel would be Prime Minister of her government.

She said that Mr Enrile would be her Minister of Defence, and Lt. Gen. Ramos would be the armed forces Chief of Staff.

President Reagan is pleased by the peaceful transition in the Philippines and the United States extends recognition to the new government of President Corazon Aquino, Shultz told reporters at the White House.

He praised Marcos for deciding to step down, saying reason and compassion had prevailed.

He said Marcos, who surrendered power after a 20-year rule, was at the US Clark air base in the Philippines but did not say where he would go from there.

Shultz paid special tribute to Aquino for her commitment to non-violence which he said had earned her the respect of all Americans.

The United States stands ready to cooperate and assist the Philippines as the government of President Aquino engages the problems of economic development and national security, he said in a statement.

Shultz also paid tribute to Marcos, saying he had shown himself to be a staunch friend of the United States throughout his term of office.

We are gratified that his departure from office has come peacefully and characterized by the dignity and strength that has marked his many years of leadership, he said.

Shultz said Marcos was wel-

## Corazon Aquino

# flees country

come in the United States but that he did not think the outgoing leader had yet decided on where he wanted to go.

This is not something the US has done, Shultz said this is something the Philippine people have done.

Shultz said Aquino's New go-

vernment had been produced by one of the most stirring and courageous examples of the democratic process in modern history.

He praised the Philippine people as the true heroes.

They have high expectations for their country and for de-

mocracy and they have resolved this issue non-violently in a way that does them honour, he said.

AFP adds: Shooting broke out around the presidential palace here Tuesday after a diplomatic source said that President Ferdinand Marcos and his family had left the Philippines, eyewitnesses

said. Two Agence France-Presse reporters on the scene heard automatic rifle fire and saw flashes in the compound as an estimated 3,000 leftist protesters and a separate group of people, apparently opposition supporters, reached the palace.

There were unconfirmed reports from other witnesses that a priest had been killed and another priest and a civilian taken hostage by Marcos supporters who were angered when they were stoned.

The protesters, belonging to the radical alliance reached the palace gates amid sporadic rifle fire.

## Two decades of iron rule

MANILA, Feb. 25.—Following are the main landmarks in the 20-year presidency of Ferdinand Marcos, reports Reuter.

Nov. 9 1965 Senate President Marcos who switched from ruling Liberal Party to bear Nacionalista Party standard in presidential election defeats incumbent Diosdado Macapagal.

1968-embryonic New People's Army (NPA) starts rural Communist insurgency with just few hundred militants.

1969—Marcos re-elected for second (and theoretically final) four-year term marked by growing protests from both the left which opposes U.S. bases and rural feudalism, and the right which denounces official corruption armed clashes between Muslim separatists and Christians in southern island of Mindanao.

Aug. 21, 1971—President suspends habeas corpus saying country is menaced by commun-

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Marcos, Imelda with their grandson

### Iron rule

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ist insurrection. Sept. 21, 1972—he declares Martial Law blaming public disorders caused by both right and left political foes among thousands of dissidents arrested notably arch-rival Senator Benigno Aquino.

Jan 1973—new constitution introduced extending presidential term indefinitely and naming Marcos Prime Minister as well measures approved in national referendum which Opposition claim was rigged.

Dec. 1976—Libya helps Marcos reach ceasefire pact with Mindanao Muslim rebels but truce breaks down in late 1977.

April 7 1978—first elections under Martial Law for newly-

ed legislative assembly. idents new society move- sweeps board amid Oppo- in charges of fraud.

ay 1980—Senator Aquino freed from jail to have medical treatment in U.S.

n 1981—Marcos lifts Martial Law having first had legislation ensuring he keeps sweep- executive powers.

ay 1983—U.S. backs pact ended giving U.S. forces another five years tenure at Subic and Clark Air Base.

ug 21 1983—Aquino gunned down at Manila Airport on re- measures approved in national from self-exile triggers side political crisis aggravate by economic near-collapse.

cos denies involvement but aide General Fabian Ver other top military charged with conspiracy to murder.

av 1984—National Assembly lions Opposition candidates to startling gains and claim would have done better but government's poll-rigging. ov 8, 1985—Marcos pressured Washington which is concern by power vacuum and grow. Communist threat calls for presidential election to gain fresh mandate.

Dec 2, 1985—Ver other cleared of Aquino murder plot.

Dec 3 1985—Aquino's widow Corazon announces she will stand for President against Marcos on February 7 1986 poll.