

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. (1805 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 Filipino 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 runningmate, 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 runningmate.

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 well.

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Sept. 21, 1972—he declares martial law blaming rebels for disorders caused by both right and left political forces among thousands of political dissidents arrested notably arch-rival Senator Benigno Aquino.

Jan. 1973—newly constituted martial law indefinitely and president Marcos Prime Minister as well as national referendum which in opposition claim was rigged.

Dec. 1973—ceasefire pact with Marcos breaks Muslim rebels but truce ends in 1977 first elections under Martial Law for newly

formed legislative assembly.

1978—U.S. forces and their new society movement sweeps board amid charges of fraud.

1980—Senator Aquino freed from jail to have treatment in U.S. during martial law.

1981—Marcos lifts martial law ensuring he keeps sweeping executive powers.

1982—U.S. forces and their new society movement sweeps board amid charges of fraud.

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