

Thesis Title      Military Bases and U.S. - Philippines Relations,  
1965-1984

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#### ABSTRACT

The objectives of this thesis is to make a study of the importance to the United States of their bases in the Philippines, and the relationship between these two states. Within this scope, the study will also include US.assistance to the Philippines, and negotiations for certain changes to be made to stipulations of the Military Base Agreement. The thesis covers only the 1965-1984 period, during which ex-President Ferdinand E. Marcos was in power. The hypotheses are as follows :

1. Because the Philippine bases are vital to US. interests, the US. beleived that their being able to retain the bases depended on the existence of a government which was friendly and secure. Therefore, whatever the form of government in the Philippines, as long as it was prepared to fully support the existence of the bases, the US. was prepared to back up that government.

2. The desire to retain these bases caused the US. to yield to the demands of the Philippine government during the base negotiations.

From this study, it is found that the Philippine bases are of genuine strategic importance to the US., both on the regional and global levels, in the safe-keeping of interests in the balance of power with Soviet Union. The degree of importance increased especially during the period when the Soviets expanded their influence into the Southeast Asian, the Middle East and the Indian Ocean regions.

It is also found that, because of US. awareness of Soviet expansion, and the desire to retain the bases, the US., therefore, did not pay much attention to the form of Philippine government. The only US. concern at the time, was that the existing local government should possess stability and security; and that the continued presence of the US. bases should be permitted. The US. government would then support to that local government, regardless of whether that government was a democratic or an authoritarian one. An example can be seen in the support the US. gave the government of ex-President Marcos during the years 1972-1981, when the country was under Martial Law.

In this same respect, the desire to retain the rights to the bases in the Philippines caused the US. to yield and accommodate the demands of Marcos' government during the various negotiations for changes in the stipulations of the Military Base Agreement. And from these negotiations, the rights and the interests of the US., as agreed upon in the Military Base Agreement of 1947, were gradually reduced. The rights and interests under negotiation were: the length of time during which the bases would be maintained; the

areas used by the US. within the bases; the supervision of authority over the areas and districts within the bases; and US. jurisdiction over the bases.

Therefore, it can be clearly shown that the result of this study comes out in support of the hypotheses put forward, namely that the US. bases in the Philippines are significant to the formulation of the relationship between the US. and the Philippines.