
REACTION PAPER ABOUT CORY AQUINO'S SPEECH

When Former President of the Philippines Corazon C. Aquino gave a speech to the United States Congress on September 1986, she called on America to help our country in maintaining the freedom. Cory Aquino's speech was started and decorated by uncountable references to her husband, Former Senator Ninoy Aquino whom the Filipino nation had assigned as the poster boy for anti-Marcos movements.

Her speech was to connect Ninoy's struggle with that of the whole nation, all the while interlinking their family's history with the fate of the entire country. She justified her presence in front of the U.S. Congress using symbolic words and figurative language, alluding to her connection with the late Ninoy on one hand and satisfying her command to the Filipino people on the other. She succeeded in her analysis of the Martial Law era regarding its origin and outcome.

Marcos' attempt to stop a 500-strong communist insurgency by imposing a restrictive policy only furthered the Red Army's reach; in fact, it has been said that the Communist Party had 16,000 members by the end of Martial Law, making Marcos the Party's biggest recruiter. President Cory said that the Martial Law was like, "trying to stifle a thing with the means by which it grows," acknowledging the fact that the communist insurgency existed because of widespread economic inequality. Cory Aquino appears to have the highest confidence and trust in America that she invited the country to help the Philippines in practicing its democracy. Looking at it from today's perspective, it seems like an open invitation for the former to help and subsequently use it for its own strategic interests.

After watching Cory Aquino's speech, I asked my parents if there's really a changed or a big result after she had her speech. But sadly, my father said that nothing's changed after that speech to U.S. Congress in 1986. There is still no genuine economic and social transformation agenda which was mentioned in her speech. Sad to think that there's a lot of promises said by those highest person when it comes to our country but some of those promises still remain as a phrase or just a promise.

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