

United States Department of State

*Under Secretary of State
for Political Affairs*

Washington, D.C. 20520

June 3, 1989

Dear Mr. Whittington:

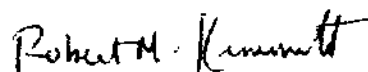
As discussed with the Department of Transportation, the Department of State requests the cooperation of the Federal Aviation Administration in an important foreign policy matter concerning United States relations with the Philippines.

On May 20, 1989, the Government of the Philippines, by diplomatic note to our Embassy in Manila, restated its policy of opposition to the return of former President Ferdinand Marcos to the Philippines, adding that the position also applied in the event of Mr. Marcos' death. President Corazon Aquino has recently reiterated this policy publicly. This position is based on concerns for the stability of the Philippines. The Philippine Department of Transportation has informed us that it has instructed appropriate authorities to deny entry into the Philippines of any vessel or aircraft carrying the body of Mr. Marcos.

The United States has an important strategic interest in democracy and stability in the Philippines, a long-time ally of the United States. The U.S. Government has previously implemented measures to prevent the departure of Mr. Marcos while alive. We also believe that measures should be taken to prevent the return of his body in the event of his death. We believe that the concerns of the Government of the Philippines are well-founded and that the return of Mr. Marcos' body to the Philippines in contravention of Philippine policy and law would be contrary to U.S. foreign policy interests. We also believe that such a return, or the attempt to do so, would create a danger to the safety of the aircraft and persons involved, as well as other persons who might be present at the actual or anticipated destination.

Thank you for your assistance on this important matter.

Sincerely,


Robert M. Kimmitt

Mr. Robert E. Whittington,
Acting Administrator,
Federal Aviation Administration,
Washington, D.C.

cc: The Honorable
Samuel K. Skinner,
Secretary of Transportation.

Mr. Robert S. Ross, Jr.,
Executive Assistant to the Attorney General,
Department of Justice.