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920 040-2172 United States Department of State

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Under Secretary of State
for Political Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20520

September 24, 1990

UNCLASSIFIED WITH
CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENTS

Dear Admiral Busey:

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RF/sez In June 1989, the Department of State requested the cooperation of the Federal Aviation Administration in an important foreign policy matter concerning United States relations with the Philippines, namely implementation of measures to prevent the return of the remains of former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos to the Philippines.

The Department's request was based upon our two concerns: first, that the return to the Philippines of Mr. Marcos' remains in contravention of Philippine policy and law would be contrary to U.S. foreign policy interests; and, second, that such a return, or the attempt to do so, would create a danger to the safety of the aircraft or persons involved, as well as other persons who might be present at the actual or anticipated destination. The Department greatly appreciates the FAA's response to our request in issuing Special Federal Aviation Regulation (SFAR) No. 57.

The Department has recently been informed by the Government of the Philippines that its current policy on the return of Mr. Marcos' body, and regulations implementing it, remain in effect. After careful review of the current situation in the Philippines, the Department has concluded that our concerns expressed last year regarding the consequences for both U.S. foreign policy interests and aviation safety of a return of Mr. Marcos' body remain valid, and therefore that continued measures should be taken to prevent its return to the Philippines. We thus wish to request the continued cooperation of the FAA in this important matter after October 1, 1990.

Thank you again for your assistance.

Drafted: L/EAP: SRatner SA

Sincerely yours,

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Admiral James B. Busey, IV,
Administrator,
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