

'Today's Revolution: Democracy'

President Marcos has written at length on the principle, long advocated by him, that government can, and should, initiate revolution.

In a 117-page book, "Today's Revolution: Democracy," the President expounds on the thesis that "democracy and revolution are inseparable," and that violence as a means of obtaining the radical change that present society needs is both "ineffective and undesirable."

(See excerpts below. -- Ed.)

The book, which came off the

press earlier last week, was launched last Saturday on the occasion of the President's 54th birthday anniversary.

The President said it took a year of frequently interrupted writing to complete the book, which he started some months after the violent demonstrations of January 26 and January 30 last year.

The book comes in a limited edition of 1,000 copies. The President is reported contemplating a second edition, to be printed abroad for mass distri-

bution.

The book consists of six chapters, besides an Introduction; an Addendum, which takes stock of recent events including the Plaza Miranda bombing and the subsequent suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus; and an Epilogue, which summarizes his arguments for a "democratic revolution."

Among the main points discussed in the President's book are:

1. That there are two types of revolution -- the Jacobin, or violent type; and liberal, or peaceful revolution.

2. That the revolution "is not about to come, it is here."

3. That the right to rebel is "an elemental human right," and that the people have "an inherent right of revolution."

4. That a government-initiated revolution, a "revolution from above," is not a contradiction in terms, and that in fact "a democratic government is obliged to make itself the faithful instrument of the people's revolutionary aspirations."

5. That "the dominant characteristic of our society which demands radical change is the economic gap between the rich and the poor," and that consequently, "revolutionaries anchor their appeal on the age-old conflict between the rich and the poor."

6. That radical change to correct this situation is necessary, but that such a change has been "more honored in the pretension than in the performance."

7. That the media have contributed to the perpetuation of the oligarchic "values" (which provide the "wealthy few the opportunity of exercising undue influence on the political authority") and have "promoted the decadence of the masses."

8. That communism "is a big swindle."

9. That both abolition of private property under communism and the unrestricted control of wealth and property by a few private individuals under capitalism violate freedom.

The President quotes, among others, Pope Paul VI, who in his encyclical *Populorum Progressio*, says: "Private property does not constitute for anyone an absolute and unconditioned right. No one is justified in keeping for his exclusive use what he does not need, when others lack necessities."

He stresses that we should now make a choice between "the democratization of wealth or its abolition," and suggests that the revolution should move in the direction of a system which would best serve human dignity and freedom.

The book advocates regulation of private wealth and property.

The President concludes that there can never be a perfect society. However, he says, "a society which permits human beings to fulfill themselves in whatever manner that befits their dignity and freedom as individuals is worth our single-minded dedication."