PREFACE
The American withdrawal from Vietnam was followed by a series of events that threatened US security interests in the region. Laos fell a victim to pure-and-simple Vietnamese imperialism. Kampuchea, on the other hand was taken over by an indigenous communist movement. In December 1978, the Vietnamese troops marched into Kampuchea and overthrew the highly repressive Pol Pot regime from power and installed its own Heng Samrin regime. The US failure in Vietnam speeded up the efforts of traditional allies of US to disengage from military ties with it. Thailand expelled all US military forces and installations like U. Taphao Air Base, the Rumanan Electronic Monitoring Station and the Koh Kan Satellite Tracking Station. No one was interested in getting into trouble with Vietnam at that stage. When most of the Southeast Asian countries were affected by the American defeat in Vietnam, the Philippines bound by 'Special Relationship' with the United States proved to be no exception. President Marcos announced a reassessment of the need to have US bases on the soil of the Philippines. The United States however, succeeded in persuading the Marcos regime to agree on an amicable settlement on the issue of its military bases. Thus while the United States was sailing against the hostile wind in Southeast Asia, it found the Philippines the
safest place to cast its anchor. It was in the interest of the US to have a co-operative and friendly regime and in Marcos it found such an ally. In return it supported him as long and as far as it was possible.

The thesis makes an attempt to analyze how the relationship that had been built so assiduously gave way under the pressure of the democratic revolution in the Philippines. The roots of any revolution goes back to the past. It is strengthened by the deterioration in the economic, social and political conditions. Then comes the final act of the overthrow of a hated regime. The democratic revolution in the Philippines passed through all these phases. How the US responded to these developments is the subject of this study. It is concluded on the basis of the analysis of the available data that US interest and the American people’s commitment to democracy were equally served by the Reagan administration’s policy towards the democratic revolution. Till the very last minute the US was guided by its security concerns. When it saw that the people’s revolution was bound to be successful only then the Reagan administration chose to abandon Marcos and expressed its optimism due to the non-communist background of Corazon Aquino.
The methodology adopted here is both empirical and analytical. The issue has been analysed on the basis of informations available in the non-classified documents and publications of the government of the United States both of the executive department as well as those of Congress.

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