



Komisar, Lucy: Papers, 1982-1987

Finding Aid Type

Donated Collections

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This collection consists of personal papers donated to the Reagan Presidential Library and is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act. It has been reviewed by the Reagan Library staff and is available for research use.

Record Type

Textual

Biography

Lucy Komisar is an investigative journalist and freelance author.

Komisar was born in New York in April 1942 and spent her youth there graduating from high school and attending college. Komisar majored in history at Queens College, New York. As a college student, Komisar participated in the 1960s civil rights movement in Mississippi. While in Mississippi, Komisar served as editor of the *Mississippi Free Press*.

Returning to New York, Komisar worked as the associate editor of *The Hatworker*. She then went on to a series of jobs in speechwriting, television news and commentary and freelance writing. She worked as a reporter for the *Bergen Record* and eventually as a commentator on WNET-TV in New York City. She continues

today as a freelance writer, investigator and theater critic.

During the 1970s, Komisar continued her fight against discrimination within the women's movement and served as vice president for the National Organization for Women.

Komisar has written about revolutions, human rights abuse, and gender relations. Her books include *New Feminism, Down and Out in the USA*, and *Corazon Aquino: The Story of a Revolution*. From 1976 to 1996, Komisar was a board member of PEN, an organization of poets, playwrights, essayists, editors, and novelists. As a member, Komisar protested the censoring, jailing, and persecution of fellow writers around the world because of the nature of their work. Since 1997, she has focused on international finance fraud, terrorism, and money-laundering.

Her articles are on her website, <http://thekomisarscoop.com>. She resides in New York City.

Scope and Content Note

The material in this collection consists of the working documents used by Ms. Komisar in her writings on the Philippines, human rights abuses in the Philippines and eventually her book, *Corazon Aquino: The Story of a Revolution*. The material, much of it locally produced in the Philippines, consists of background information of all types regarding the political, economic, and social situation in the Philippines in the 1980s. Much of the material documents human rights abuses, and the civil rights abuses of the 1986 Filipino Presidential "snap" election. It also includes documentation of the general economic malaise of the islands for most Filipinos suffering under an oligarchic economic and political system controlled by Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos and top government officials. Many of these documents pertain to the 1986 election between President Ferdinand Marcos and challenger Corazon "Cory" Aquino.

Constrained by a constitutional restriction of two terms, Ferdinand Marcos continued to rule the Philippines as a dictator after declaring martial law in 1972. Opposition movements strengthened over time and in 1983, opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, Jr. returned from U.S. exile to lead the fight against

Marcos. He was assassinated at the airport. Both his widow and most Filipinos held Marcos responsible for the murder.

Opposition strengthened and continued in the next three years. There was both a communist and a Muslim insurgency in the Philippines and the nation was suffering from deep economic problems. In addition, there was widespread Filipino opposition to U.S. involvement in the Philippines, including U.S. military bases and U.S. support for Marcos.

Pressured by the current situation, Marcos called for a “snap” presidential election in February 1986. Cory Aquino, Benigno’s widow, ran as the opposition candidate. Observer groups, media and most Filipinos viewed the election as “rigged” when Marcos was declared the winner.

This led to a widespread protest in the Philippines known as the “People Power Revolution.” Shortly after the election, two of Marcos’s firmest allies, Armed Forces Vice-Chief of Staff Fidel V. Ramos and Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile resigned and became an additional rallying point for the revolution.

President Ronald Reagan supported Marcos and the Marcos regime. Marcos was viewed by the United States as a bulwark against the spread of communism in Southeast Asia. However, faced with the massive protests, the defection of his top military leaders, the poor health of Marcos and advice from foreign policy advisors, the President decided to end U.S. support for Marcos. Marcos was informed on February 20, 1986 by Senator Paul Laxalt. He left office that day and was transported in exile to Hawaii on February 26, 1986. Cory Aquino was then recognized as president.

This collection consists of seven series: SERIES I: Background Information on the Philippines; SERIES II: General Philippine Economic Information; SERIES III: General Philippine Political Information; SERIES IV: Philippine 1986 Election; SERIES V: Crisis and Reform Information; SERIES VI: Philippine-United State Foreign Relations; and SERIES VII: News Clippings.

Series List

SERIES I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PHILIPPINES

This series consists of material related to general statistics, and general information about the Philippines. The series includes maps of the Philippines and the city of Manila; a booklet produced by the Mennonite Central Committee on the human rights struggle in the Philippines, the February 1986 Maryknoll journal featuring the Philippines; a general guide to life in the Philippines for new arrivals at U.S. Clark Air Base; and 1985 & 1986 IBON publications on Philippine economics and statistics. The material is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

SERIES II: GENERAL PHILIPPINE ECONOMICS

This series consists of material related to studies of the 1980s economic situation and corporations within the Philippines. It includes recommendations and ideas, mostly socialist, for improvements in the economy. The material was, for the most part, produced by the Makati Business Club of Manila, various departments of the University of the Philippines and a group known as Agusdina. It is arranged in no discernable order.

SERIES III: GENERAL PHILIPPINE POLITICS

This series consists of material related to political analysis of the situation in the Philippines prior to the 1986 presidential election. It includes a copy of the Philippine Constitution; a political platform for the Liberal Party calling for a “mixed” economy; a manifesto for the “People’s Party” and their hope to create a democratic socialism for the Philippines; Third World studies by the University of the Philippines; and two long articles on social democracy in the Philippines.

SERIES IV: PHILIPPINE 1986 ELECTION

This series consists of material related to the “snap” 1986 presidential election in the Philippines featuring candidates Corizon Aquino and President Ferdinand

Marcos. It includes speeches by Cory Aquino, a biography of Aquino and a financial disclosure form; a “Dollars for Philippine Democracy” program in the United States; political broadsides from other parties, particularly the Bayan Party calling for a boycott of the elections and protests after the election; broadsides and newspaper ads from various religious groups calling for a fair election and asking people to vote; announcement of the election observers and the final report on the abuses; underground newsletters on the election and a paper on the possible scenarios for any and all election results. The files are arranged in approximate chronological order

SERIES V: CRISIS AND REFORM INFORMATION

This series consists of material related to problems and reforms needed in the Philippine education system; relationship to religion; urban problems; poverty & hunger; land distribution; health industry; fishing industry; sugar workers & production; plight of the Moro peoples; women textile workers; general human rights abuses; torture and detention of citizens; and increasing militarization of Filipino society. All of the material was produced in the Philippines and although much of it is unattributed some groups responsible for its publication include the Nationalist Alliance for Justice, Freedom and Democracy, The National Federation of Sugar Workers, The Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, The National Alliance for Peasants, the Philippine Peasant Movement, and many church and ecumenical groups. Much of the material includes references to United States imperialism in the Philippines and the “US-Marcos” dictatorship.

SERIES VI: THE PHILIPPINES AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

This series consists of material related to U.S. efforts to determine the true situation politically and socially within the Philippines after the assassination of Benigno Aquino. The National Security Study Directive 4-84 and several staff studies done for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee were used by U.S. decision makers in Congress, the State Department, and the White House. These studies helped establish new U.S. policy towards the Philippines. It also includes speeches by State Department officials and a study of the needs for maintaining United States military bases within the Philippines. Additional material created both in the Philippines and in the United States focuses on the relationship from the

Filipino point of view. This material is predominantly focused on efforts to remove Ferdinand Marcos and calling for the end of continued U.S. imperialism and U.S. political intervention in the Philippines.

SERIES VII: NEWS CLIPPINGS

This series consists of material related to newspaper and journal accounts of the 1986 election and the life of Corazon Aquino. The material was written and produced in the United State and the Philippines. Also included is a group of articles and reports about the Armed Forces of the Philippines reform movement. The news clippings and material on President Aquino’s life are separated from the general news clippings but each group is arranged in chronological order.

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Box 1

Status	Title
OPEN	“IBON Facts & Figures” – Volume 8, 1985 – Issues 154-177
OPEN	“IBON Facts & Figures” – 02/28/1986
OPEN	[Maps]
OPEN	“Maryknoll” – February 1986
OPEN	“Spirit in Struggle: A Reader and Study Guide of the Philippines”
OPEN	“Your Guide to Clark Air Base, Republic of the Philippines”

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Box 1, cont.

Status	Title
OPEN	"Agusdiwa - Bulletins on Agusan - Surigao"
OPEN	"Issues and Prescriptions - 1982" - Philippine Growth and Development
OPEN	"The IMF (International Monetary Fund) and how it Affects the Filipino People" - September 1983
OPEN	"The Second-Third Year in Review" - November 1982-October 1984
OPEN	"Towards a Socialist Self-Reliant Economy: An Alternative for Philippine
OPEN	Economic Development" - September 1985
OPEN	"Towards Recovery and Sustainable Growth" - September 1985 (1)(2)
OPEN	"MBC Papers" [Makati Business Club] - October 1985
OPEN	"MBC Papers" [Makati Business Club] - November 1985
OPEN	"Structural Adjustment: Impact on Employment and Employment Patterns" - November, 1985 (1)-(3)
OPEN	"Philippines: Key Economic Indicators" - 11/22/1985
OPEN	"MBC Papers" [Makati Business Club] - December 1985
OPEN	"Regional Economic Comparisons" - 1985
OPEN	"The Makati Business Club 1986 Calendar"
OPEN	"The Philippine Economy and Marx's Humanist Dialectics" - 01/20/1986

SERIES III: GENERAL PHILIPPINE POLITICS

This series consists of material related to political analysis of the situation in the Philippines prior to the 1986 presidential election. It includes a copy of the Philippine Constitution; a political platform for the Liberal Party calling for a “mixed” economy; a manifesto for the “People’s Party” and their hope to create a democratic socialism for the Philippines; Third World studies by the University of the Philippines; and two long articles on social democracy in the Philippines.

Box 1, cont.

Status	Title
OPEN	The Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines
OPEN	“Developmentalism and the ‘New Society’: The Repressive Ideology of Underdevelopment” – August 1983
OPEN	“The Liberal Party Vision and Program of Government”
OPEN	“Political Change, Urban Services, and Social Movements: Political Participation and Grass-Roots Politics in Metro Manila”
OPEN	<i>Kasarinlan</i> Volume 1, Number 1, 3rd Quarter, 1985
OPEN	<i>Kasarinlan</i> Volume 1, Number 2, 4th Quarter, 1985

Box 2

Status	Title
OPEN	“A Social Democratic Primer: Readings on the Theory and Practice of Social Democracy in the Philippines” – 1985 (1)-(3)
OPEN	[Biographies and Assets of President Corazon C. Aquino]

SERIES IV: PHILIPPINE 1986 ELECTION

This series consists of material related to the “snap” 1986 presidential election in the Philippines featuring candidates Corizon Aquino and President Ferdinand Marcos. It includes speeches by Cory Aquino, a biography of Aquino and a financial

disclosure form; a “Dollars for Philippine Democracy” program in the United States; political broadsides from other parties, particularly the Bayan Party calling for a boycott of the elections and protests after the election; broadsides and newspaper ads from various religious groups calling for a fair election and asking people to vote; announcement of the election observers and the final report on the abuses; underground newsletters on the election and a paper on the possible scenarios for any and all election results. The files are arranged in approximate chronological order

Box 2, cont.

Status	Title
OPEN	[Documents - Dollars for Philippine Democracy]
OPEN	[Aquino/Laurel Campaign Flyer]
OPEN	[Speech - Sigma Delta Phi - Park Sheraton - 10/22/1985]
OPEN	“To Lead by Example; to Inspire” - 12/03/1985
OPEN	“Dollars for Philippine Democracy” - 12/21/1985
OPEN	“Persevere in Correct Struggles - Boycott the Sham Snap Election!” - January 1986
OPEN	“Cast Away Illusions - Boycott the Sham Snap Election!” - January 1986
OPEN	“Building from the Ruins” - 01/06/1986
OPEN	“A Presidential Snap Election: A Primer” - 01/17/1986
OPEN	“Broken Promises in the Land of Promise” - 01/16/1986
OPEN	“Daily Commentaries” Number 19 - 01/20/1986
OPEN	“Tearing Down the Dictatorship, Rebuilding Democracy” - 01/23/1986
OPEN	“The Issues against Mr. Marcos in the Coming Elections” - 01/23/1986
OPEN	“We Must Obey God Rather than Men” - 01/25/1986
OPEN	“Framework for Discussion of Scenarios Before, During, and After the Snap Presidential Elections” - 01/27/1986
OPEN	“National Council of Churches in the Philippines’ Statement on the February 7 Elections” - 01/27/1986

Status	Title
OPEN	"Campaign Details" - 01/30/1986-02/05/1986 [01/28/1986]
OPEN	"International Delegation to Observe Philippine Election Announced" - 01/31/1986
OPEN	"Rescue from Disgrace in a Pharaoh's House" - 02/03/1986
OPEN	"Tampat Monitor" - 02/05/1986
OPEN	[Two Sample Ballots - 02/07/1986]
OPEN	"Suspected Ballot Switching in Makati: Namfel People Mauled" - 02/08/1986
OPEN	"Assert the People's Might, Continue the Militant Struggle, Reject the Sham Victory of the US-Marcos Dictatorship!"
OPEN	"A Call to Build Together" - 02/22/1986
OPEN	"A Pastoral Letter" - 02/26/1986
OPEN	Proposed Theme/Calls NAJFD - Campaign Work - 03/04/1986
OPEN	"Statement by Co-Leaders International Observer Delegation"
OPEN	"Philippine Presidential Election: A Harvest of Uncertainties"
OPEN	[National Citizens Movement for Free Elections Report]
OPEN	"The NAMFREL [National Citizens Movement for Free Elections] Report on the 02/07/1986 Philippine Presidential Elections"

SERIES V: CRISIS AND REFORM INFORMATION

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much of it is unattributed some groups responsible for its publication include the Nationalist Alliance for Justice, Freedom and Democracy, The National Federation of Sugar Workers, The Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, The National Alliance for Peasants, the Philippine Peasant Movement, and many church and ecumenical groups. Much of the material includes references to United States imperialism in the Philippines and the “US-Marcos” dictatorship.

Box 2, cont.

Status	Title
OPEN	“The Philippine Educational System: Trends and Status”
OPEN	“Church Sector Situationer”
OPEN	“Davao City, Urban Poor Situationer”
OPEN	“Fisherman Sector Situationer”
OPEN	“Health Sector Situationer”
OPEN	“Moro People Sitauationer”
OPEN	“The Mindanao Situation”
OPEN	“Land Grabbing: An Assault on the Countryside”
OPEN	“Negros and Sugar Barons”
OPEN	“Filipino Women’s Struggle”
OPEN	“Modified Free Enterprise System: Philippine Development Alternative”
OPEN	“Education is the Only Answer”
OPEN	“Regional Situationer and Demands”
OPEN	“Philippine Action Concerning Torture”
OPEN	“Free Jose Maria Sison!”
OPEN	“National Labor Coalition for Democracy: Let’s Preserve Our Gains”
OPEN	Peasant Movement of the Philippines: “Declaration of Principles”
OPEN	“Some Notes on the Exposure Program”
OPEN	“Remembering Ninoy: The Name, the Legend, the Martyr”
OPEN	List of Slide Productions
OPEN	“A Primer on Land Reform and other Related Programs”

Status	Title
OPEN	"Sugar: Honey for a Few – Blood and Sweat for Many" – February 1984
Box 3	
Status	Title
OPEN	"Human Rights Situation and Militarization in the Philippines: Trends and Analysis" – 1984
OPEN	"Basic Documents and Resolutions of the First National Assembly" – September 1984
OPEN	"Conjuangco in Agusan" – September 1984
OPEN	[1985 Documents Pertaining to Bayan Organization]
OPEN	"Human Rights Situation in Mindanao" – 1985
OPEN	"Trends in Industrial Labor in Northeastern Mindanao" – May 1985
OPEN	"Mr. and Mrs." – 05/10/1985
OPEN	"Unang Tinuig Nga Assembliya" – 05/18/1984-05/21/1984
OPEN	"Asiaweek" – 05/31/1985
OPEN	[Letter – 06/06/1985]
OPEN	"Sugar Worker Beheaded" – 06/18/1985
OPEN	"Negros in Turmoil" – July 1985
OPEN	"Food Blockade in Misamis Oriental" – 07/07/1985
OPEN	"Poem from Negros" – 07/29/1985
OPEN	"Katarungan" – August 1985
OPEN	"Rice, Not Mere Application Forms!" – 08/01/1985
OPEN	"Escalante Massacre Create Reign of Terror in Negros" – 09/21/1985
OPEN	"Food and Freedom: The Cry of Negros!" – 09/24/1985
OPEN	National Federation of Sugar Workers Statement on the Escalante Massacre – 09/28/1985
OPEN	"Philippine Poverty Report" – October 1985
OPEN	"Escalante: Fear and Silent Rage" – 10/01/1985
OPEN	Halad Kay Maria Documents – 10/25/1985

Status	Title
OPEN	"Of All Philippine Sectors, Peasants Have Been the Most Consistently Valiant" - 10/25/1985
OPEN	<i>Satam</i> Volume 1, Number 2 - October/December 1985
OPEN	NCCP [National Council of Churches] Newsletter - November 1985
OPEN	[Two Mindanao Interfaith People's Conference Flyers - 11/04/1985-11/08/1985]
OPEN	[Letter to Reverend Fathers - 11/14/1985]
OPEN	"UPDATE" Volume 1, Number 3, 11/15/1985-12/14/1985
OPEN	Moro Kurier - November/December, 1985
OPEN	"Support the Struggle of the Peoples of Navotas: Dismantle the US-backed Marcos Dictatorship" - December 1985
OPEN	"PAG ASA Newsletter" - December, 1985
OPEN	"Salvaging Democracy: Human Rights in the Philippines" -December 1985
OPEN	"Had. Guinsang-an Workers Go on Strike" - 12/06/1985
OPEN	"National Federation of Sugar Workers to Host International Seminar" - 12/11/1985
OPEN	"Touching Ground, Taking Root" - 12/11/1985
OPEN	"To Our Friends and Benefactors" - 12/12/1985
OPEN	Chronology of Events January 1985-January 1986
OPEN	"Elections, Poverty, and Insurgency" - 01/22/1986
OPEN	"Bagong Alyansang Makabayan" - 02/09/1986
OPEN	"Human Rights & Militarization in Negros" - 1988

SERIES VI: THE PHILIPPINES AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

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studies helped establish new U.S. policy towards the Philippines. It also includes speeches by State Department officials and a study of the needs for maintaining United States military bases within the Philippines. Additional material created both in the Philippines and in the United States focuses on the relationship from the Filipino point of view. This material is predominantly focused on efforts to remove Ferdinand Marcos and calling for the end of continued U.S. imperialism and U.S. political intervention in the Philippines.

Box 3, cont.

Status	Title
OPEN	"US Policy Towards the Philippines" - 03/12/1985
OPEN	[Analysis of Philippine Politics] May 1984-July 1984
OPEN	"The Current State of US - Philippine Relations" - 03/27/1984
OPEN	"The Situation in the Philippines" - 1984
OPEN	"Document from the Conference for International Solidarity with the Philippine Struggle" 09/07/1985-09/21/1985
OPEN	"A Nation in Crisis, A People Undaunted: The Philippine National Situation and US Intervention" - 09/17/1985
OPEN	"Coalition Close-Up" - Fall 1985
OPEN	"Procurement of Supplies and Services by the US Facilities at Subic and Clark" - 1985
OPEN	"Update" Volume 1, Number 2 - 10/15/1985-11/14/1985
OPEN	"The Philippines: A Situation Report" - 10/21/1985

Box 4

Status	Title
OPEN	"Insurgency and Counterinsurgency in the Philippines" - 11/20/1985
OPEN	<i>Network</i> Volume 13, Number 6, November 1985 - December 1985
OPEN	<i>Philippine Report</i> - Volume 2, Number 11-12 - November 1985-December 1985

Status	Title
OPEN	<i>Asian Rights Advocate</i> Volume 9, Number 12 - December 1985
OPEN	<i>Report to the Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate, on the Presidential Election Process in the Philippines</i> - 12/18/1985 [Report and Additional Documents] (1)(2)
OPEN	"tingog Kabatan-Onan" Volume 3, Number 4, December 1985
OPEN	"Philippine Report" Volume 3, Number 1, January 1986
OPEN	[Documents pertaining to Senate Foreign Relations Committee Hearing] - 01/24/1986
OPEN	"International Working Area Procedures" - 02/07/1986

SERIES VII: NEWS CLIPPINGS

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Box 4, cont.

Status	Title
OPEN	Philippine Clips [Undated]
OPEN	Philippine Clips [August, 1985]
OPEN	Philippine Clips [September, 1985]
OPEN	Philippine Clips [December 1985]
OPEN	Philippine Clips [January 1986]
OPEN	Philippine Clips [February 1986]
OPEN	Philippine Clips [March 1986] (1)-(4)
OPEN	Philippine Clips [April 1986]
OPEN	Philippine Clips [October, 1986]
OPEN	Philippine Clips [January 1987-March 1987]

Status	Title
OPEN	[AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) Reform Movement – Articles and Reports] (1)(2)
OPEN	<i>Defense & Disarmament News</i> , October 1985-November 1985]
OPEN	[News Transcripts/Interviews] [Undated]
OPEN	[News Transcripts/Interviews] [Pre-1980]
OPEN	[News Transcripts/Interviews] [1982-1985]
OPEN	[News Transcripts/Interviews] [January 1986]
OPEN	[News Transcripts/Interviews] [February 1986]
OPEN	[News Transcripts/Interviews] [March 1986]

Box 5

Status	Title
OPEN	[News Transcripts/Interviews] [April 1986]
OPEN	[News Transcripts/Interviews] [May 1986]
OPEN	[News Transcripts/Interviews] [June 1986]
OPEN	[News Transcripts/Interviews] [July 1986]
OPEN	[News Transcripts/Interviews] [“Hope in Sin” – August 1986]
OPEN	[News Transcripts/Interviews] [September 1986]
OPEN	[News Transcripts/Interviews] [October 1986]
OPEN	[News Transcripts/Interviews] [November 1986]
OPEN	[News Transcripts/Interviews] [12/01/1986-12/18/1986]
OPEN	[News Transcripts/Interviews] [12/18/1986-12/31/1986]
OPEN	[News Transcripts/Interviews] [1987]
OPEN	[Unrelated News Clippings]
OPEN	[Comment from Ms. Komisar on Collection Description]