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Apologize, opposition told

■ The spying case "is an embarrassment for our people who deserve an apology from those who messed up the good name of our country," the President's Spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye, said.

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal Arroyo demanded an apology yesterday from opposition politicians who allegedly received classified US government documents stolen from the White House and the FBI.

"This is an embarrassment for our people who deserve an apology from those who messed up the good name of our country," the President's Spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye, said.

The Palace statement followed revelations that ousted President Joseph Estrada and Senator Panfilo Lacson had accepted documents from Filipino-American Leandro Aragoncillo, an FBI analyst who was arrested in New Jersey last month along with Lacson aide Michael Ray Aquino for downloading more than 100 classified files from FBI computers.

Over the weekend, US embassy Chargé d'Affaires Daryll Johnson told a radio interview in Cebu City that opposition politicians had twisted the contents of the classified US documents and fed these to the media to embarrass the Arroyo administration.

National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco, meanwhile, is in the United States to discuss closer cooperation with the FBI on the Aragoncillo-Aquino case. *Next page*



Brave front. Ms. Earth Pakistan Naomi Zaman tries to hold back tears as she reads Standard Today's banner story on the massive earthquake that hit her country and killed thousands of her countrymen. She is consoled by friends Miss Malaysia Hui ting Pang, Miss Paraguay Tania Domaniczky, and Miss Egypt Elham Wagdi. DAVID CHAN

2 Pinays survive Pakistan quake

By Joyce Pangco Panares

TWO Filipina workers cheated death in Pakistan after they managed to escape from their 11-story apartment just as it was about to crumble when the 7.6 magnitude earthquake hit that country over the weekend.

Foreign Affairs Spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said the Philip-

pine Embassy in Islamabad is now providing shelter to OFWs Gina Oclarit and Jane Lapus.

"We are thankful that they have managed to escape, that they have not become statistics there," Asuque said.

While he could not say which floor they were in when the first tremors of the earthquake were felt, Asuque said Oclarit and Lapus

would have faced certain death if they were still inside the Margalla Towers in Islamabad as it collapsed.

"Both overseas Filipino workers are now staying at the embassy's National Center where they were given assistance," he added.

Philippine chargé d'affaires to Pakistan Maria Agnes Cervantes earlier reported that there has *Next page*

Govt monitors 2 JI-Abu cells in Metro Manila

By Joel M. Sy Egco

GOVERNMENT agents are hunting down members of two Jemaah Islamiyah and Abu Sayyaf terrorist cells operating in Metro Manila that are capable of launching deadly bomb attacks, a military spokesperson said yesterday.

In a briefing yesterday, military information chief Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual said the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines is monitoring two ASG-JI cells in Metro Manila, with each cell composed of at least three to four persons.

He assured the public, however, that agents have been deployed to thwart any terrorist attack.

The Bureau of Immigration, meanwhile, was on the alert following intelligence reports that more terrorists with JI links would try to enter the country through

its southern backdoor. Government forces who are tracking down the JI members are getting help from Australian police and intelligence specialists who are here to lend their expertise.

"I'm not going into all the details, but there are Australian personnel in the Philippines who are providing the Philippine Armed Forces with assistance," said Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer in a radio interview.

The arrival of the Australian anti-terrorism experts comes on the heels of a \$10 million bounty offered by Washington for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Dulmatin, one of the alleged masterminds of the Bali bombings.

The reward is the second highest offered for a wanted person, next only to the \$25 million offered by the US for Osama bin Laden *Next page*



Unwavering support. Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado (extreme left), president of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines and Cebu Councilor Carlo Fortuna (extreme right), Ulap secretary general, present a resolution affirming their unstinting support for President Arroyo at the 14th anniversary celebration of the local government code at the Manila Hotel. Also present were Interior and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes, Budget Secretary Romulo Neri and Trade Secretary Peter Favila. JOSEPH MUEGO

ICTSI seals Aussie stevedoring deal

PORT operator International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) has forged tie-up with Aglo Ports Pty Ltd. of Australia to take a big slice in the Australian stevedoring opportunities.

ICTSI and Aglo Ports formed Australian International Container Terminals Ltd. (AICTSI) to com-

pete with Patrick Corp. Ltd. and P&O, the two dominating stevedoring concerns in Australia.

The newly formed firm was confident it could initially invest at least 200 million Australian dollars. The sharing agreement was not disclosed.

ICTSI chairman and president

Enrique Razon assumes the position as chairman of AICTSI's five-member board.

ICTSI has been bidding for several port projects outside the Philippines. It has even outbid four big companies for the 20-year concession to operate and develop *Next page*

De Venecia told to go slow on Consa plan

By Romie A. Evangelista and Joyce Pangco Pañares

WHAT'S the rush? President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's party, the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), is asking Speaker Jose de Venecia's Lakas-CMD why it is rushing the approval of a move in the House to amend the 1987 Constitution through a constituent assembly.

The proposal, embodied in House Resolution 26 that was approved last Sept. 28 by the panel on constitutional amendments, is expected to go to the full House for approval in two weeks but Kampi has raised concerns over moves to cut the President's term short or reducing her role to a symbolic head of state and leaving real power in the hands of the prime minister. *Next page*

