

U.S. Thwarts Plans of Marcos to Return Home to Philippines

Continued from Page One

Marcos subsequently decided not to attempt to return to the Philippines.

At a news conference following the meeting with State Department officials Carl Taylor — a foreign policy adviser for CINCPAC — and Elwood McGuire, head of the State Department's Honolulu security office, Marcos told reporters "I've just been advised . . . that I will be physically prevented from going aboard any airplane."

THE VISIT BY the government officials capped three days of rumors that Marcos was preparing to return to his homeland. Speculation in Manila said that Marcos would return prior to this coming Monday's national plebiscite on the Aquino government's proposed new constitution.

State Department officials today said they believed Marcos' return to the Philippines was "imminent."

"The (U.S.) position is that Marcos is free to come and go," said White House spokesman Don Mathes in Washington.

"However, if he decides to go to the Philippines, he'd better have the approval of the Philippine government — that's the Aquino government. That's been our position and that remains it."

Asked if the United States would attempt to restrain Marcos if he tried to return to

the Philippines without permission Mathes would say only: "That's hypothetical."

STATE DEPARTMENT officials last night met with Marcos at the "direct request" of the Philippine government, the official said today, "because of what seemed like Marcos' imminent departure" and the presence of a mysterious plane at Hemmeyer Aviation Co. parked at Honolulu Airport.

"The Philippine government felt, and we agreed, that there was a very high probability that Mr. Marcos was about to go home," the official said.

The Philippine government last year canceled the passports of Marcos, his wife, Imelda, and other family members. Last month the Philippine Cabinet decided unanimously to prevent Marcos from returning either for Christmas or the funeral of his sister, Elizabeth Marcos-Keon.

Rumors of Marcos' possible departure were fueled by the arrival here Monday of an unmarked Boeing 720, similar to a 707, parked at Hemmeyer Aviation Co. facilities with a flight plan that included Singapore, Korea and other, unspecified Asian destinations.

THE PLANE IS registered to Pan Aviation Inc. which is owned by the family of arms dealer Sarkis Soghanalian, a Lebanese who lives in Miami. Soghanalian is under indictment in Miami for possessing unregis-



Associated Press

UNDER THE GUN—This photograph of American hostage Robert Polhill with two automatic weapons held to his head was released by terrorists who are threatening to kill him and three other captives.

tered machine guns and rocket launchers.

However, Bob Dickerson, Pan Aviation marketing manager in Miami, today said the airline is run by Garabet Soghanalian, son of Sarkis who "has nothing to do with the company whatsoever."

Dickerson described Pan Aviation as an aircraft leasing company for cargo planes and not a passenger airline.

"We're a cargo plane company," he said. "We don't carry passengers, ever."

Dickerson was unable to account for the Pan Aviation plane

being in Hawaii or the whereabouts of Sarkis Soghanalian.

"He has no connection with Pan Aviation, so your guess would be as good as mine," he said.

ACCORDING TO the Federal Aviation Administration in Honolulu, the plane departed this morning for Las Vegas.

Asked last night if he had plans to return to the Philippines on the plane, Marcos said: "All that is immaterial. . . . I am aware of no such plan."