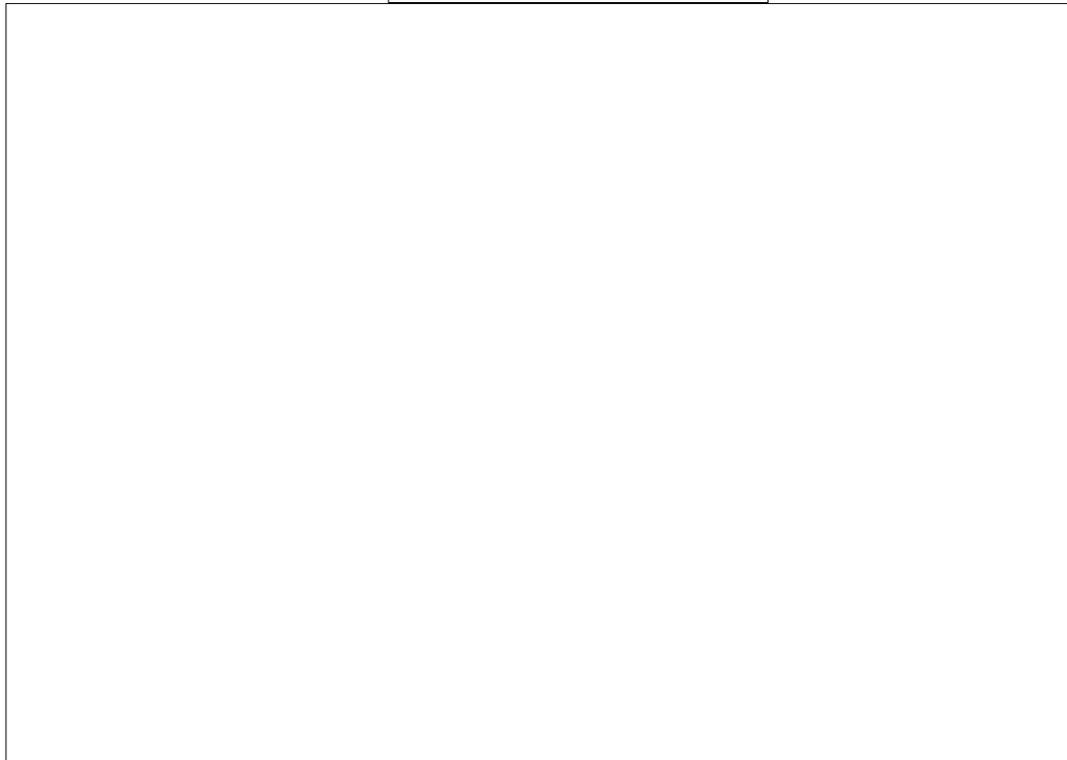


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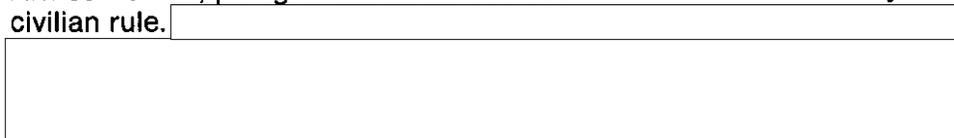


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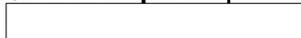


**PHILIPPINES: Military Pledges Support**

President Marcos set a precedent by inviting senior military officers to participate in the Cabinet meeting on Friday. Opposition leaders immediately criticized the move as evidence of the military's expanded role in government, but General Ver, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, pledged the continued subordination of the military to civilian rule.



**Comment:** Marcos probably intended to squelch rumors of a military takeover and to lay to rest widespread concerns about the succession process. Business leaders in particular fear a coup and have been actively pressing Marcos for a sign of political reform—such as the appointment of a vice president or the removal of Ver—that they believe would ensure a smooth succession. Military intervention would require the support of General Ver, who has the allegiance of commanders of major units in the capital region. His loyalty to the President, however, would make a preemptive move by Ver unlikely while Marcos is in charge.



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