A Fleeting Alignment of Interests: The Communist Parties of Indonesia and the Philippines behind Sukarno and Macapagal at the Manila Summit of 1963

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CHAIR
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Abstract

In 1963 Philippine President Diosdado Macapagal and Indonesian President Sukarno arrived at a brief alignment of political interests in joint opposition to the formation of the Federation of Malaysia, an alignment most clearly expressed in the negotiations around the Manila Summit and the creation of Maphilindo. The explosive Stonehill corruption scandal had caused Macapagal to have a sharp falling out with Washington. In his brief window of geopolitical independence he came increasingly to favour Sukarno’s Konfrontasi, going so far as to provide support for the 1962 Brunei Revolt while seeking to secure control over Sabah. The relations between Manila and Jakarta were largely mediated by the immensely influential Partai Komunis Indonesia (PKI) and the newly reborn Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas (PKP).

About the Speaker

Joseph Scalice is a postdoctoral researcher at Nanyang Technological University with a Ph.D in South and Southeast Asian Studies from UC Berkeley. He specializes in the history of modern revolutionary movements in the Philippines focusing on the manner in which they both influenced and were shaped by regional and global political shifts. His doctoral dissertation, Crisis of Revolutionary Leadership: Martial Law and the Communist Parties of the Philippines, 1957-1974, dealt with the political rivalry between two Stalinist parties, the PKP and the CPP, and their role in President Marcos’ imposition of martial law in 1972.