

Imelda Romuáldez Marcos

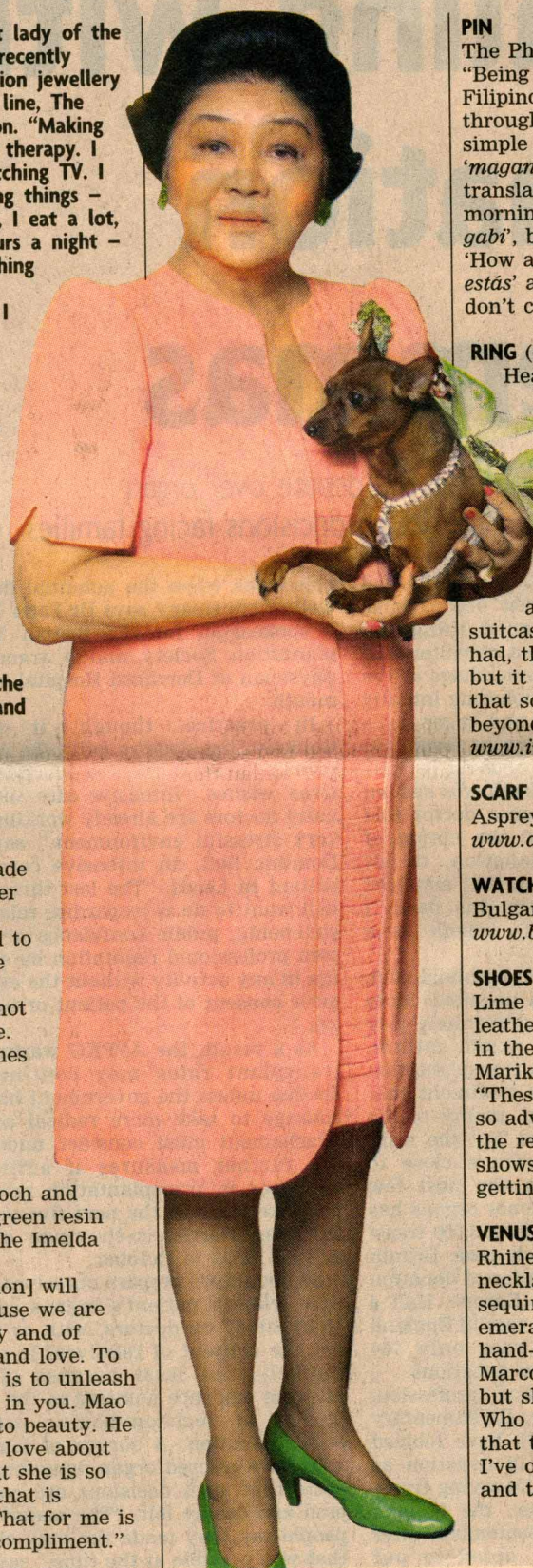
The former first lady of the Philippines has recently launched a fashion jewellery and accessories line, The Imelda Collection. "Making jewellery is my therapy. I do it while watching TV. I do all the wrong things - I don't exercise, I eat a lot, I sleep two hours a night - but the good thing is my positive attitude where I see beauty in everything. I'm allergic to ugliness. I'm trying to prove to the world you don't have to be rich or young - I'm 77 - to be beautiful or create beauty. It is human nature. The only democracy in the world is God and God is beauty made real."

DRESS

Custom-made crêpe salmon shift dress made at home by her dressmaker "I can't afford to buy expensive clothes and certainly cannot afford couture. [The Philippines government] robbed me of everything."

PARURE

Earrings, brooch and ring of lime-green resin beads from The Imelda Collection "[The collection] will succeed because we are selling beauty and of course, God and love. To be 'Imeldific' is to unleash the beautiful in you. Mao surrendered to beauty. He said, 'What I love about Imelda is that she is so natural and that is perfection.' That for me is the highest compliment."



PIN

The Philippine flag "Being Imeldific is the Filipino nature. It comes through in something as simple as the greeting of 'magandang umaga', which translates to beautiful morning, or 'magandang gabí', beautiful evening. 'How are you?', 'Como estás' and 'Guten abend' don't come close."

RING (on right hand)

Heart-shaped colourless stone set in gold, a gift from her husband Ferdinand E. Marcos "In comparison to what I used to own and the rumoured 37 suitcases of jewellery I had, this is not important but it is a reminder to me that someone loves me beyond eternity." www.imeldacollection.com

SCARF

Asprey www.asprey.com

WATCH

Bulgari www.bulgari.com

SHOES

Lime green croc-stamped leather court shoes made in the shoe capital, Marikina. "These days technology is so advanced you can't tell the real from fake. It just shows that the world is getting poorer and poorer."

VENUS (the dog)

Rhinestone cascade necklace and lime-green sequined wings with emerald paste stones hand-made by Imelda Marcos. "She's only a dog but she's already Imeldific. Who will actually check that these stones are real? I've owned a lot in my day and these look real!"