

THE PHILIPPINES IN WORLD AFFAIRS *

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It is a great privilege to address the Australian Institute of International Affairs, whose distinguished membership has carried out so brilliantly its main purpose to foster the scientific study of international affairs and to expand the bond of understanding between Australia and other nations. Your organization has done much since its foundation in producing clear thinking and in expanding knowledge about world affairs at a time when appreciation of the importance of international problems should be at a high level.

Having been asked to speak on the subject—"The Philippines in World Affairs"—I propose to divide my paper into six parts, namely, (1) a brief historical background and description of the Philippines, (2) Philippine representation abroad, (3) the relations between the United States and the Philippines, (4) foreign policy of the Philippines, (5) the Philippines in the United Nations, and (6) close collaboration of the Philippines with neighboring Asian countries.

BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PHILIPPINES

The Republic of the Philippines came into being on July 4, 1946, against a background of destruction which had no parallel in the whole Pacific war theatre. The Philippines reeled and sunk under the impact of the last world war. The three unhappy years of Japanese occupation and the subsequent liberation of the country reduced our cities to ruins; laid waste our homes; destroyed our factories; paralyzed our industries, agriculture, and commerce; disrupted our communications and caused the death of over 1,000,000 Filipinos. With these appalling destructions, you can therefore realize that the first few years have been devoted to the rebuilding of the destroyed industries and economy of the country.

The Filipino people are experiencing many difficult and complex problems as a result of the impact of the last world war. Peace and order in some parts of the country, particularly during 1951, were far from what we would like them to be because of the harrasing activities of the Huks, a communist-inspired group of men.

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Now, with the relentless campaign of the army, and with the vast improvement of the economy of the country, many of the Huks have surrendered and have returned to the folds of their respective families.

The Philippines, having a total area of 115,600 square miles and a population of about 20 million people, is located in the midst of a region of vast political, economic, and military importance to the world, which at the present time has become a local point of international tension. Within a radius of about 2,800 miles of Manila, the capital of the Philippines, lies the Republic of Indonesia, Malaya, Burma, Thailand, Indo-China, and most of China, Korea and Japan. The population of this whole region is about one-third of the entire people of the world. The area is the source of rich raw materials including the world's strategic products, such as rubber, tin, rice, and copra. The Philippines, therefore, finds herself at the crossfire of two political ideologies or two forces fighting against each other. The Philippines is a vital outpost of freedom in the populous interland of Asia. She can therefore become a natural bridge between the East and the West.

The Philippines existed in two dimensions of history before her independence. She was discovered by Spain on March 16, 1521 but was governed by Spain from 1565 to 1898, a period of three centuries. Then from 1899 to 1946, she was under the sovereignty of the United States, but in 1935, a self-autonomous government was already established, preparatory to the full grant of independence. Our political, economic, social, and cultural institutions are thus a blend of two main streams of Western civilization, resting upon the original base of Oriental culture and traditions. These two periods of Western powers' sovereignty over the Philippines have enabled the Filipino people to learn Western culture, system of government, and the practical operation of political institutions.

PHILIPPINE REPRESENTATION ABROAD

The foreign service of any country is generally regarded as the right arm of the Department of Foreign Affairs. The foreign service acts on behalf of the other Departments and agencies of the government abroad. It is primarily charged with the duty of carrying out the foreign policies of the government abroad for the welfare and security of its people.

With the inauguration of the Republic of the Philippines on July 4, 1946, the Department of Foreign Affairs charged with the handling of Foreign relations for the new independent Republic was also established by Commonwealth Act No. 792. Even before this

date, that is during the Commonwealth government, a Division of Foreign Relations was established in the Office of the President. Many of the people connected with the said Division were later on absorbed by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Since the date of independence, the Philippine Republic has concluded more than seventy treaties and agreements with various nations, has established several diplomatic missions and consular offices, and has participated in many international conferences. Like the present Vice President of the Philippines, the first Vice President, Mr. Elpidio Quirino, was designated to serve concurrently as the Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

On account of the close association and special relations between the United States and the Philippines, it was therefore natural that the Embassy in Washington, D.C., was the first Philippine diplomatic mission established and accredited to a foreign country. Subsequently, other diplomatic missions were established, namely, the Embassies in Djakarta and in Madrid; Legations in London, Rome, Nanking (now transferred to Taipeh), Buenos Aires, Bangkok, Sydney, New Delhi, Karachi, Pusan, and Mexico City. Consulates General were established in San Francisco, Honolulu, and New York, and New Orleans, and Guam. We have also diplomatic representatives concurrently accredited to New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, Cuba, and Uruguay, not to mention a special mission in Japan. The Philippine Ambassador to Madrid is also accredited to the Vatican, which is represented in the Philippines by a Papal Nuncio. Indicative of their friendship with the Philippines, various countries have established diplomatic and consular missions or offices in Manila.

In Executive Order No. 18, dated September 16, 1946, the first President of the young Republic, Mr. Manuel Roxas, provided for the framework of the new Department of Foreign Affairs and the Philippine Foreign Service. The foreign service of the Philippines, following the practice of other countries, has combined both diplomatic and consular services. By virtue of the enactment of Republic Act No. 708, there is now an interchange between the two services, and also between these services and the personnel of the Department of Foreign Affairs. This new law has gone a long way in recognizing the foreign service as a career, and in providing stability and permanence of tenure for the career men. Certain circumstances have made this particular branch of government one in which the qualities of training and experience are most conspicuous.

Our foreign service represents the Filipino people and its government abroad. The Philippines accredits her representatives to

countries with which she maintains diplomatic relations. However, in view of the fact that the Philippines is a new country with limited resources, and considering the further fact that the amount involved in establishing diplomatic and consular offices abroad is enormous, the government has decided to limit its diplomatic and consular services only in some countries where we have vital interests. Very shortly, the Philippines may have a consular establishment in Germany.

The first Philippine Ambassador to the United States was Mr. Joaquin M. Elizalde, formerly Philippine Resident Commissioner to the United States and a leading businessman. The first permanent representative of the Philippines to the United Nations was General Carlos P. Romulo, formerly also Resident Commissioner to the United States. Both Messrs. Elizalde and Romulo became Secretaries of Foreign Affairs. General Romulo is at present the personal envoy and representative of President Magsaysay, with the rank of Ambassador, to the United States.

In view of the limited number of men who are especially trained for the foreign service, the government was constrained to draft some of the people in the Judiciary. Hence, our first Consuls General in New York, San Francisco, and Calcutta were former judges. Likewise, our first Ministers to China and Rome were Justices of the Court of Appeals. The present Ambassador to Spain was formerly the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines.

The American Government through its Department of State cooperated actively by detailing one of its career men, Mr. Richard Butrick, in laying the foundations for the organization of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the establishment of the foreign service of the Philippines. In addition, the United States State Department inaugurated a Philippine affairs training programme to teach highly qualified Filipinos in diplomatic and consular work. From July 1945 to July 1948, the State Department, through this school, trained a total of 37 Filipino university graduates. These trainees were further instructed in the practical ways and methods of organization and function of embassies, legations and consulates, and in administering them once they were set up. Some of the trainees were even assigned to the different United States embassies and consulates abroad to acquire practical training and experience. Among the first five trainees of this school were Messrs. Jose Imperial and Manuel Adeva, now Ministers to the Philippine Mission in Tokyo and the Philippine Legation in Taipeh, respectively.

By virtue of the provisions of the Treaty of General Relations entered into between the United States and the Philippines, on July

4, 1946, the two countries have agreed that pending the final establishment of the requisite Philippine Foreign Service establishments, the United States would represent, through its foreign service, the interests of the Philippines in countries where there is no Philippine representation.

Former Justice George A. Malcolm of the Supreme Court of the Philippines made a favorable comment upon the caliber of men and women appointed in the Department of Foreign Affairs and in the foreign service. He said that it speaks well of the competence and ability of the first Heads of the Department that it was so quickly and efficiently organized. To quote his own words: "No legitimate cause for complaint can be registered against the caliber of men drafted to become Ambassadors and Ministers in foreign lands."¹

THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PHILIPPINES

The relations between the United States and the Republic of the Philippines go back to the date of our independence. All our Presidents and Secretaries of Foreign Affairs and other high officials of the Government have repeatedly advocated the close ties of friendship and relationship existing between the United States and the Philippines. Similar expressions of sentiment have been made by high American officials.

The present President of the Philippines, Mr. Ramon Magsaysay, in a recent statement, epitomizes the sentiments of the Filipino people—"The Philippines and the United States are tied together by special bonds of friendship and affection, and I am determined to see to it that this unique relationship is not impaired."²

The United States has helped considerably the Philippines in the rehabilitation and improvement of her economy through war damage payments, donations of surplus war materials, financial grants and loans, and various technical facilities. For the purpose of strengthening further the economic foundation of the country, the United States, upon the request of the Philippines, sent the Bell Mission to Manila whose recommendations after a survey of local conditions, have provided for the improvements of the economy and also the pattern for American technical assistance to the Philippines.

The Philippines and the United States entered into two important agreements, namely the Military Bases Agreement signed on March 14, 1947 and the Military Assistance Pact, concluded on May 21, 1947. Both agreements recognize the community of Philippine

¹ MALCOLM, FIRST MALAYAN REPUBLIC 252.

² Fifty-Fourth Annual Edition, *Manila Daily Bulletin*, March 29, 1954, section 1, p. 2.

and American defensive interests in the Pacific. Both peoples have learned by bitter experience the vital connection between American and Filipino defense requirements in the Western Pacific. It is unfortunate, however, that at the time of further negotiations regarding the implementation of these bases, the United States Attorney-General submitted an opinion to the effect that the ownership of these bases lies with the United States government. There was a strong unfavorable reaction in the Philippines against this contention. Fortunately, however, this opinion of Mr. Brownell has not yet been followed officially by the government of the United States. At least, the United States Department of State has not formally made such a claim. Senator Claro M. Recto, the well-known foreign affairs expert of the administration and a brilliant lawyer, in a memorandum submitted, refuted all the arguments advanced by the United States Attorney-General. This is not the occasion to discuss the issues involved in this controversy but I am confident that the parties concerned will reach a satisfactory decision.

A trade agreement was signed in 1946 between the United States and the Philippines. The main provisions include:

(1) parity or equal rights for American nationals and corporations in matters relating to the disposition, exploitation, development, and utilization of natural resources, principally agriculture and mining, and in the operation of public utilities, are accorded them as Filipino citizens;

(2) duty free entry of United States articles into the Philippines and Philippine articles entering into the United States, for eight years from July 4, 1946 and a graduated tariff for twenty years beginning July 4, 1954; and

(3) the pegging of the Philippine peso to the American dollar in order to insure the stability of the former, and to protect the investments and properties of American citizens doing business in the Philippines from the possibility of devaluation.

On September 30, 1946, Republic Act No. 35 came into effect, authorizing the exemption of new and necessary industries from the payment of internal revenue taxes for a period of four years from the date of organization. This law was amended last year by extending the exemption to ten years. The main purpose of the law is to attract foreign capital to the Philippines.

In order to implement the Bases and Military Assistance Agreements, the United States and the Philippines signed on August 30, 1951 a Treaty of Mutual Defense. The governments of the Republic of the Philippines and the United States, by virtue of their

mutuality of interests, relating to the defenses of their respective territories, have formally agreed to defend themselves against any armed attack in their respective areas. In the words of the treaty, "Each party recognizes that an armed attack in the Pacific area on either of the parties would be dangerous to its own peace and safety and declares that it would act to meet the common danger in accordance with its Constitutional processes."³

Even before the signing of this mutual defense treaty, many high ranking American officials, including former Secretary of State Acheson, declared that an attack on the Philippines could and would not be tolerated by the United States.

A similar treaty was also signed between the United States on one hand and Australia and New Zealand on the other, popularly known as the ANZUS Pact. So, as far as Australia, the Philippines, and New Zealand are concerned, therefore, they have already mutual security treaties with the United States.

There is a strong group of leaders in the Philippines who feel that it is difficult for them to follow or reconcile all the statements of the various spokesmen of the United States government, as shown in the recent Dulles proposal to send a warning to Communist China against further aggression in Indo-China and to form a Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, similar to the NATO pattern. The Philippines, as reported, has agreed in principle to these requests of the United States.

There seems to be an attitude in some quarters in the United States to present to her small nations-allies decisions already made without previous consultations, and then the United States expect her allies to fall into line. It is this attitude that may create misunderstanding between the United States and her less powerful allies. This is now being corrected. So far as the Philippines is concerned, it should be noted that her close alignment with the United States is dictated by her own interests. One of the cornerstones of Philippine foreign policy is to develop friendship and cooperation with the United States. However, should her vital interests conflict with those of the United States she should not hesitate to take the opposite stand. An illustration of this point is the fact that so-called Dulles-sponsored Japanese peace treaty has not been ratified up to now by the Philippines. Likewise, the three associated states of Indo-China have not been accorded recognition by the Philippines, notwithstanding American desire to have them recognized. In this connection, it may be stated that the main reason for this refusal was that the Philippines felt that they are not fully independent.

³ Article IV, Treaty of Mutual Defense.

FOREIGN POLICY OF THE PHILIPPINES

What is the foreign policy of the Philippines? Before answering this question, it may be pertinent to inquire: What is a foreign policy of any particular country?

One writer says that "a nation's foreign policy determines its course of action, *viz-a-viz* other nations. It is a program designed to achieve the best possible position for the nation by peaceful means, or by means short of war. In other words, it expresses the sum total of those principles which a nation's relations with other nations are to be conducted." ⁴

Another writer says that "a foreign policy is not a statement of purpose. It is a set of formulas and corresponding actions by which a country guides and projects its national purposes in relation to other countries." ⁵

It is axiomatic that a foreign policy is ultimately dictated by the inherent duty of self-preservation. The main aim of every nation's foreign policy is the security and prosperity of its people.

Mr. H. D. Black, Lecturer at the University of Sydney, and the President of the Australian Institute of International Affairs, in his two scholarly articles ⁶ stated that there is a marked distinction between the formulation and the substance or content of the United States foreign policy.

There are many factors that determine the formulation and execution of a foreign policy. This is not the occasion to discuss this phase of the subject. Suffice it to say that there are two objectives of foreign policy: namely, short term and long term objectives. Like most countries of the world, the Philippines has long range foreign policies which are generally stable and permanent. She has also short-range policies, which are flexible and are made from time to time in order to meet the ever-shifting world situation. However, short term policies, in order to become effective, must be closely interwoven with the long-range objectives. Our foreign policies are sometimes reflected by various statements of our President and Foreign Minister. Our foreign policies are also affected by various international agreements or treaties to which the Philippines is a signatory party, and also by laws enacted by our Congress, especially those pertaining to our relations with the other countries.

The first President of our Republic, the late Manuel Roxas, a great statesman and one of the framers of our Constitution, writing

⁴ KURT LONDON, *How Foreign Policy Is Made* 16.

⁵ J. C. HARSCH, *Does Our Foreign Policy Make Sense?*

⁶ *The Australian Outlook*, Dec., 1951 & March, 1952.

on "Philippine Foreign Policy" ⁷ said: "I have only one basic guiding rule for our foreign as well as our domestic policies—and that is the enduring interest of the Filipino people. Those interests, I judged it, have been clearly defined by the people, by their acceptance of the democratic form of government and way of life, by their avowal of the principles of international cooperation and collaboration."

A careful study of the various statements of the different Foreign Secretaries of the Philippines, including Vice President Carlos P. Garcia of the Republic of the Philippines and concurrently Secretary of Foreign Affairs, would readily show that the three guiding principles of Philippine foreign policy are:

(1) Fullest possible collaboration with the United States on all matters that are essential to their mutual security and vital interests;

(2) Fullest support of the peoples of Asia and elsewhere in their struggle for freedom and independence; and

(3) Fullest possible cooperation with the United Nations and its specialized agencies in their efforts to promote the economic, social, and cultural development of mankind and maintain international peace and security.

The second principle regarding independence movements in Asia was the subject of a series of conferences between President Mag-saysay and prominent legislative leaders. Some senators wanted to use the slogan "Asia for the Asians," but the President, while agreeable to giving emphasis in promoting closer relations with neighboring countries, does not believe that foreign policies be made in the form of slogans.

In a conference held in Baguio, the summer capital of the Philippines, between the President and the leaders of Congress, on April 11, 1954, two important decisions were made which are far-reaching, namely:

(1) that the Philippines stand on the proposal of the United States Secretary of State for a multi-nation warning on Red China that any further aggression on her part in Indo-China would bring upon her united action by America and her allies; and

(2) that the Philippines stand, as the corollary proposal with which to back the warning, for the formation of a Southeast Asia Treaty Organization on the NATO pattern.

It is understood that these new commitments are to be made by the Philippines subject to two important reservations, namely, that full independence would be given to the three associated states of Indo-

⁷ Commerce (Foreign Affairs Number), Nov. 1946, p. 17.

China, and that the Mutual Security Treaty between the United States and the Philippines will be further implemented.

THE PHILIPPINES IN THE UNITED NATIONS

The Philippines is a charter member of the United Nations. Like Australia, the Philippines has taken active part in the deliberations of this international body and its specialized agencies. Close collaboration in the work of the United Nations is one of the cornerstones of Philippine foreign policy. In recognition of her active participation in the United Nations' effort to maintain peace and security, and to promote the welfare of mankind, the Philippines has been elected to many important bodies of the United Nations, such as:

- (1) the Economic and Social Council
- (2) the Trusteeship Commission
- (3) the International Children Emergency Fund
- (4) the Executive Committee of the UNESCO
- (5) the Commission for the Unification, Relief, and Rehabilitation of Korea
- (6) the Committee on the Draft Convention on Freedom of Information
- (7) the Special Committee of seven nations of the General Assembly on the question of Chinese representation in the United Nations
- (8) the Collective Measures Committee
- (9) the Special Committee on the Admission of New Members
- (10) the Committee on International Criminal Jurisdiction
- (11) the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press
- (12) the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE). A Regional Office of the World Health Organization in Asia has been established in Manila.

The former Permanent Delegate of the Philippines to the United Nations, Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo, was elected President of the Fourth General Assembly in 1949; and also President of the Conference on the Freedom of Information held in Geneva in March-April 1948; and the Chairmanship of the powerful Committee on Administration and the Budget, one of the six standing committees of the United Nations General Assembly. Dr. Juan Salcedo, former Secretary of Health, was elected President of the World Health Organization. The Philippines, in the person of Mr. Salvador P. Lopez, was elected as Rapporteur of the ADHOC Political Committee.

The Philippines co-sponsored many important resolutions in the United Nations. Some of these resolutions are:

- (1) the one entitled "United Action for Peace" which places the General Assembly almost on the same footing with the Security Council in dealing with questions involving aggression;
- (2) one lifting the ban on the sending of ambassadors and ministers to Madrid;
- (3) another resolution making the extension and application of the Covenant on Human Rights to dependent people automatic; and
- (4) Trusteeship Agreement for the Territory of Somaliland be placed under the Italian Administration, provided the territory would be granted independence after ten years and provided further that the Italian administration will be assisted by Advisory Council of three members. The Philippines was voted as a member of that Council.

The Philippines has always raised an articulate and respectful voice in the defense of the rights of small nations in the Councils of the United Nations. She has also taken an active part in championing the rights of dependent nations to be free and independent, as in the cases of Indonesia, Israel, Libya and Somaliland.

I may add in this connection that both the Philippines and Australia have played vital roles in the creation and organization of the United Nations in San Francisco in 1945. Our two countries have generally voted together on vital issues affecting the interests of Southeast Asia, sometimes even against the Great Powers. Your representative to the United Nations, in the person of former Foreign Minister Dr. Herbert V. Evatt, new leader of the Federal Opposition Party in Parliament, was elected President of the Third United States General Assembly and our representative, Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo, was elected President of the Fourth United Nations General Assembly. I would like to consider these two important decisions as concrete symbols or manifestations of leadership in the efforts to promote the interests and objectives of the United Nations charter. Even during the critical period of the last world war, our two countries were represented in the Pacific War Council in Washington. When the United Nations called for collective and united action against aggression in South Korea, Australia and the Philippines were among the first countries that responded to the call. Both our two countries are now participating in the Geneva Conference that has been called to consider the Korean question and Indo-China situation.

Last June, I had the privilege of attending the World Congress for the Junior Chamber of Commerce International in San Francisco, California. The two leading speakers of the convention were your Ambassador to Washington, Sir Percy Spender and Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo of the Philippines. This is not a mere coincidence. This proves to show our joint interests in building up of a strong Junior Chamber of Commerce movement not only in our respective countries but also in Asia and elsewhere.

CLOSE COOPERATION OF THE PHILIPPINES WITH NEIGHBORING ASIAN COUNTRIES

One of the first projects announced by the present administration, headed by President Magsaysay, was the contemplated visit to the neighboring countries to be made by Vice President Carlos P. Garcia. In a letter which I wrote to the Vice President, I requested him to include Australia and New Zealand in his itinerary. The main purpose of the visit, as officially announced, is to establish closer and firmer bonds between the Philippines and the rest of free Asia. Vice President Garcia has reiterated in his various speeches and statements to the press the urgent need for a close association and collaboration along cultural and trade matters between the Philippines and her neighboring Asian countries. He, therefore, proposed a sort of cultural exchange and a more intensive trade between the Philippines and her neighboring countries. In his speech in Manila before the Philippines Foreign Affairs Association on January 23, 1954, he stressed that the new administration's foreign policy would seek further extension of Philippine diplomacy and trade in the countries of Southeast Asia.⁸

Realizing the fact that geographically speaking, she is a part of Asia, the Philippines has already established diplomatic missions in Djakarta, Taipeh, Bangkok, Karachi, New Delhi, Pusan and a special mission in Tokyo. Aside from these diplomatic establishments, consular offices have been established in Hongkong and Singapore. The Philippines' desire for close collaboration and cooperation with her Asian neighbors is clearly stressed by President Magsaysay in the following manner: ⁹

"The Philippine government stands for the right of self-determination and independence of all Asian nations; for closer cultural and economic relations and mutual cooperation with freedom-loving Asian countries as a group and within the framework of the charter of the United Nations. * * *

⁸ *The Philippines Herald*, Jan. 24, 1954.

⁹ *Evening News*, March 10, 1954.

In order to further her close association and cooperation with her Asian neighbors, the Philippines signed several treaties of friendship with them. Other treaties covering different subjects are now under negotiation. The present administration is giving emphasis on the revitalization of our economic and cultural relations and trade with Southeast Asian countries. Very soon, our Vice President is going to make a goodwill tour to most of the countries in this region.

The Philippines is undergoing a critical period in her economic life. Her ability to solve some of her domestic problems, particularly those involving the raising of standards of living and providing employment for her people, and measures to resist communist threat and subversion within its borders, affect considerably her standing in world affairs. The present administration under the leadership of President Magsaysay, is concentrating all efforts toward this objective. Much has already been accomplished but much remains to be done. A great task of statesmanship lies ahead of the Philippines.

Confronted as she is with many complex and difficult problems, the Philippines has grown steadily in maturity and in responsibility in the world today. Within a short period, she has gained international prestige by discharging her international obligations with dignity. She has taken active and positive part in preserving the pillars of freedom in that part of the globe. Notwithstanding the fact that the Philippines has been confronted with the difficulty of meeting her budgetary requirements, she did not hesitate in sending troops and materials to Korea in response to her solemn commitments under the United Nations Charter. Unlike some of her Asian neighbors, and without in the least casting any reflection upon them, the Philippines has taken active steps in the power struggle between the free world and the communist world. As already indicated above, she has granted military, naval, and air bases to the United States and has joined the United States in a mutual security treaty. The Philippines forms the western anchor of the fast-growing American defense line in the Western Pacific.

All things being considered, it can be truly said that the Philippines has won a respected place in the concert of free and independent states. She has endeavored to become a mighty force in Asia. Today she stands on the threshold of a new era, full of promise and responsibility. The course of events during the last few months shows that the future for the young Republic looks bright.

The Philippines, however, has found herself at the middle of the cross currents of world events. The world's destiny—either for peace or for war—may be ultimately decided in Southeast Asia where decent men must act quickly or events will act for them. All peace-loving peoples sincerely hope and pray that the conference now taking place in Geneva will bring, if not peace, at least a relaxation of international tensions in Indo-China, in Korea, and in other parts of the world. In the pursuit of the great objective of establishing an enduring and secure peace not only for Asia but also for the rest of the world, the Philippines will not be found wanting in her readiness to cooperate with the other nations.

Sydney, Australia.