

August 12, 1943

[To The People of the Philippines]

FDR Speech Exla

14716

Aug. 12-1943

Original Reading
Copy

To the People of the Philippines:

On December 28, 1941, three weeks after the armies of the Japanese launched their attack on Philippine soil, I sent a proclamation to you, the gallant people of the Philippines. I said then:

"I give to the people of the Philippines my solemn pledge that their freedom will be redeemed and their independence established and protected. The entire resources in men and materials of the United States stand behind that pledge."

We shall keep this promise, just as we have kept every promise which America has made to the Filipino people.

The story of the fighting on Bataan and Corregidor--and, indeed, everywhere in the Philippines--will be remembered so long as men continue to respect bravery, and devotion, and determination. When the Filipino people resisted the Japanese invaders with their very lives, they gave final proof that here was a nation fit to be respected as the equal to any on earth, not in size or wealth, but in the stout heart and national dignity which are the true measures of a people.

That is why the United States, in practice, regards your lawful Government as having the same status as the Governments of other independent nations. That is why I have looked upon President Quezon and Vice President Osmena, not only as old friends, but also as trusted collaborators in our united task of destroying our common enemies in the East as well as in the West.

The Philippine Government is a signatory of the Declaration by the United Nations, along with thirty-one other nations. President Quezon and Vice President Osmena attend the meetings of the Pacific War Council, where the war in the Pacific is charted and planned. Your Government has participated fully and equally in the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture, and a Philippine representative is a member of the Interim Commission created by that Conference.

And, of course, the Philippine Government will have its rightful place

~~at the Peace Conference in the conference which will follow the~~
defeat of Japan

These are the attributes of complete and respected nationhood for the Philippines, not a promise but a fact.

As President Quezon himself has told you, "The only thing lacking is the formal establishment of the Philippine Republic." These words of your President were uttered to you with my prior knowledge and approval. I now repeat them to you myself. I give the Filipino people my word that the Republic of the Philippines will be established

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I call upon you, the heroic people of the Philippines to stand firm in your faith--to stand firm against the false promises of the Japanese, just as your fighting men and our fighting men stood firm together against their barbaric attacks.

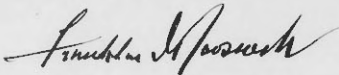
+ you will be assisted in the full repair of the damages caused by the war.

The time will come quickly when that goes into full effect. You will soon be released from the S. Y. G. H.

The great day of your liberation will come, as surely as there is a God in heaven.

The United States and the Philippines have learned the principles of honest cooperation, of mutual respect, in peace and in war.

For those principles we have fought--and by those principles we shall live.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to be "Franklin D. Roosevelt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

HOLD FOR RELEASE

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File
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AUGUST 12, 1943

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STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

X400 Philippines

X4675

XPP76677

X136 Miss Broadcasting

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We shall fight with ever-increasing strength and vigor until that end is achieved. Already Japan is testing defeat in the islands of the Southwest Pacific. But that is only the beginning.

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the principles of honest cooperation, of mutual respect, in
peace and in war.

For those principles we have fought -- and by those
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August 11, 1943

Copies of the President's Message to the people of the Philippines -- for release on Friday, August 13, 1943, were sent to the following, in accordance with Mr. Early's instructions:

Lincoln White (Assistant to Michael McDermott, who is in leave), Division of Current Information, State Department, Room 132 $\frac{1}{2}$

Robert Sherwood, OWI, Room 3314, Social Security Bldg.

Robert Berger, OWI, 3040, Social Security Bldg.

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

WASHINGTON

August 10, 1943

The Honorable
Stephen Early
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Steve:

Enclosed are:

Statement for August 14th.

Message to the people of the Philippines.

Both of them have been reduced to the specified length,
or close to it.

The statement to the Philippines contains assurances which were included in the text as it came from the offices of President Quezon. I assume that the President considers these okay. As you know Quezon is now in Saranac. David Bernstein of his staff has telephoned me from there wanting to know what is in the speech but I hesitate to inform him until I know for sure whether this draft has the President's approval.

Yours,

Bob

Robert E. Sherwood
Director of Overseas Operations

15015-6

Enclosures 2





THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

August 9, 1943.

My dear Mr. President:

I have learned through Vice President Osmena of the Philippine Commonwealth that you propose to give out some statement on the Philippine situation on August 13, which will be the 45th anniversary of American occupation of the Islands. You need not be told that if I or any member of the High Commissioner's office can be of any possible assistance in this matter, we will be happy to be called upon.

Sincerely yours,

Harold I. Pokes

Secretary of the Interior.

The President,
The White House.

x6

July 30, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR HONORABLE ROBERT E. SHERWOOD: #222

Dear Bob:

Please note the President's request in his memorandum to me of July thirtieth. Will you cut it to two and a half pages, as requested, and return to me.

I will clear it with the Secretary of State and Vice President Osmena.

Thanks and regards.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

President's memo of July 30, 1943 reads: "MEMO FOR STEVE: I will do this on a disk when I get back. Please have it out to two and a half pages and then clear it with the Secretary of State and Vice President Osmena and Bob Sherwood. P.D.R." Draft prepared by David Bernstein who works for the Philippine Government, sent to the President by Robert Sherwood. REP Special message from the President to the people of the Philippines on August 13th; to be recorded in President's own voice; and broadcast from all our shortwave stations on the Pacific Coast.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 30, 1943

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I call upon you, the heroic people of the Philippines to stand firm in your faith--to stand firm against the false promises of the Japanese, just as your fighting men and our fighting men stood firm ^{Together} against their barbaric attacks.

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Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

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