

October 6, 1943

[Message To Congress -- Philippines Independence.]

FDR Speech File

1985



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY
ONE PAIN, N. Y.

From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman

100-442

PHILIPPINES

10/6/43 - 12/25/43 Col. G.

44-
42

12

Philippines - 10/6/43 Message to Congress

Memorandum approved by Abe Fortas, Under-Secretary of the
Dept. of Interior (signature on p. 8)

Memorandum from Secretary of State (Initialed)

Memorandum from Secretary of Interior - signed Harold Ickes

Memorandum from Mr. Justice Murphy

Memorandum from Secretary of War - and letter - both signed
by Stimson

Letter from Secretary of Interior - signed

Letter of Sept. 27 - Abe Fortas - Under-Sec. Dept. of Interior

Memo of Sept. 27 - signed Abe Fortas

Memorandum from Adolph Berle (State Dept.)

Letter from Justice Murphy

Memorandum of Sept. 29 - Abe Fortas

Memorandum of Oct. 1 - Abe Fortas

Letter of Oct. 4 - S. Osmena - returning confidential draft -
1 page with S.I.R. corrections

Memorandum of Oct. 6 - Abe Fortas

Draft based on Policy of Immediate Independence - 3 pages -
S.I.R. correction on p. 3.

Draft submitted to the President - 2 copies (1) with above memo
on it - (2) with corrections by S.I.R.

Substitute for short form - Message to Congress - 1 page -
Corrections by the President and S.I.R.

2 Page memo in S.I.R. handwriting



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service
PAPER 8, ROOSEVELT LIBRARY
FIVE PARK, N. Y.

From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman

To provide for the independence of the Philippine Islands

Whereas, on December 7, 1941, while the Philippines was peacefully engaged in preparing itself for the independence granted by the United States to be effective July 4, 1946, the country was wantonly attacked by Japan and the people of the Philippines, standing loyally by the side of the United States, heroically resisted the aggression of the enemy; and

Whereas the people of the Philippines have established, by their wisdom in peace and gallantry in war, their right to take an equal place in the family of free nations; and the United States has, in practice, regarded the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines as having relatively the same status as the governments of other independent nations; Therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress that the United States should, as soon as feasible, establish the independence of the Philippine Islands as a separate and self-governing nation. To that end, having due regard for the changes that have come about in the international situation since the enactment of the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the complete independence of the Philippine Islands, to provide for the adoption of a constitution and a form of government for the Philippine Islands, and for other purposes" approved March 24, 1934, the procedure for recognition of Philippine independence and withdrawal of American sovereignty set forth in such Act of March 24, 1934, as amended, shall be modified in the manner provided in this Resolution.

Sec. 2. In order speedily to effectuate the policy declared in section 1, the President of the United States is hereby authorized, after consultation with the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands, to advance the date of the independence of the Philippine Islands by proclaiming their independence as a separate and self-governing nation as soon as he deems feasible.



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY
RMS 7000, N. Y.

From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Medical Archives and Records Service
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY
RTE. PAW. 1, 1.

From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman

Sec. 3. After negotiation with the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands, or the President of the Philippine Republic, the President of the United States is hereby authorized, by such means as he finds appropriate, to withhold or to acquire, and to retain, such areas and rights in addition to those provided by the Act of March 24, 1934, as he may deem necessary for the full military security of the United States, for the mutual protection of the Philippine Islands and the United States, and for the maintenance of peace in the Pacific.

Sec. 4. The first paragraph of Section 13 of such Act of March 24, 1934 as amended is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 13. There shall promptly be held a conference of representatives of the Government of the United States and the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands, such representatives, on the part of the United States, to consist of three United States Senators appointed by the President of the Senate, three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, and three persons appointed by the President of the United States, and on the part of the Philippines, to consist of nine representatives to be appointed by the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands, for the purpose of formulating recommendations as to future trade relations between the United States and the independent Philippine Republic, including all questions affecting the post-war economy, defense, and relationship of the two governments. The time, place, and manner of holding such conference is to be determined by the President of the United States. Nothing in this proviso shall be construed to modify or affect in any way any provision of this Act relating to the procedure leading up to Philippine independence or the date upon which the Philippine Islands shall become independent."

Sec. 5. Meanwhile the resources of the United States, both men and materials, are pledged for continued use to reduce the Philippines from the invader.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

October 6, 1943.

Confidential

MEMORANDUM for Judge Rosenman.

I am sending you herewith a redraft of the resolution to provide for the independence of the Philippine Islands; an explanation of the changes; and a draft of a proposed joint resolution to provide for the readjustment of export taxes and quotas. The purpose and effect of the last document is to abolish the progressive increase of export taxes and the progressive reduction of quotas until January 1 of the year following Philippine independence. Thereafter, the progression prescribed by the Tydings-McDuffie Act is to be resumed in the manner provided in that Act. In substance, the effect of this proposal would be to restore to the Philippines the program of gradual adjustment to independence which was contemplated in the Tydings-McDuffie Act and which has been made impossible by the Japanese invasion. 5

There are certain matters relating to the draft resolution on independence to which I want to call your attention. These are:

1. Sec. 2: You will note that we have used the phrase "as soon as he deems feasible" instead of the phrase "as soon as feasible". I do not feel that we ought to make this change in the message, but Rosen may not object to the proposed language of the resolution. Although the effect of the two phrases is the same, the phrase which we have used is better draftsmanship.
2. Sec. 3: The drafting of this Section was extremely difficult. We tried to avoid the use of the phrase "military, air and naval bases" and "sovereignty". We also tried to achieve the legal effect for which we were striving in the simplest possible way. I believe that we have solved the technical problems satisfactorily, but you may want to consult not only the Army and the Navy, but also the Solicitor General, who participated in negotiations for the acquisition of bases from the British Government. I have consulted nobody except two members of my own staff. The principal problems are as follows:

- a. The resolution should make it clear that any bases which may be acquired can be retained by the United States, regardless of the limitations in the existing Act. I have sought to accomplish this by authorizing the President "to retain" such areas "in addition to those provided by the Act of March 24, 1934".
- b. The resolution should make it clear that the United States may acquire not only land, but also police rights and other characteristics of sovereignty over the areas. I have attempted to achieve this by authorizing the President to acquire and retain "areas and rights". The use of this phrase instead of the phrase "military, air and naval bases" may, in fact, broaden the President's powers. It may authorize the President to acquire sites for military hospitals, oil storage,



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
National Archives and Records Service
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY
KING PARK, N. Y.

From the Papers of
SAMUEL I. ROSENMAN



NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
PRESERVATION & SERVICES LIBRARY
MAY 1964, 11:11

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenthal

et cetera. It might even authorize the President to acquire or "to withhold" oil reserves, chrome mines, et cetera, if he deems them necessary for military security or protection. Queson may object to this, but I believe that we should let him raise the point.

c. It is my understanding that you wanted the resolution to authorize the acquisition of bases after, as well as before, independence. I believe that the draft does this adequately. The means by which the President is to exercise this power raises a number of problems. Before independence, the President can reserve any public lands which may be in the jurisdiction of the United States. As to these lands, I believe that appropriate orders can be issued withholding them from the transfer to the Philippine Republic, under the language of the proposed resolution. That is the reason for the use of the phrase "to withhold". As to private property or property of the Commonwealth Government, the proposed resolution authorizes the President "to acquire" areas and rights. As to Commonwealth lands, presumably agreements can now be made. As to privately-owned lands, I assume that the President can expropriate or condemn prior to independence, since we still have sovereign rights. A difficult question of procedure arises since the Philippine courts are not available to us.

After independence, I have attempted to draft the resolution so that the President may acquire additional bases by purchase or lease, without the necessity of resorting to a treaty. The important phrase is "by such means as he finds appropriate". Whether my language has sufficiently accomplished the objective is debatable. I think that it has, and I have not been able to devise language which would avoid doubt. The only way of doing this would be to enumerate clearly the President's powers and the manner in which he may acquire the areas and rights. I think that this would be most undesirable because it would furnish a vulnerable target for Congressional debate and criticism.

3. Sec. 4: In accordance with what I understand to be your instructions, I have retained the phrase in the Tydings resolution including within the jurisdiction of the joint commission "all questions affecting the post-war economy, defense, and relationship of the two governments". I believe that this language is most unfortunate. Read literally, it is broad enough to include not merely post-war economic questions as between the Philippines and ourselves, but the entire post-war economic program of the United States and the Philippines, respectively. At least, the phrase "other relationships" should be substituted for the word "relationship". I assume that there would be no objection to this.

My basic objections, however, are more pertinent. They are as follows:

a. The language used will commit to the jurisdiction of this joint commission the conduct of foreign relations between the United States and the independent Philippine Republic. This is a subject which is committed in the first instance, by Constitutional provision, to the President of the United States. It cannot be resolved without



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
National Archives and Records Service
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY
PENTAGON, W. D.

From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman

reference to the entire Pacific and world situation. The subject matter is not suitable for discussion in a joint commission of this sort. In addition, the subject matter overlaps the functions not only of the State Department, but also of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate. I see nothing but confusion resulting from a procedure by which discussions of Philippine Republic-American relations and American-Pacific relations are debated by a joint commission at the same time that the President and the State Department are engaged in difficult and delicate negotiations.

b. Fundamentally, I have the same objection to committing to this joint commission the subject of defense. This would include the problem of military bases, extent and nature of American forces on the Philippine Islands and elsewhere in the area, military alliances, et cetera. If this joint commission should debate problems of this sort, I believe that the results will be highly detrimental.

It is my urgent recommendation that the jurisdiction of the joint commission be limited to the subject of trade relations, as provided in the Tydings-McDuffie Act. As I have heretofore advised you, in my opinion the joint commission is a bad device for any purpose. If it is used for the consideration of foreign relations and defense, the damage that it will do will be irreparable.

Please call upon me if we can be of any further assistance.

Under Secretary.

Attachment.

Proposed Amended Resolution

To provide for the independence of the Philippine Islands

Whereas, on December 7, 1941, while the Philippines was peacefully engaged in preparing itself for the independence granted by the United States to be effective July 4, 1946, the country was wantonly attacked by Japan and the people of the Philippines, standing loyally by the side of the United States, heroically resisted the aggression of the enemy; and

Whereas the people of the Philippines have established, by their wisdom in peace and gallantry in war, their right to take an equal place in the family of free nations; and the United States has, in practice, regarded the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines as having relatively the same status as the governments of other independent nations: Therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress that the United States should, as soon as feasible, establish the independence of the Philippine Islands as a separate and self-governing nation. To that end, having due regard for the changes that have come about in the international situation since the enactment of the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the complete independence of the Philippine Islands, to provide for the adoption of a constitution and a form of government for the Philippine Islands, and for other purposes" approved March 24, 1934, the procedure for recognition of Philippine independence and withdrawal of American sovereignty set forth in such Act of March 24, 1934, as amended, shall be modified in the manner provided in this Resolution.

Sec. 2. In order speedily to effectuate the policy declared in section 1, the President of the United States is hereby authorized, after consultation with the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands, to advance the date of the independence of the Philippine Islands by proclaiming their independence as a separate and self-governing nation as soon as he deems feasible.



National Archives and Records Service
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY
1100 PENN. A. V.

From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenbaum

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



National Archives and Records Service
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY
8301 PARK, N. Y.

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman

Sec. 3. After negotiation with the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands, or the President of the Philippine Republic, the President of the United States is hereby authorized, by such means as he finds appropriate, to withhold or to acquire, and to retain, such areas and rights in addition to those provided by the Act of March 24, 1934, as he may deem necessary for the full military security of the United States, for the mutual protection of the Philippine Islands and the United States, and for the maintenance of peace in the Pacific.

Sec. 4. The first paragraph of Section 13 of such Act of March 24, 1934 as amended is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 13. There shall promptly be held a conference of representatives of the Government of the United States and the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands, such representatives, on the part of the United States, to consist of three United States Senators appointed by the President of the Senate, three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, and three persons appointed by the President of the United States, and on the part of the Philippines, to consist of nine representatives to be appointed by the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands, for the purpose of formulating recommendations as to future trade relations between the United States and the independent Philippine Republic, including all questions affecting the post-war economy, defense, and relationship of the two governments. The time, place, and manner of holding such conference is to be determined by the President of the United States. Nothing in this proviso shall be construed to modify or affect in any way any provision of this Act relating to the procedure leading up to Philippine independence or the date upon which the Philippine Islands shall become independent."

Sec. 5. Meanwhile the resources of the United States, both men and materials, are pledged for continued use to redeem the Philippines from the invader.

*Memorandum to
accompany Proposed Amendment
Resolution*

Amendment to Provide for the Independence of the Philippine Islands

This act is a proposed substitute for the Tydings resolution (S.J. Res. 81), which provides for the immediate independence of the Philippine Islands. Under the existing law, the Philippines will not become independent until July 4, 1946. The substitute authorizes the President of the United States to proclaim the independence of the Philippine Islands at any time he deems feasible prior to July 4, 1946. The substitute follows the language of the Tydings resolution and of the Tydings-McDuffie Act wherever possible.

Introductory clause: These paragraphs state the reasons for authorizing the advance of the date of independence. The paragraphs are the same as the equivalent portion of the Tydings resolution.

Section 1: This section expresses the Congressional policy to establish the independence of the Philippine Islands as soon as feasible. It differs substantially from the Tydings resolution in its provision that the independence of the Philippine Islands shall be established "as soon as feasible" instead of "immediately".

Section 2: This section authorizes the President of the United States to advance the date of independence to whatever date he considers feasible. The corresponding section of the Tydings resolution provides that the President may proclaim independence within thirty days after the enactment of the resolution.

Section 3: This section deals with the problem of military security. It authorizes the President of the United States to withhold or acquire, after negotiation with the President of the Philippine Commonwealth, or, after independence, with the President of the Philippine Republic, any areas necessary for the military security of the United States, for the mutual protection of the United States and the Philippine Islands, or for the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. The section effects an amendment of the Tydings-McDuffie Act, which precludes the permanent holding by the United States of any bases other than naval bases or fueling stations acquired prior to 1934.

This section has no real counterpart in the Tydings resolution. Section 3 of that resolution merely permits negotiations between the Philippine Islands and the United States after independence, and makes no provision for the permanent acquisition by the United States of necessary bases before independence.

Section 4. Section 13 of the Tydings-McDuffie Act provided that a joint American-Philippine conference on trade relations should be held two years prior to independence. The proposed section 4 amends section 13 of the Tydings-McDuffie Act to provide that this conference shall be held in the near future. It omits the provision in the Tydings-McDuffie Act requiring confirmation of the Philippine appointees, and omits the provision making the Philippines subject to general tariffs after July 4, 1946.



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Technical Articles and Records Service

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

WASH. POST, N. Y.

From the Papers of

Samuel I. Rosenman



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

8000 PENT. B. T.

From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenzweig

The proposed section follows the Tydings-McDuffie Act as closely as possible and thereby differs from its equivalent, section 5, in the Tydings resolution in that the substitute authorizes the President of the United States to determine the time, place, and manner of holding conferences, and provides that nothing in the section shall affect Philippine independence. These differences between the Tydings resolution and the proposed section result primarily from the basic difference in the two resolutions, since under the Tydings resolution the conference would be held after independence, while under the proposed resolution the conference is to be held before independence.

Section 4 of the Tydings resolution is to be presented as a separate bill and is thus eliminated here.

Section 5: This section is an expression of policy adopted from the Tydings resolution.

*Draft Address to Congress
June 12, 1941*

To the Congress of the United States of America:

In recent months I have on several occasions addressed messages to the courageous people of the Philippines--messages expressive of our admiration for their heroism and steadfastness. I have repeatedly assured them that the Government of the United States of America will see to it that their independence is promptly established and, still more important, that it will be protected. On December 28, 1941 I said that the entire resources in men and materials of the United States stand behind that pledge to the people of the Philippines. On August 12 last I repeated that solemn pledge and said: "We shall keep that promise, just as we have kept every promise which America has made to the Filipino people."

On August 12 I also pointed out that in practice the United States regards the lawful government of the Philippines as having the same status as the governments of other independent nations and that the Philippines already possess in fact the attributes of complete and respected nationhood. I am of the opinion that the Congress of the United States should give prompt consideration to the adoption of legislation pursuant to which it will be possible for the juridical independence of the Philippines also to become immediately effective. I am pleased to learn that consideration has already been given and is being given in the Congress to this important subject. At this time when our forces and those of our Allies have already accomplished measurable and gratifying progress toward driving the Japanese out of all their ill-gotten gains, it is particularly appropriate for the Congress to reaffirm and make now fully effective our traditional policy of independence for the Philippines.

It is fortunate that, by virtue of the prolonged and thorough study already given to this question by the Congress in prior years, the necessary legal basis exists for a fully independent Republic of the Philippines. The Constitution of the Philippines which was adopted, pursuant to the act

of



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
National Archives and Records Service
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY
9701 PAV, N. Y.

From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenbaum

of Congress approved March 24, 1934, by the Philippine Constitutional Convention in the City of Manila on the 8th day of February 1935 is a thoroughly modern and democratic organic act. That Constitution has already been in effect for nearly eight years and in the six years from its adoption until the Japanese invasion it proved in actual operation that it was wisely molded to the genius of the Philippine people. The Constitution, moreover, was drafted to guide the Philippines not only under the Commonwealth Government but also after the final and complete withdrawal of the sovereignty of the United States. The Constitution in Article 17 provides that after independence the Commonwealth of the Philippines shall thenceforth be known as the Republic of the Philippines. Consequently the only action required by the Congress to complete its well-considered efforts directed toward establishing the independence of the Philippines is to authorize prompt proclamation of the full independence of the Islands. The Republic of the Philippines will thus be able to function under a democratic form of government, in accordance with a Constitution which was adopted by the Philippine people themselves. The officials of the Commonwealth government, selected by the people of the Philippines themselves through the exercise of their free will, are in the United States. These officials can and will hold office and perform their functions for the periods and in the manner provided by the Philippine Constitution.

It is desirable that the Congress in authorizing consummation of Philippine independence at this time, give careful attention to the problem of adjusting to the new status the existing provisions of law which govern the economic relations between the United States and the Philippines. Consideration should also be given to restatement of existing provisions of law and the possible enactment of additional provisions having a bearing

upon



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
National Archives and Records Service
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY
WEST PARK, N. Y.

From the Papers of
SAMUEL T. ROOSEVELT

upon the question of the future ^{military} security of the Philippines. In addition, although we are giving the people of the Philippines their independence, it is my hope that the Congress will see fit to make special provision for the economic rehabilitation of the Philippines, in recognition of the political ties which have bound us together, the heroic role of the Philippines in this war, and the indissoluble bonds of friendship which will join the two sovereign nations for the future.

The White House

September 1943.



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
National Archives and Records Service
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY
1001 N.W. 1st Ave., N. W.

From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rogerson

*City
submitted to
President*

DRAFT OF MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS

Since the Japanese launched their attack on the Philippine Islands, I have on several occasions addressed messages on behalf of the American people to the courageous people of the Philippines -- expressing our admiration of their heroism and loyalty. I have assured them that the Government of the United States of America will see to it that their independence will be promptly established and -- still more important -- that it will be protected. The resources of the United States, in men and material, stand behind that pledge to the people of the Philippines. We shall keep that promise just as we have kept every promise which the United States has made to the Filipino people.

The Philippine Government, now in the United States, has been collaborating with the rest of the United Nations in the united task of destroying our common enemies in the East and in the West. As I stated on August 12, 1943, the United States, in practice, regards the Philippines as having now the same status as the governments of other independent nations -- in fact all the attributes of complete and respected nationhood.

I am sure that the American people believe that the Filipino people have earned the right juridically to be free and independent.

The date now set by statute and by the vote of the people and the Legislature of the Philippine Islands for independence is July 4, 1946.



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
National Archives and Records Service
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY
8300 PARK, N. W.

From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman

DRAFT

- 2 -

It is possible, however, that the fortunes of war will permit an earlier consummation of the joint will of the American and Filipino peoples.

I, therefore, recommend legislation by the Congress giving the President the authority, after consultation with the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands, to advance the date provided in existing law and to proclaim the legal independence of the Philippines, as a separate and self-governing nation, as soon as feasible.

If the Congress takes this action, there are several steps which, in my opinion, are necessary to make good our pledge that the independence of the Philippines will be protected in the future and to give them the opportunity of economic rehabilitation which is their due.

I, therefore, also recommend:

1. That the Congress make provision authorizing the President of the United States and the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands to enter into immediate negotiations and take the necessary steps with respect to providing for full security for the Philippines, for the mutual protection of the Islands and of the United States, and for the maintenance of peace in the Pacific.

2. That the Congress make provision for determining the adjustments necessary in the existing provisions of law which govern the



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
National Archives and Records Service
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY
8000 KENNESAW, N. W.

From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman

DRAFT

- 3 -

economic relations between the United States and the Philippines, so as to assist in making the Philippines, as an independent nation, economically secure wherever possible.

5. That the Congress make provision for the physical and economic rehabilitation of the Philippines made necessary by the ravages of war which the invaders have inflicted upon them.

All of this is due to the Filipino people in recognition of their heroic role in this war, the political ties which have bound us together, and the bonds of friendship which will join us together in the future.

Such action on the part of the Congress would assure the Philippine people again of our sincerity of purpose, and of our resolution to give them as soon as feasible all of the legal attributes of freedom, independence and Nationhood to which, as a member of the United Nations, they are entitled.



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
National Archives and Records Service
PABLOTTIN B. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY
NHD 7000, 10, 11

from the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman

August 12

[Handwritten signature]

DRAFT OF MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS

Since the Japanese launched their attack on the Philippine Islands, I have on several occasions addressed messages on behalf of the American people to the courageous people of the Philippines — expressing our admiration of their heroism and loyalty. I have assured them that the Government of the United States of America will see to it that their independence will be promptly established and — still more important — that it will be protected. The resources of the United States, in men and material, stand behind that pledge to the people of the Philippines. We shall keep that promise just as we have kept every promise which the United States has made to the Filipino people.

The Philippine Government, now in the United States, has been collaborating with the rest of the United Nations in the united task of destroying our common enemies in the East and in the West. As I stated on August 12, 1943, the United States, in practice, regards the Philippines as having now the same status as the governments of other independent nations — in fact all the attributes of complete and respected nationhood.

I am sure that the American people believe that the Philippine people have earned the right juridically to be free and independent, ~~as soon as the invaders can be driven from the Islands so that they can operate — actually as an independent Republic.~~



NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY
1001 PENTAGON, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman

DRAFT

- 2 -

The date now set by statute, and by the vote of the people and the Legislature of the Philippine Islands, as July 4, 1946. It is possible ^{however,} that the fortunes of war will permit an earlier consummation of the joint will of the American and Filipino peoples. I, therefore,

recommend legislation by the Congress giving the President the authority, after consultation with the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands, to ^{advance} ~~accelerate~~ the date provided ^{for independence} ~~by~~ existing law and to proclaim the legal independence of the Philippines, as a separate and self-governing nation, as soon as possible ^E following the expulsion of the Japanese invaders.

If the Congress takes this action, there are several steps which, in my opinion, are necessary to make good our pledge that the independence of the Philippines will be protected in the future and to give them the opportunity of economic rehabilitation which is their due.

I, therefore, ^{also} recommend:

1. That the Congress make provision authorizing the President of the United States and the President of the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands to enter into immediate negotiations ^{and take the necessary steps} with respect to providing ~~military, air and naval bases in the Philippine Islands~~ for the mutual protection of the Islands and of the United States, and for the maintenance of peace in the Pacific.



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
National Archives and Records Service
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY
WASH. D.C.

From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman

for full security for the Philippines, for the

DRAFT

2. That the Congress make provision for determining the adjustments

necessary in the existing provisions of law which govern the economic relations between the United States and the Philippines.

3. That the Congress make provision ~~to make available~~ for the physical and economic rehabilitation of the Philippines made necessary by the ravages of war which the invaders have inflicted upon them.

All of this is due to the Filipino people in recognition of their political ties which have bound us together, ~~the heroic anti-Japanese role~~ the Philippines in this war, and the bonds of friendship which will join us together in the future.

Such action on the part of the Congress would assure the Philippine people again of our sincerity of purpose, and of our resolution to give them as soon as ~~physically possible~~ ^{feasible} all of the legal attributes of freedom, independence and Nationhood to which, as a member of the United Nations, they are entitled.

So as to assist in making the Philippines, as an independent nation, economically secure & whenever possible.



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

WHD 74-10, 11, 12

From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman

To The Congress of the United States of America:

in front of the American people
In recent months I have on several occasions addressed messages to the courageous people of the Philippines—messages expressive of our admiration of their heroism and steadfastness. I have assured them that the Government of the United States of America will see to it that their independence is promptly established and, still more important, that it will be protected. On December 28, 1941, I said that the entire resources in men and material of the United States stand behind that pledge to the people of the Philippines. On August 12 last I repeated that solemn pledge and said: "We shall keep that promise, just as we have kept every promise which America has made to the Filipino people." [I further stated that I favored the establishment of the Philippine Republic as soon as the enemy is driven from the Philippines.]

The date now set by Congressional action and approved by the Philippine Legislature and by a plebiscite of the people is July 4, 1946. But it is possible that the fortunes of war may admit an earlier consummation. I should therefore welcome action by Congress giving me the authority to accelerate the date provided by existing law by proclaiming the independence of the Philippines as soon as feasible following the expulsion of the enemy from the Islands. It is desirable that if the Congress takes this action, it should also make provision for determining the adjustments which should be made in the existing provisions of law which govern the economic relations between the United States and the Philippines. Consideration should also be given to problems affecting the future security of the Philippines, including the provision of military and naval bases for the United States. In addition, it is my hope that the Congress will see fit to make special provision for the economic rehabilitation of the Philippines, in recognition of the political ties which have bound us together, the heroic role of the Philippines in this war, and the indissoluble bonds of friendship which will join the Philippines and ourselves in the future.

Such action on the part of the Congress again would assure the Philippine people of our sincerity of purpose and of our resolution to confer upon them the attributes of complete and respected nationhood.

The White House

September 1943.



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Manuel Archives and Records Service
PRESERVE IN PERMANENT LIBRARY
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 11

From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1. Oregon ^{at} Nov. 1943
2. Places
3. Import duties

4. Independence after Japs out
5. ~~Independence~~ duties.

a) Japs say indep. is false
b) U.S. ~~serious~~
will stand out

c) Independence by us &
puffed state - ~~Japan~~
Perhaps more apt to
leave confusion.



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

9700 PHS, R. 1

From the papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

8000 100-10, 2-1

From the Papers of
General I. Rosenman

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Stimson spoke to Congress
Sept. 16, 1945 Stimson read Pres
a Resolution

Stimson - prefers Congress to
Congress

Which means Congress Pres
speech ^{speech and policy} and policy
of Philippines when war is
out.

Requires 2 decisions

- 1) no practical
- 2) steps may be taken

& more than physical as
well as economic security. a) base
at date full impact

*Part of the
Recommended Policy*

To The Congress of the United States of America:

In recent months I have on several occasions addressed messages to the courageous people of the Philippines--messages expressive of our admiration of their heroism and steadfastness. I have assured them that the Government of the United States of America will see to it that their independence is promptly established and, still more important, that it will be protected. On December 28, 1941, I said that the entire resources in man and material of the United States stand behind that pledge to the people of the Philippines. On August 12 last I repeated that solemn pledge and said: "We shall keep that promise, just as we have kept every promise which America has made to the Filipino people." I further stated that I favored the establishment of the Philippine Republic as soon as the enemy is driven from the Philippines.

The date now set by Congressional action and approved by the Philippine Legislature and by a plebiscite of the people is July 4, 1946. But, it is possible that the fortunes of war may admit an earlier consummation. I should therefore welcome action by Congress giving ^{the President} me, the authority to proclaim the independence of the Philippines immediately following the expulsion of the enemy from the islands.

Such action on the part of the Congress again would assure the Philippine people of our sincerity of purpose and of our resolution to confer upon them the attributes of a complete and respected nationhood.

The White House

September 1943.



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
National Archives and Records Service
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY
RDM PLAN, 6-15

From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman

INFORMAL REMARKS
OF THE
P R E S I D E N T
AT THE DEDICATION OF FOUR LIBERATOR BOMBERS
FOR YUGOSLAVIAN COMBAT SERVICE
AT BOILING FIELD
OCTOBER 6, 1943

Mr. Ambassador, General Giles, members of the first Yugoslav air force trained in this country:

I am very happy to take part in this most interesting ceremony. I am happy also that you gentlemen are going to wear as members of the Yugoslav air force the wings of the United States air force.

May these planes fulfill their mission under your guidance. They are built with two great objectives. The first is to drop bombs on our common enemy successfully and at the right points. The second is to deliver to your compatriots in Yugoslavia the much needed supplies for which they have waited so long -- food, medicine -- Yes, arms and ammunition.

And so you fare forth on one of the greatest odysseys of this war. I count on you to bear yourselves well. And I am sure you will have every success in this great mission that you are undertaking. Remember always that we are comrades in arms.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.
