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C.F.

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General

Part 34

Philip... 1941

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August 23, 1941

Dear Frank:

Your letter of July thirty-first has just reached me and I wish to assure you that you continue to have my full confidence. In these critical times we are all under a strain. I realize that you are faced with difficult and delicate problems and I rely upon your judgment, tact and diplomacy to meet them.

I should enjoy an opportunity to talk things over with you, but as conditions now are it would be unwise for you to leave your post even for a few weeks.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Franklin D. Roosevelt

The Honorable  
Francis B. Sayre, 117206  
United States High Commissioner  
to the Commonwealth of  
the Philippines,  
Manila.

Original sent to Interior for delivery

8/25/41  
[Signature]

1400 P.D.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  

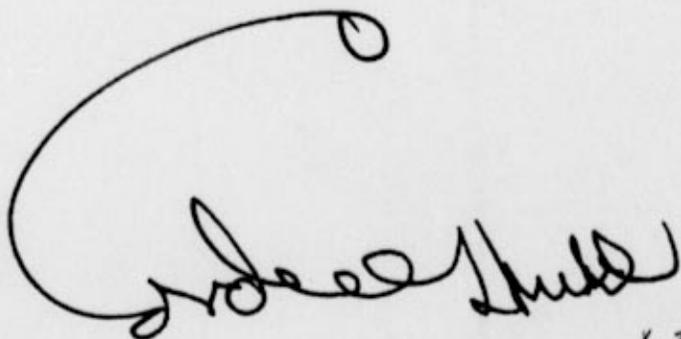
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**THE SECRETARY**

August 22, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

The attached letter from the High Commissioner, dated July 31, 1941, which you sent me with your memorandum of August 21, has been read with interest and I appreciate the opportunity of seeing it. I enclose a suggested draft for your reply to Dr. Sayre.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, likely belonging to Cordell Hull, Secretary of State at the time. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'C'.

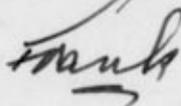
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Commonwealth Government may not be able to swing the problem alone and that if a serious shipping shortage develops the United States will have to give serious consideration to affording financial assistance but should doubtless couple whatever assistance is given with a program of careful diversion of sugar land to rice and other crops needed in the Philippines.

Perhaps still more pressing at the moment is the problem of maintaining Philippine stocks of food supplies and other necessities. If the shortage of bottoms becomes acute we will be extremely limited in what supplies we can get from the United States. Yet there is imminent danger that what we have will be drained away by being exported to neighboring Far Eastern countries where price of supplies may be higher. We ought to control such exports; but how? The Export Control Act apparently is not broad enough to include foodstuffs and a number of other necessary commodities. Just now I'm wrestling with this problem also. It looks as if the only thoroughly satisfactory answer will be an Act of the United States Congress amending the Export Control Act so as to give control over the export from the Philippines of foodstuffs and articles of necessity for Philippine domestic needs.

It is heartening to see how our country is responding to your leadership and we are doing our best to uphold your hands in this far outpost.

Ever sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Frank', written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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August 21, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
AND THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE:  
  
FOR PREPARATION OF REPLY.

F.D.R.

Letter from Hon. Francis B. Sayre, U.S. High Commissioner to the Philippine Islands, Manila, 7/31/41 to the President, marked "Personal and confidential". Wishes to know the President's mind and his desire about Mr. Sayre's remaining in Manila. Original letter sent to the Secretary of State. Copy of President's memorandum and explanation of enclosure sent to the Under Secretary of State.