

● PSF

Philippines 1942-45

CONTINUED

*Philippines folder
file
personal 1-43*

July 16, 1943.

Dear Manuel:-

I am delighted to have your letter and especially to know that you are really better after a short time in the Adirondacks. I have had so many friends at Saranac -- and I have been there myself -- that I know much about it, and I may say that all of these friends of mine who went there did splendidly and nearly all of them got completely well. You must certainly stay there until the Autumn and until the Doctors give you a "clean bill of health".

I think you are right in keeping quiet publicly in regard to your illness.

That message about Panay is most encouraging. What a splendid resistance they have put up!

With my warm regards,

Always sincerely,

His Excellency
Manuel L. Quezon,
President of the Philippines,
McMartin Camp,
Saranac Lake,
New York.

**Office of the President
of the Philippines**

THE WHITE HOUSE

JUL 15 8 43 AM '43

RECEIVED

McMartin Camp
Saranac Lake, N.Y.
July 13, 1943

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. President:

I was thrilled to read of the invasion of Sicily and of your prognostication that "this is the beginning of the end." This means that the day of the liberation of my own country is not now too far distant.

Allow me, Mr. President, to extend to you my warmest congratulations, for the invasion of Sicily proves the wisdom of your decision to attack North Africa.

Mrs. Quezon thinks that your letter to the Pope will be very much appreciated by Catholics the world over, and in general, by all people who believe in God and Religion.

I am happy to inform you that my rest cure is having wonderful results. I have taken a camp right on the shores of Saranac Lake, and I am here with my wife and children. Since my arrival, my condition has improved enormously. I have gained several pounds and my temperature has been normal. However, I have made up my mind to stay in this camp until Autumn and not go back to that terrible climate of Washington until I am fully recovered. Meantime, I have made arrangements with the Office of War Information and the censor to try to prevent the news of my being ill from being published abroad, for I am afraid of what the Japanese may publish in the Philippines. Perhaps you know that when I was in the Southern Provinces in the Philippines, the Japanese published that I had been murdered by General MacArthur;

but at that time this fabulous tale had no effect because I was actually living among the Filipinos in the unoccupied Islands. So, through General MacArthur's headquarters, even after I had fallen ill this time, I have been keeping in constant communication with the Filipino guerrillas and the civil authorities that I have appointed in the Philippines, so as to hide from them the fact that I am sick. For the very reason of avoiding the publication of my illness, Vice President Osmena and I have agreed not to let the public know that he is temporarily acting for me.

You may be interested to read the latest radiogram which General MacArthur transmitted to me from Governor Confesor of Panay, which I am enclosing.

Again, Mr. President, allow me to congratulate you, and to assure you that I am, as ever

Devotedly yours,



MANUEL L. QUEZON

PARAPHRASE

19 June 1943

PRESIDENT QUEZON:

Confesor sends the following somewhat confused message for Quezon. Secrecy imperative re these messages so that personnel and source may be protected.

1. Conditions on Panay:

Local governments have moved to the hills. Except for Aklan and Retcon every town is burned. Japs garrison former rice producing towns. Except for Iloilo City the populace is not cooperating with enemy. Thousands of Negros sugar laborers have no work. The unemployed and 4000 teachers on Panay are collecting food supplies. Teachers and civil employees have been without pay for a year and their savings are exhausted. Everyone is barefooted and jute sacks are used as clothing by the people and the Army. Present guerrilla food supply is being cultivated in the hills.

2. Here on the firing line we are well aware of our responsibility. Dead or alive it is my earnest desire to emerge from this war with clean hands. Have faith in us as we have faith in you. Panay is still free although under terrific odds. Despite Japanese cruelties, propaganda, and

threats against us the Jap garrisoned towns and markets are boycotted by our people. Tojo is defied and formation of a Puppet Philippine Republic is being blocked. The army and civil government is still intact and guiding over 95 percent of the people except those at Iloilo City. Here on Panay Filipino capacity and patriotism is being demonstrated. The rains have commenced and the people are busy preparing fields in expectation of aid to come. The program outlined will serve to fortify morale and reinforce faith in ultimate victory.

PSF: Philippines folder 1-43

file

Office of the President
of the Philippines

THE WHITE HOUSE
The Shoreham Hotel
Washington, D.C. 8 49 AM '43
September 25 1943 RECEIVED

Dear Mr. President:

I frankly don't know how to express to you the fullness of my gratitude for what you have done.

You know -- for I was very frank with you -- of my anxious moments in Corregidor, when I was besieged by doubt as to whether I had the right to sacrifice the lives of thousands of our youth when I knew that the battle could not possibly be won. More than anything else, it was my faith in you that convinced me that the path of duty lay straight ahead, regardless of the consequences. And now, with your support of the joint resolution which will recognize the immediate independence of the Philippines, I have the ultimate proof that my faith was more than justified. Never have I been more certain that the sacrifices which your people and mine have undergone -- and are still undergoing -- are worthwhile.

I am deeply grateful.

Faithfully yours,

Mark. Quezon

The President
The White House

Hand
C
Q
P
Y

Philippine folder
1-43

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 5, 1943

My dear Mr. President:

I have given consideration to your request of September 17th that General Sutherland's wife and daughter be permitted to visit Australia for the purpose of being near General Sutherland until the end of the war.

The problem of officers' wives accompanying them overseas arose at the outset of the war and the War Department at that time established the policy that for the duration of hostilities no wives would be permitted to join their husbands overseas. It was felt that since it was impossible to send all wives, the wisest course would be to permit none to go. This policy has been strictly adhered to without exception despite receipt of large numbers of requests from officers of all grades. In view of this I trust you will agree with me that it would be inadvisable to authorize this trip for Mrs. Sutherland. To make an exception to this firm policy, particularly in the case of the wife of a senior officer, would be definitely detrimental to the morale and efficiency of the officers of the Army serving in active theaters.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Honorable Manuel L. Quezon,
President, Commonwealth of the
Philippine Islands,
Shoreham Hotel,
Washington, D. C.

Office of the President
of the Philippines

THE WHITE HOUSE

SEP 18 8 38 AM '43

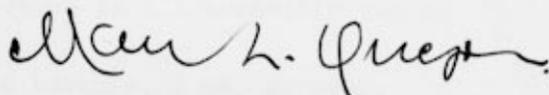
The Shoreham Hotel
Washington, D. C. RECEIVED
September 17, 1943

My dear Mr. President:

Referring further to my letter of even date, I feel that I should explain to you why I am so interested in the case of Mrs. Sutherland as to go to the point of making the request that I did make.

General Sutherland was one of the members of the Military Mission that, upon my request, you sent to the Philippines, under General MacArthur. General Sutherland was the first assistant of General MacArthur since 1937, and he, Sutherland, acted as the liason officer between the Military Mission and the Government of the Commonwealth. Indeed, Sutherland had an office in the Executive Building in Manila, and so he was very close to me, and I had occasion to personally appreciate his efficiency, and loyalty, in the performance of his duties. He therefore won my confidence and affection. Hence my desire to be of service to Mrs. Sutherland, if I can.

Most respectfully and faithfully yours,



MANUEL L. QUEZON

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Office of the President
of the Philippines

THE WHITE HOUSE
SEP 18 8 33 AM '43
RECEIVED

Shoreham Hotel
Washington, D. C.
September 17, 1943

My dear Mr. President:

It is with real diffidence that I write you this letter, and, if you should deem it improper for me to make this request to you, I hope you will forgive me, for I am moved by natural, and, as I think, the best of human sentiments. It was my intention to submit to you and make the request in person, but it seems that for at least two months more, I shall have to remain in bed.

I assume that General Sutherland, the Chief of Staff of General MacArthur, will have to be at his post until the Japs are expelled from the Philippines unless on some urgent official matter he is sent or called to Washington for a short stay. Mrs. Sutherland and her daughter have been separated from the General since 1940, and naturally, they would very much like to be in Australia, not too far from him. Could you Mr. President, authorize their trip?

This is the request that I earnestly beg to make.

Thanking you in advance, I am, as ever,

Most faithfully and respectfully yours,

Manuel L. Quezon

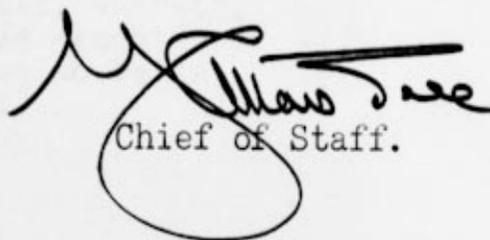
The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

WAR DEPARTMENT
THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON

October 4, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

I am attaching a proposed reply to President Quezon concerning his request that General Sutherland's wife and daughter be granted permission to visit Australia.


Chief of Staff.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 28, 1943

PRIVATE

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL MARSHALL:

How do you think I should
answer this?

F.D.R.

:Letter to the President from Hon.
Manuel Quezon, Shoreham Hotel, 9-17-43,
requesting that the wife and daughter of
Gen. Sutherland be permitted to be in
Australia, near the General.

T-233 (to Gen. Marshall)
T-234 (to Adm. King)

Philippine folder

**THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON**

March 1, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

**GENERAL MARSHALL
AND ADMIRAL KING**

**FOR PREPARATION OF REPLY FOR
MY SIGNATURE.**

F.D.R.

Letter to the President from Hon. Manuel L. Quezon, Nautilus Hospital, Miami Beach, Fla. 2-23-44, enclosing copy of Tomas Confesor, Provincial Governor of Iloilo, 2-20-43, to the Japanese puppet governor of Iloilo, Dr. Fermin Caram. Pres. Quezon requests for Gen. MacArthur the submarine "Nautilus", for use in carrying supplies, ammunitions and medicines to the Philippines.

*Philippine folder
1-44*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 15, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

ADMIRAL LEAHY:

How can you get Osmena out to
Australia?

F.D.R.

Letter to the President from Osmena dated
Sept. 13 ~~to~~ being sent to Australia. The
President sent telegram from Québec making
appointment with Osmena on Thurs. Sept. 21

*Philippines folder
1-44*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

fill

September 22, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR ADMIRAL LEAHY:

As I told you yesterday, the President asked me to cancel the twelve o'clock appointment which we had arranged for President Osmena, until further information could be obtained re getting him back to the Philippines.

At the President's direction, I contacted the Secretary of War and asked him to confer with the Secretary of the Interior, General Marshall, and then General MacArthur, and upon the advice of these gentlemen he, the Secretary of War, should inform the President when he could get a party of ten or twelve, including President Osmena, out to the Philippines.

E. M. W.

Office of the President
of the Philippines

September 13, 1944

My dear Mr. President:

Shortly after assuming my new duties, I felt the necessity of seeking an early opportunity to confer with you on Philippine matters. So after my visit to the White House was arranged through Secretary Ickes and I had the honor of being received by you, I endeavored to secure an appointment. Obviously the appointment could not be obtained before your important trip to Quebec.

Meantime, the question of holding conferences with General MacArthur at Brisbane was presented for my consideration. Although I had already sent to Australia my Secretary of National Defense, Major General Valdes, for preliminary conversations, it is still believed that my presence is needed in that area to facilitate the solution of problems related to the liberation of the Philippines and the subsequent reestablishment of civil government there.

I am mindful, Mr. President, of the many important war problems which demand your immediate attention; but the progress of the war in the Pacific is such that I may have to move to that theater of operations very soon. In view of this, may I ask you, Mr. President, for an opportunity to confer with you at your earliest convenience, either in Washington or in any other place that you may select? If to gain time, while you are absent from Washington, you think it advisable that I hold preliminary conversations with any person that you may wish to designate, it would be entirely agreeable with me. What I wish to emphasize is that I would like to make all my plans, in relation to our return to the Philippines, the resumption by the Commonwealth Government of its functions, and the taking of any important steps after that, not only with your advice, but in full agreement with you.

With expressions of my high consideration and esteem, I beg to remain, Mr. President,

Faithfully yours,



The President
The White House

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

file

September 25, 1944

Memorandum for

Miss Barrows

The attached letter is
returned for the President's
files.

D.F.R.
D. F. Ringquist

TOP SECRET

Philippine folder 1-44

WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

September 22, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

After receiving your message through General Watson, I looked into the situation with respect to President Osmena.

General MacArthur and President Osmena have been in communication regarding the date of the latter's departure for the Southwest Pacific area. At the present time and upon General MacArthur's suggestion, Major General Valdez, formerly Aide to President Quezon but now attached to MacArthur's staff, is on his way to Washington with a number of dispatches containing important information for President Osmena. Yesterday the War Department received and passed to President Osmena a message from MacArthur stating it would be necessary for the President to leave Washington early in October.

The necessity for the early departure arises as a result of a recent change in the date of the Leyte operation from December 20 to October 20.

If you approve the contemplated action, the War Department will furnish transportation, and I shall speak to Secretary Ickes about this at an appropriate time.

Henry L. Stimson

Secretary of War.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

DECLASSIFIED

DOD DIR. 5200.9 (9/27/88)

Date- 7-12-66

Signature-

Carl L. Spicer

TOP SECRET

SECRET

PSF: Philippines folder 1-44

U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES
HEADQUARTERS, AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND
MESSAGE SECTION

INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

FROM: HAMILTON PRIORITY

TIME AND DATE FILED: 051554Z

TO: CGATC WASHINGTON DC

IN REPLY CITE: WCW 66

To file

Suggest rush message that follows (George personally from Halverson)

"The President, The White House, Washington, DC

Replying to your message of today I am deeply thankful for the prompt attention you gave to my letter of October 2 and for the generous approval of my proposed statement. Regarding suggested insertion, I will be only too happy to include it and I thank you on behalf of my people for your kind feelings and friendly concern for them.

Signed Sergio Osmena"

ATC CM-IN X 0794

SECRET

In accordance with Par. 50 AR 380-5, 15 March 1942, of an exact copy of this message is forbidden. Only such extracts as are absolutely necessary will be made and properly classified. This copy will be safeguarded with the greatest care and will be returned to the AFATC MESSAGE SECTION, without delay.

RECEIVED BY THE
DIRECTOR OF THE
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.
OCT 22 1944
MAIL ROOM

FILE MEMO:

10-5-44

A.T.C. Officer Myers waited for the answer and took it with him, 10-4-44.

RF. Philippines folder
1-44

October 4, 1944

MESSAGE FOR:

PRESIDENT OSMENA OF THE PHILIPPINES:

I think your proposed statement to the Filipino people is excellent but I wish you would put into it somewhere something like the following:

"Just as I left Washington the President of the United States asked me to be the bearer of a message of congratulation to the people of the Philippines on the regaining of freedom and he asked me to give to you his warm and affectionate personal regards."

Happy flight!

ROOSEVELT

ARMY AIR FORCES
HEADQUARTERS, AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND
INTER-DESK MEMORANDUM

TO THE PRESIDENT

Date 4 October 1944.

SUBJECT:

This is being sent to you on the recommendation of Mr. Early.

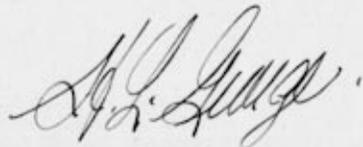
The 2100 Pacific War Time referred to is midnight Washington time.

This message came over Air Transport Command communications, which I am sure is the fastest method of getting a reply into the sender's hand.

Shall we be prepared for transmittal of an answer?

Telephone: REpublic 6700, extsion 3584.

Address: Room 1844, Army Air Forces Annex No. 1,
Gravelly Point, Virginia.



H. L. GEORGE
Major General, U S A
Commanding

SECRET

INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

FROM: Hamilton P R I O R I T Y

TIME AND DATE FILED: 041940Z October 1944

TO: CG ATC Washington DC

IN REPLY CITE: WCW 61

ACTION NOT ASSIGNED

This Copy No. 1 To CV

Other copies to _____

George FROM: Halverson SGD: Osmons

OSMENA

Rush following message to addressee "The President, The White House, Washington DC.

With my letter of October 2nd I enclosed copy of my proposed appeal to the Filipino people as finally drafted after our conference period. May I know, Mr President, whether the whole draft as it is meets with your approval? Kindly advise me by wire. I am mindful of the responsibility I assume in this appeal which involves the life of every man, woman and child in the Philippines, but I feel that in so discharging my duty, we may be able to save the lives of many of our soldiers and shorten the War in the Philippines. In the restoration of the "egitimate Government in the Philippines and in the working out of conditions that will strengthen the solidarity of the Filipino people and will assist us in accomplishing our common objective of establishing independence as orderly and as speedily as possible, I need your guidance and support.

May I send you, Mr President, my very best wishes for a successful November outcome which will not only insure the freedom and happiness of the American people but also the freedom and security of mankind."

Special party destined to go West 2100 tonight Pacific War Time and desires reply before departure if possible to this Headquarters over the same channels.

ATC CM-IN

X0622

SECRET

OT ASSIGNED
10

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
WASHINGTON

October 2, 1944

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the United States
The White House

My dear Mr. President:

I wish to thank you for receiving me today, especially when you are extremely busy with many important matters.

I would like to assure you, Mr. President, that I will always carry with me the pleasant memories of my stay in Washington and the cordial treatment which you have extended to me and to my Government here. Upon landing on Philippine soil, it shall be my primary purpose to inform the Filipino people of the benevolent interest which you have displayed in their behalf.

May I also thank you for the attention which you gave to the draft of my proposed broadcast and to the other Philippine matters taken up in our conference. I am particularly grateful for the authority you gave me to announce publicly to the Filipino people that you will advance the date of our independence as soon as conditions in the Islands will permit.

I am taking the liberty, Mr. President, of sending you a copy of the final draft of my proposed broadcast. The portions which are underscored comprise those which you authorized me to use. If, after reading the draft in its entirety, you find anything which should be changed, it is needless for me to say that I will more than welcome any such suggestions from you.

Assuring you always of my cooperation and personal esteem, and wishing you well in the trying tasks which lie ahead, I remain

Sincerely yours,


SERGIO OSMEÑA
President of the Philippines

MY BELOVED PEOPLE:

By the Grace of God, and by the honor of America, I am again with you. Happy as I am to be back on Philippine soil, I am sad that our late and beloved President Quezon is not here to witness the realization of the great cause to which he dedicated his life -- the independence of the Philippines. I know, however, that you feel as I do, that he is here with us in spirit, to unite our people and to encourage us toward the achievement of the vital undertaking which lies ahead.

General MacArthur and I have returned together to accomplish a common objective: to restore to our people peace and prosperity, freedom and happiness. We were enjoying these blessings of democracy under the benevolent guidance of the United States when the enemy wantonly attacked us, interrupting our steady progress toward complete nationhood. This enemy is still on Philippine soil. It is thus our immediate purpose to destroy his power and to expel him from our country.

Primarily, this task belongs to the armies of freedom which are now, as during the fateful days of December, 1941, under the able leadership of General Douglas MacArthur, who is assisted by competent generals and admirals. With him are the brave soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen of America and soldiers of our own race who have come to sacrifice their lives, if need be, so that Japan may be vanquished and the enslaved may be free again. No one, I believe, is better qualified than General MacArthur to accomplish this, for

even during the dark period of the war, he had faith in the ability of the United States to obtain ultimate victory over the enemy in the Philippines. This view I shared with him. From what I have seen with my own eyes I can assure you that, as pledged by President Roosevelt, General MacArthur has at his disposal the men and resources needed to deal the enemy a mortal blow.

But it must be realized that the liberation of the Philippines is a joint enterprise which can only be speedily and thoroughly accomplished with the whole-hearted support of our people. You in your homes, in the towns, in the barrios, in the mountains, whether or not you belong formally to the underground must do your part in accordance with the directives which the leaders of the underground and the guerrillas will receive from General MacArthur. You must do your utmost, as did your sons and brothers on Bataan and Corregidor, in Cebu and throughout our beloved land.

As the enemy is progressively driven out and order is restored in our country, so will the normal functions of civil government be resumed in the liberated areas. In my capacity as the head of the Philippine Commonwealth I will as promptly and effectively as possible direct the restoration of the democratic functions of government in the administration of the nation, the provinces and the municipalities. But I did not come back to the Philippines merely to see the reestablishment of the constitutional government which existed here before Pearl Harbor.

During the time that our government was compelled, by circumstances, to carry on in Washington, first under the leadership

of President Quezon, and then under mine, it expanded the scope of its activities to include some of the prerogatives possessed only by independent nations. For the American Government did not only recognize the Commonwealth Government as the lawful government of the Filipino people, but also gave it the consideration accorded to governments of countries possessing the attributes of absolute sovereignty.

This more advanced government is the one which I have brought back to you. It is even more than that. We have the word of America that our country which has been ravaged by the war will be reconstructed and rehabilitated. Steps have already been taken to this end. With the return of normal conditions, law and order will be fully reestablished and democratic processes of constitutional government restored. It will then be my duty to report these facts to the President of the United States with the request that Philippine independence be proclaimed prior to the date originally set in the Tydings-McDuffie Law. The President of the United States with whom I conferred a few days ago authorized me to announce to you that this request will be granted.

As you know, this independence was originally set for July 4, 1946. If it were not for the Japanese invasion, our independence would have come as previously scheduled. The gallant stand of our people on Bataan and Corregidor and in the other parts of the islands, and their continued opposition to the enemy, however, reemphasized to the United States and to the world that we are capable of establishing

and maintaining an independent government. It was in due recognition of this valiant performance by our people, the bravery of our soldiers, and the loyalty of our civilian population to America and to the cause of freedom, that Congress authorized the President of the United States to advance the date of our independence.

This is the independence which was the dream of the innumerable heroes and martyrs of our history and for which our people struggled many years, both in peace and in war. This is the independence which has been made possible by our adherence to the fundamental principle of Filipino-American cooperation and which the sovereign power has granted us under the provisions of the Tydings-McDuffie Act and subsequent legislation. This is the independence which was already within our grasp when the enemy invaded our soil. This is the independence for which the valiant defenders of our homeland — Americans and Filipinos — fought and died in the Battle of the Philippines.

Notwithstanding enemy propaganda, our people have remained loyal not only to the United States, but to our traditional concepts of freedom and independence as well. This propaganda claimed that the promise of independence as set forth in the Tydings-McDuffie Act would never be redeemed by the United States; that, in any event, the United States would never be able to return to the Philippines; that Japan was invincible; and that the only way for the Filipino people to be free was to accept the Japanese proffer of independence.

It is now certainly more clear than ever that this Japanese propaganda is nothing more than empty words. The forces of freedom which are crushing the enemy on every battle front have fought their

way back to the Philippines. I am confident that all our people, without exception, will rally to the banner of liberty and democracy and give to the army of liberation their determined and unqualified support. In this crucial hour, I urge every Filipino to do his duty by actively participating in this struggle, the outcome of which will bring not only freedom and happiness to our people, but also peace, law and security to the entire world.

Here is a new challenge to our sense of national responsibility. We shall not fail.

GEN. WATSON:

You said you wanted to give these papers to
the President personally.

ld

Philippines folder
1-44

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 11, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF WAR --

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you very much for sending
the letter addressed to you by Osmena.
I am returning it herewith as you re-
quested in your memorandum.

Sincerely,

E.M.W.

Inclosure.

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
MEMORANDUM

~~SECRET~~

October 9, 1944.

General Watson:

Here is the letter from
Osmena which you asked me to send you
to show the President.

Will you please return it
when you have finished with it?

H.L.S.

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED

C
O
P
Y

~~SECRET~~

Hamilton Field, California
October 4, 1944.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

It was very kind of you to favor me with your call and I exceedingly regret not to have been at the Hotel when you came. I am deeply thankful for your thoughtfulness.

In my visit to the War Department when, on your behalf, I was received by Assistant Secretary McCloy, I was able to obtain the views of your Department as to the advisability of my landing in the Philippines simultaneously with General MacArthur. I share with Assistant Secretary McCloy in the Department's view that such a joint landing would be in the interest of our war effort. We also exchanged views on the vital need of resuming the operation of the civil government as soon as military necessities permit. This civil government was in operation before the war and continued performing its duties as far as possible when the late President Quezon and myself established our headquarters in Washington. The authority of this government, when reestablished in the Philippines, after partial or total expulsion of the enemy, will emanate from the Constitution and the laws of the Philippines and not from any other source. The conception of a civil government exercising functions supposedly delegated to it by the military commander and acting as a sort of a puppet government for the military is untenable, both from the point of view of law and of military expediency. Such an unfortunate situation, if allowed to exist, will create deep resentment on the part of the people and will give the enemy a very valuable and strong propaganda weapon.

While military operations are going on, the authority of the military commander must be incontestable. But when, with the advance of the forces in some retaken areas, the military commander feels that the resumption of civil administration is possible, then that administration should stand on its own feet.

Another matter which concerns the two governments and in which full understanding is essential, is that of providing for relief of the civilian population. The late President Quezon's view was that the provision of relief for our people is an obligation of the Philippine Commonwealth. I fully concur in this view. If after the prolonged conferences that delayed con-

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

siderably the procurement of food, clothing and medicines that the Philippine Government decided a long time ago to buy, I accepted the U. S. Army's proposition to let them buy the supplies and transport these to the Philippines, it was only for the purpose of expediting action. First our conferees, and then I myself, all of us made it clear that the Philippine Government could not renounce its responsibility to its people. All the relief supplies actually utilized will be accounted for and paid for by the Philippine Treasury. Only when our resources are exhausted will we appeal to the United States for assistance.

It was my purpose while in Washington to confer with you personally on these matters and have full understanding with you, but the pressure of work on both sides and the acceleration of military operations in the Pacific requiring the advancement of dates previously set, demanded my early departure. I regret that this has to be so, but I am consoling myself with the hope that happy developments in the Philippines and the Pacific will permit you to favor us with a visit.

Reiterating my thanks and with warmest regards to you and Mrs. Stimson, I remain, Mr. Secretary,

Cordially yours,

/s/ S. OSMENA

SERGIO OSMENA

The Honorable
Henry L. Stimson
Secretary of War
Washington, D. C.

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR
WASHINGTON

October 5, 1944

Dear General:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from Secretary Ickes to the Secretary of War taking the position that a High Commissioner should accompany General MacArthur to the Philippines from the outset. There is also enclosed the Secretary of War's reply.

Inasmuch as this is a matter which was taken up twice with the President by the Secretary of War and on which the President decided that a High Commissioner should not be appointed now and that General MacArthur alone could represent the sovereignty of the United States pending the reinstatement of civil government in the Philippines, I thought that it would be appropriate if you had a copy of Mr. Stimson's reply to the Secretary of the Interior.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive, appearing to read "J. M. Stimson".

Major General E. M. Watson
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Encs.

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

COPY

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON 25

Sep 30 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I understand that the Southwest Pacific Command in considering the reestablishment of civil government in the Philippines desires to bring the President of the Commonwealth Government into the Islands at an early date, but that the Command is opposed to the entry of the United States High Commissioner until normal functions of civil government have been completely restored.

The draft of a directive to the Southwest Pacific Command, relating to the Philippines, provided that civilian administration should be restored to the statutory authorities as soon as possible, as suitable areas were reconquered and made reasonably secure from counterattack. This is an essential principle which should be observed, particularly in the Philippines because of their status as American territory. The reestablishment of statutory authority requires the participation of both the Commonwealth Government under President Osmena and the United States High Commissioner. Anything less than this would be a violation of law. It would have the effect of requiring that the Commonwealth Government communicate with the ultimate authority in the Philippines--that is, the Government of the United States--through the military. This would, to a substantial extent, make the reestablishment of civil authority a mere formality and a matter of administrative convenience.

The Commonwealth Government, standing alone, has no legal warrant for exercising any authority. The Commonwealth Government, together with the United States High Commissioner, is entitled to resume its powers and functions as soon as possible, consistent with military necessities. When any governmental authority in the Philippines is turned over to President Osmena--regardless of how circumscribed that authority may be either with respect to powers or to area--the United States High Commissioner should also resume his statutory functions. If it is desired that President Osmena and members of his Cabinet should enter the Philippines with the Commanding General, they should be accompanied by the United States High Commissioner so that a complete, legal governmental mechanism will be available to function as soon as possible.

Accordingly, I propose that the United States High Commissioner should accompany President Osmena on his return to the Philippines and that any authority relinquished by the military to civilian officials should be turned over to the statutory officials--that is, to the officers of the Commonwealth Government and the United States High Commissioner, to be exercised in accordance with the provisions of law.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ HAROLD L. ICKES

Secretary of the Interior

Hon. Henry L. Stimson
Secretary of War

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

5 October 1944

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have your note of September 30th in which you state your position in regard to the reestablishment of civil government in the Philippines.

My position in the matter relates only to the period of military administration. Naturally, I have officially very little or nothing to say regarding the civil government of the Philippines under normal conditions. I have felt, however, as I explained to you over the telephone, that it would be most unwise to introduce a High Commissioner on to the scene during the period of military administration.

I feel, on the other hand, that it would be of the greatest advantage to have President Osmena land with General MacArthur in the Philippines. I view this as essential from the point of view of Osmena's own political future and of the assistance his presence would give to our actual military operations. From both these points of view the introduction of a representative of United States sovereignty in addition to the Commanding General at the time of the initial landings would detract from both these advantages.

It is not proposed that President Osmena should resume his statutory prerogatives on landing and it is not for that purpose that it has been urged that he should accompany General MacArthur. His appearance merely as a symbol of the Philippine future and our attitude toward the Philippines is the chief reason he should go, and this reason also supports his arrival without an unnecessary display of United States sovereignty in the shape of both a United States Commissioner and the Commander of the Theatre.

At the outset the administration will be a military administration and it will be a United States administration, the head of which will be General MacArthur. It is for these reasons and others which I have discussed with you over the telephone that I have taken the position with the President that neither a High Commissioner nor a personal representative of the President should accompany Osmena at this stage of the campaign.

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

- 2 -

After the military phase is ended and when we have reached the seat of the former puppet government, then I think President Osmena should be installed in the full statutory manner with the American High Commissioner performing his proper functions.

Faithfully yours,

HENRY L. STIMSON
Secretary of War

The Honorable
The Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

PLEASE READ WITH CARE
DURING STUDY OF THIS
THE BEST OF THE LATEST
WORLD THE WORLD

September 29-44

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR
HONORABLE JOHN J. McCLOY:

Dear Jack:

The President approves the departure
Tuesday, as described herein.

Yours,

E.M.W.

Secret letter 9-28-44 to Gen. Watson re Pres. Osmena's desire to
return to Philippines.

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 17, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR

ADMIRAL LEAHY:

What about this?

F.D.R.

Secret memorandum regarding "Proposed Directive to General MacArthur on the Administration of Civil Affairs in the Philippines."

Philippine folder 1-44

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

November 13, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LATTA:

With reference to the telephone call from Mr. Blake's office this morning, I am returning herewith a telegram of felicitation from President Osmena of the Philippines together with a reply which has been drafted in the Department.

Mr. Blake's secretary stated that you desired this file returned in connection with the release from Leyte of an acknowledgement of the same or a similar telegram from President Osmena.

G. T. Summerlin
George T. Summerlin

Enclosure:
Telegram.

*Attached message not sent
see attached message sent on Nov 10, 1944
MCH*



PREPARING OFFICE
WILL INDICATE WHETHER

Collect

Charge Department:

Charge to

TELEGRAM SENT

~~Department of State~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington,

TO BE TRANSMITTED
SECRET
CONFIDENTIAL
RESTRICTED
CLEAR

PLAIN

November 11, 1944

HIS EXCELLENCY

SERGIO OSMENA,

PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINE COMMONWEALTH,

LEYTE.

I deeply appreciate Your Excellency's thoughtful message of congratulations on my reelection to the Presidency. The generous sentiments that Your Excellency has expressed are warmly received.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

S-CR
NOV 13 1944 PM

*Not sent -
See attached message
Nov. 10, 1944
MCH*

PR:RDM:EGC

11/11/44

PI
F.P.

NOT SENT NOT TO BE RECORDED OR CONFIRMED UNTIL THIS COUPON HAS BEEN DETACHED BY THE TELEGRAPH OPERATOR

DO NOT FILE

OR INDEX

PLEASE RETURN TO OFFICE INDICATED BELOW
FOR FURTHER ACTION

Emily Cummins *PR 186*

(Name) (Office and room number)

GPO 16-41447-1

TOP SECRET
NO. 7
1942

Signal Corps, United States Army

Received at

~~TOP SECRET~~

MR-OUT-534:

9 NOVEMBER 1944.

TO THE PRESIDENT FROM OSMENA:

"FROM THIS BATTLEFRONT OF LEYTE WHERE OUR ARMED FORCES ARE ENGAGED IN A DEADLY STRUGGLE WITH THE JAPANESE INVADER, ALLOW ME TO SEND YOU MY HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS FOR YOUR RE-ELECTION. BREAKING ALL PRECEDENTS, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE RETAINED YOU AS THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE OF THE NATION, THUS GIVING YOU A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE THAT HAS NEVER BEEN CONFERRED UPON ANY OTHER AMERICAN CITIZEN. WE FILIPINOS INTERPRET THIS ACTION OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE NOT ONLY AS AN ENDORSEMENT OF YOUR DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY BUT ALSO AS ITS UNMISTAKABLE APPROVAL OF YOUR LIBERAL POLICY TOWARD THE PHILIPPINES. WHEN IN THE DARKEST HOURS OF 1941 ALL HOPE OF RELIEF FOR THE AMERICANS AND FILIPINOS WHO WERE DESPERATELY FIGHTING TOGETHER IN BATAAN AGAINST THE OVERWHELMING FORCES OF THE ENEMY SEEMED TO BE VERY REMOTE, IN THE NAME OF THE UNITED STATES YOU EXPRESSED YOUR ADMIRATION FOR THAT HEROIC RESISTANCE AND YOU GAVE US THE ASSURANCE THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL NEVER FORGET THE FILIPINOS UNSWERVING

GP-7103

~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

Signal Corps, United States Army



Received at

~~TOP SECRET~~

NOV - 9 1944 AM

-2-

LOYALTY TO THE UNITED STATES. WITH THE AUTHORITY OF YOUR HIGH OFFICE, YOU THEN GAVE US THE PLEDGE THAT WE WILL BE REDEEMED FROM THE CLUTCHES OF THE ENEMY AND OUR INDEPENDENCE ESTABLISHED AND PROTECTED. CONGRESS HAS GIVEN THIS COMMITMENT LEGISLATIVE SANCTION. FOLLOWING YOUR INSTRUCTIONS AS HIS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, GENERAL MACARTHUR HAS ALREADY LANDED ON PHILIPPINE SOIL AT THE HEAD OF A GREAT ARMY OF LIBERATION TO DIRECT THE CAMPAIGN THAT IS THE INITIAL STEP FOR THE REALIZATION OF THIS PROMISE OF THE UNITED STATES. YOUR CONTINUANCE AT THE HEAD OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS A REASSURANCE THAT NOTHING WILL BE LEFT UNDONE UNTIL AMERICA'S PLEDGE TO US IS FULFILLED. IN REITERATING OUR FELEGITATIONS TO YOU ON THIS HAPPY OCCASION, MAY I NOT ALSO ASSURE YOU, MISTER PRESIDENT, THAT YOURS ARE OUR BEST WISHES AND OUR PRAYERS FOR YOUR CONTINUED GOOD HEALTH AND SUCCESS, AND FOR THE PROSPERITY AND HAPPINESS OF THE GREAT AMERICAN PEOPLE."

*properly
checked*

NO SIG.

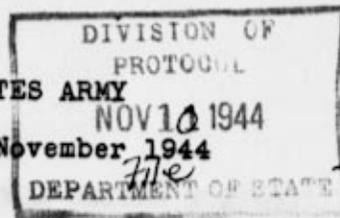
~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

COPY:PR:EFC

SIGNAL CORPS, UNITED STATES ARMY

MR-OUT-534:



To the President from Osmeña:

"FROM THIS BATTLEFRONT OF LEYTE WHERE OUR ARMED FORCES ARE ENGAGED IN A DEADLY STRUGGLE WITH THE JAPANESE INVADER, ALLOW ME TO SEND YOU MY HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS FOR YOUR RE-ELECTION. BREAKING ALL PRECEDENTS, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE RETAINED YOU AS THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE OF THE NATION, THUS GIVING YOU A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE THAT HAS NEVER BEEN CONFERRED UPON ANY OTHER AMERICAN CITIZEN. WE FILIPINOS INTERPRET THIS ACTION OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE NOT ONLY AS AN ENDORSEMENT OF YOUR DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY BUT ALSO AS ITS UNMISTAKABLE APPROVAL OF YOUR LIBERAL POLICY TOWARD THE PHILIPPINES. WHEN IN THE DARKEST HOURS OF 1941 ALL HOPE OF RELIEF FOR THE AMERICANS AND FILIPINOS WHO WERE DESPERATELY FIGHTING TOGETHER IN BATAAN AGAINST THE OVERWHELMING FORCES OF THE ENEMY SEEMED TO BE VERY REMOTE, IN THE NAME OF THE UNITED STATES YOU EXPRESSED YOUR ADMIRATION FOR THAT HEROIC RESISTANCE AND YOU GAVE US THE ASSURANCE THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL NEVER FORGET THE FILIPINOS UNSWERVING LOYALTY TO THE UNITED STATES. WITH THE AUTHORITY OF YOUR HIGH OFFICE, YOU THEN GAVE US THE PLEDGE THAT WE WILL BE REDEEMED FROM THE CLUTCHES OF THE ENEMY AND OUR INDEPENDENCE ESTABLISHED AND PROTECTED. CONGRESS HAS GIVEN THIS COMMITMENT LEGISLATIVE SANCTION. FOLLOWING YOUR INSTRUCTIONS AS HIS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, GENERAL MACARTHUR HAS ALREADY LANDED ON PHILIPPINE SOIL AT THE HEAD OF A GREAT ARMY OF LIBERATION TO DIRECT THE CAMPAIGN THAT IS THE INITIAL STEP

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE
NO-001-224
COPIES: 100
EIGHT COPIES

-2-

FOR THE REALIZATION OF THIS PROMISE OF THE UNITED STATES. YOUR CONTINUANCE AT THE HEAD OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS A REASSURANCE THAT NOTHING WILL BE LEFT UNDONE UNTIL AMERICA'S PLEDGE TO US IS FULFILLED. IN REITERATING OUR FELICITATIONS TO YOU ON THIS HAPPY OCCASION, MAY I NOT ALSO ASSURE YOU, MISTER PRESIDENT, THAT YOURS ARE OUR BEST WISHES AND OUR PRAYERS FOR YOUR CONTINUED GOOD HEALTH AND SUCCESS, AND FOR THE PROSPERITY AND HAPPINESS OF THE GREAT AMERICAN PEOPLE."

NO SIG.

FROM: THE PRESIDENT
FOR : PRESIDENT OSMEÑA
DATE: 10 NOVEMBER 1944

Please accept this expression of appreciation of the good wishes and congratulations brought by your message of November ninth.

General MacArthur, with his valiant Army and Navy, is already well on his way toward the liberation of your country, in which task we are sure your people will perform their full share.

I join with you in a hope that our progress will be rapid and in an assurance that it will be effective in a complete removal of the barbarous invaders.

ROOSEVELT

~~SECRET~~

FROM: PRESIDENT OSMENA
TO : PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT
DATE: 9 NOVEMBER 1944

From this battlefield of Leyte where our armed forces are engaged in a deadly struggle with the Japanese invader, allow me to send you my heartiest congratulations for your reelection. Breaking all precedents, the American people have retained you as the Chief Magistrate of the Nation, thus giving you a vote of confidence that has never been conferred upon any other American citizen. We Filipinos interpret this action of the American people not only as an endorsement of your domestic and foreign policy but also as its unmistakable approval of your liberal policy toward the Philippines. When in the darkest hours of 1941 all hope of relief for the Americans and Filipinos who were desperately fighting together in Bataan against the overwhelming forces of the enemy seemed to be very remote, in the name of the United States you expressed your admiration for that heroic resistance and you gave us the assurance that the American people will never forget the Filipinos unswerving loyalty to the United States. With the authority of your high office, you then gave us the pledge that we will be redeemed from the clutches of the enemy and our independence established and protected. Congress has given this commitment legislative sanction.

Following your instructions as his Commander-in-Chief, General MacArthur has already landed on Philippine soil at the head of a great army of liberation to direct the campaign that is the initial step for the realization of this promise of the United

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

States. Your continuance at the head of the American Government is a reassurance that nothing will be left undone until America's pledge to us is fulfilled. In reiterating our felicitations to you on this happy occasion, may I not also assure you, Mister President, that yours are our best wishes and our prayers for your continued good health and success, and for the prosperity and happiness of the great American people.

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

December 9, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. ABE FORTAS:

I think it would be a mistake for President Osmena to try to come here before this Congress adjourns. After all, our forces are in control on only one island on which fighting continues. We have not enough information about relief and rehabilitation on all the other islands.

If President Osmena comes here early in February, I think it would be about the right time.

F.D.R.

Returning carbon of Mr. Fortas' memorandum of 12/8/44, the original of which has been retained for our files.



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON 25

December 8, 1944.

MEMORANDUM for the President.

Some days ago Brigadier General Romulo, who is now in Washington, sent a message to President Osmena, who is on Leyte with General MacArthur, suggesting that Osmena should come to Washington to see if he can be of assistance in getting action on matters relating to relief and rehabilitation in the Philippines. Senator Tydings has not called a meeting of the Philippine Rehabilitation Commission in some months, and President Osmena is concerned about this.

President Osmena replied to General Romulo, saying that he would come to Washington if you saw no objection. If he is to accomplish his purpose, he thinks that he should arrive before Congress recesses. General Romulo has asked me to communicate with you and ask if you have any objection to President Osmena's return to Washington.

Secretary Ickes is away for the week end, but he has told me that he sees no objection. Assistant Secretary of War McCloy tells me that he sees no objection provided that General MacArthur does not consider it advisable for President Osmena to remain in the Philippines.

If you are in accord, I suggest that you authorize me to advise General Romulo that you see no objection to President Osmena's coming to Washington, provided that General MacArthur does not believe that Osmena should remain in the Philippines.

McFortas
Acting Secretary of the Interior.



Ans

Copy of reply sent to Interior 1/23/45

*Philippines folder
1-45*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 20, 1945

My dear President Osmena:

I deeply regret my inability to see you this week, and I shall certainly ask you to confer with me as soon as my commitments permit. Meanwhile, it would be helpful if you would confer with the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of War, and other Executive officials as well as members of the Senate and the House. I know that you will find that the officials of this Government will extend every courtesy to you and will cooperate in every possible way.

I am happy that you are back in Washington safely and in good health and spirits. I join in what I know is your fervent hope, that we will soon witness the complete liberation of the Philippines.

Sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Hon. Sergio Osmena,
President of the Philippines.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 20, 1945

EORTAS

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I deeply regret my inability to see you this week, and I shall certainly ask you to confer with me as soon as my commitments permit. Meanwhile, it would be helpful if you would confer with the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of War, and other Executive officials as well as members of the Senate and the House. I know that you will find that the officials of this Government will extend every courtesy to you and will cooperate in every possible way.

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Sincerely yours,

~~FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT~~

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Hon. Sergio Osmena,

President of the Philippines.

Please note the President's letter of
January 16th to President Ogmen, attached.



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JAN 18 1945

MEMORANDUM for the President.

General Romulo telephoned and said that if it were impossible for you to see President Osmena this week, it would be helpful if you authorized Osmena to confer with me and with other officials of the Government and members of Congress. While I think that this authorization is unnecessary, it would probably be just as well to accede to President Osmena's wishes.

I am transmitting herewith a draft of a letter for your signature to President Osmena which I suggest that you send in the event that you will not be able to see him.

Harold L. Icha

Secretary of the Interior.

Attachment.

February 1, 1945.

FILE NOTE:

This date copy of the President's letter of January 16, 1945 to President Osmena was sent to him, in covering envelope addressed to Hon. Jaime Hernandez, Secretary of Finance, Commonwealth of the Philippines, 1617 Mass. Ave, Washington 6, D.C. as per Sec. Hernandez request in a letter to Mr. Hassett, and at Miss Tully's direction.

A.C.T.

(Hernandez' ltr. to Mr. Hassett returned to Mr. Hassett 2-1-45.)

Philippines folder
1-45

1-16-45

January 16, 1945.

Private

My dear President Osmena:

I am happy that you are safely back and you must, of course, take plenty of time for a complete check up and the necessary medical treatment.

I, myself, am leaving soon after the Inauguration to meet with Marshal Stalin and Prime Minister Churchill, but I will not be gone long and I am looking forward to greeting you and having a good talk on my return.

Take care of yourself and when I see you we can go over all details.

Always sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

President Sergio Osmena,
c/o Dr. Robert C. Naylor,
1108 Greenleaf Building,
Jacksonville, Florida.

JAN 12 8 33 AM '45

RECEIVED

**Office of the President
of the Philippines**Hamilton Field, California
January 9, 1944 [45]

My dear Mr. President:

Upon landing once more on this hospitable land, permit me to send you, together with the most respectful greetings, my hearty felicitations for the signal successes so far achieved in the Philippines by the gallant armies of which you are the supreme Commander-in-Chief. These successes have made it possible for those forces to safely land on Luzon within a striking distance of the Capital City of Manila. Thus, your pledge to my people for their early deliverance will soon be fulfilled.

Before Manila is retaken and full operation of our constitutional government resumed, it is obvious that it would be advantageous to our two governments that we meet for an exchange of views on the important problems ahead of us. Indeed, recognizing the necessity for this meeting, I endeavored to see you shortly after my assumption of the Presidency. But while you were then fully engaged in the direction of the war effort to the extent of being obliged to absent yourself from the Capital for important conferences outside Continental United States, I had to make hasty preparations to leave Washington in order to join our armed forces in the Pacific.

Anxious as I am to see that such a conference be held as soon as possible, I am constrained, however, to postpone the privilege of calling on you because of health considerations. Within few hours, I will continue travelling to Jacksonville, Florida, to enter a hospital and place myself in the hands of Dr. Robert C. McIver, 1103 Greenleaf Building.

I don't think I am seriously ill, but as you may remember, I had an operation at the Doctors Hospital in Washington in May 1943. After being confined in that hospital for two months, I was advised by my physicians to take a long vacation for convalescence. But I stayed two weeks only at the Adirondacks for I had to return to my desk in Washington due to the pressure of work. Since then, I remained at my desk continuously until August last year when the burden became heavier due to my succession to the Presidency. Soon afterward I had to fly to the Southwest Pacific to accompany the troops in their landing operations in Leyte with the purpose of insuring for them the united and wholehearted cooperation and support of my people.

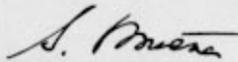
My three strenuous months in the battleline have overtaxed my physical endurance. Hence my physicians' advice for a check up and medical treatment in the United States. I hope that, God willing, my stay in the hospital will not be long.

General MacArthur, with whom I conferred before accepting the doctors' advice, concurred in the necessity of the trip, with the recommendation that although it was our understanding that I should not go with the troops in their operations outside of Leyte, that I endeavor to return to the war theater and be with the forces before they enter Manila. It was also his recommendation that my absence from the Philippines be kept secret until I may be received by you when, if you approve, the official purpose of the trip may be disclosed to the public.

As I plan to return to the war theater early next month, and intend to hold meetings with the Filipino Rehabilitation Commission and others after my conference with you, I would feel deeply grateful if I were given an opportunity to pay my respects to you shortly after leaving the hospital.

With renewed assurances of high esteem and admiration, I am

Faithfully yours,


SERGIO OSMENA

The President
The White House

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON

To S/W.

file
Personal

The President
should see this.

Scm

7+VS

3/5/45

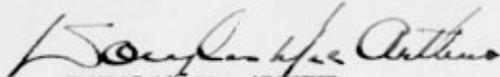
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

25 February 1945

SUBJECT: Lieutenant General J. M. Wainwright Letter
of Surrender to Lieutenant General Homma,
Commander in Chief of Imperial Japanese
Forces in the Philippines.

TO : The Chief of Staff, War Department, Washington, D.C.

Transmitted herewith is a copy of a letter
recovered in Manila in house known to have been oc-
cupied by General Francisco, former Chief of Constab-
ulary.



DOUGLAS MacARTHUR,
General of the Army, United States Army
Commander in Chief.

Incl: Ltr dtd
18 May 1942

Manila, P.I.
May 18, 1942.

Subject: Surrender

To: The Provincial Inspector, Philippine Constabulary, Palawan
The Provincial Inspector, Philippine Constabulary, Mindoro
The Commanding Officer, American and Philippine Army Troops,
Bicol Provinces

1. To put a stop to further sacrifice of human life on the Fortified Islands of Manila Bay, on May 6th 1942 I tendered to Lieut. General Homma, Commander in Chief of the Imperial Japanese Forces in the Philippines, the surrender of the four harbor forts of Manila Bay.

2. General Homma declined to accept my surrender unless it included all American and Philippine Army Troops in the Philippines. It became apparent that the garrisons of these forts would be eventually destroyed by aerial and artillery bombardment and by infantry supported by tanks which had overwhelmed Corregidor.

3. After leaving General Homma with no agreement between us, I decided to accept in the name of humanity his proposal and tendered at mid-night May 6-7, 1942 to the senior Japanese officer on Corregidor the formal surrender of all American and Philippine Army Troops in the Philippines. The Visayan-Mindanao Force and the troops operating in Northern Luzon had before this time been almost completely disorganized as military units and reduced to a state of guerilla warfare. In order to complete this surrender, troops operating under the orders of the officers to whom this letter is addressed will immediately surrender all troops and Constabulary detachments to the nearest Japanese Army Officer. This decision on my part, you will realize, is forced upon me by means entirely beyond my control. In any event further operations by small detachments conducting guerilla warfare can have no effect upon the main issue. This letter will be delivered to Provincial Inspectors of the Constabulary in Palawan and Mindoro by Major General Guillermo Francisco, Philippine Army, formerly Chief of the Philippine Constabulary. It will be delivered to the Commanding Officer, American and Philippine Army Troops, Bicol Provinces by Lt. Col. John R. Pugh, my Aide-de-Camp. Both of these officers are fully empowered to act for me and issue such additional instructions as may be necessary. You are hereby ordered by me as the senior American officer in the Philippines to scrupulously carry out the provisions of this letter as well as such additional instructions as my representatives may give you in my name.

4. The following detailed instructions will govern the conduct of this surrender:

(1) All troops and detachments of the Philippine Constabulary operating in the Bicol Provinces and the islands of Palawan and Mindoro will disarm immediately and voluntarily.

1.

File No. 100-100000
Co: The Provost
Subject: Palawan

(2) Troops operating in the Bicol Provinces will assemble at the most convenient point or the point designated by Japanese Army officials, and the Commanding Officer will present himself at Legaspi, Naga, or Daet, and tender his surrender.

(3) Constabulary detachments operating on the islands of Palawan and Mindoro will assemble and tender their surrender at the most convenient places and commanding officers there tender their surrender.

(4) This order must be carried out within four days after its receipt. Immediate and vigorous steps must be taken by those concerned.

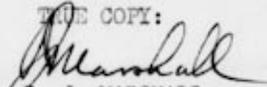
(5) The destruction, burning, or scattering of arms, munitions of war, vessels, or any other military supplies or equipment is strictly prohibited in part or in whole. Portable or easily moveable weapons will be assembled in the vicinity of the assembly areas of the troops. Heavy weapons, materiel, and equipment not readily transported will be kept intact and the location thereof reported, accompanied by a sketch.

(6) Defensive areas and installations, especially those areas wherein land or sea mines are laid, will be reported accompanied by a sketch.

(7) Japanese prisoners of war, if any, will be released immediately to the nearest Japanese military authorities.

(8) The Japanese Army and Navy will continue their operations until they realize that these orders are being faithfully executed. When it is realized that these orders have been faithfully executed, the Commander in Chief of the Japanese Forces in the Philippines will order the cessation of further hostilities.

/s/ J. M. Wainwright
/t/ J.M. Wainwright
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army

TRUE COPY:

R. J. MARSHALL,
Major General, G.S.C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON~~Confidential~~

March 3, 1945.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

Will you and Jim Forrestal and
Harold Ickes speak to me about this?

F.D.R.

Secret message, 2-6-45 from Hon. Harold L. Ickes to the President re appt. of High Commissioner to Philippines; Secret message 2-9-45 from Sec. Stimson to the President and Secret memo, 2-7-45 from Gen. Marshall to the President, embodying message from the Secretary of War, re appt. of High Commissioner to Philippines.

DECLASSIFIED

By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.

By W. J. Stewart Date FEB 14 1972

T-479

Philippines folder

1-42-

**THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON**

March 3, 1945.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

FOR PREPARATION OF REPLY.

F.D.R.

Confidential message, 2-28-45, from Pres. Osmena to the President re reestablishment of the govt. of the Philippines in Manila.

Philippine freedom
1-45-

March 3, 1945

My dear Mr. President:

I have just returned to Washington after attending the Yalta Conference and find your letter of January 30th, informing me of your plans regarding your forthcoming return to the United States. I am sure you understand that my absence from the city has precluded an earlier reply to your letter.

I shall be happy to meet with you upon your return to the United States and shall await further word from you as to the date.

Very sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

His Excellency
Sergio Osmeña
President, Commonwealth of the Philippines
Manila, Philippine Islands

Ltr handed to Col. Davenport 3/5/45.

Office of the President
of the Philippines

Hamilton Field, Cal.
January 30, 1945

THE WHITE HOUSE
FEB 6 8 50 AM '45
RECEIVED

My dear Mr. President:

On January 25, on the eve of my entering Saint Vincent Hospital in Jacksonville, Fla., I received, through the War Department, the following telegram from General MacArthur:

"Deliver to President Osmena in person, George Washington Hotel, by commissioned officer without delay pd Your return immediately paren This is a paraphrase paren is necessitated by rapid advancement made here comma leaving Washington not later than twenty eighth January for Tacloban and then to my headquarters by plane paren Top Secret MacArthur to Osmena Signed by Bissel WD GBI War two six four seven five paren period In a manner similar to Leyte landing it is my plan that you accompany me on Manila entry with our advance forces and immediate to restore the Government of the Commonwealth pd Please wire your decision immediately."

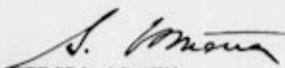
I answered General MacArthur that in view of his request, I cancelled the hospital arrangements that I had made, proceeding to Washington at once to get in touch with you through the Secretary of War. This I did on January 27 by calling on Assistant Secretary McCloy in the absence of Secretary Stimson. Assistant Secretary McCloy was kind enough to accede to my request that you be apprised of the situation, indicating at the same time that in view of the urgency of the case, I proceed without delay to the destination suggested in the message of General MacArthur.

I am now at Hamilton Field, California, and in confirming the message sent to you by the War Department, I wish to add that I intend to stay in Manila only for such time as may be needed to formally reestablish the Commonwealth Government there. When this is accomplished, I shall return to the United States to carry out our mutual desire for a conference as expressed to you in my previous communications and as approved by you in your letters of January 16 and 20.

Upon my return to the United States, I propose to proceed directly from Hamilton Field to Jacksonville for medical examination and treatment, after which I shall promptly ascertain your pleasure as to the date of our conference.

Wishing you every success in your very important conferences abroad, and looking forward to the pleasure of seeing you, I am

Faithfully yours,

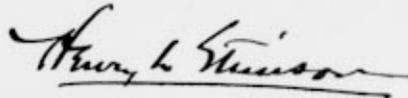

SERGIO OSMENA

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

I am forwarding a proposed reply for your signature to President Osmena's letter of January 30th, in accordance with your memorandum.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Henry L. Stimson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Secretary of War

Enc.

Philippines folder
1-45

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 26, 1945.

MEMORANDUM FOR:

The Secretary of War.

For preparation of reply.

F. D. R.

Attachment:

Lr. to the President from President Osmena, 1-30-45, re his return to the Philippines and his desire to see the President at a later date on his return to the U.S. from the Philippines.

3-17-45

MEMORANDUM:

After talking with Colonel Davenport,
Col. Park said the attached papers should be filed.

ld

Philippine form 1-45

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

17 March 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR

ADMIRAL BROWN

The attached message, proposed by the Secretary of War, was brought to the Map Room by Mrs. Brady last evening for dispatch to President Osmena in answer to Osmena's #62678, 28 Feb 45.

However, a similar message in answer to Osmena's #62678 was drafted in the Map Room by Admiral Leahy and yourself on Saturday, 10 March, and was approved by the President on Sunday morning, 11 March, and sent to Osmena.

Mrs. Brady suggests that, in order to keep the records clear, you might wish to advise Secretary Stimson's office that his message will not be dispatched inasmuch as a message has already been sent.

Respectfully,

Green S. Collins, Jr.
GREEN S. COLLINS, JR.
Lieutenant, U.S.N.R.

*To: C.A. Parks
Referred
W.D.*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 14, 1945

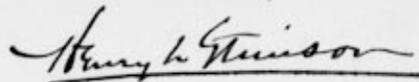
The President
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

Your memorandum of March 3, 1945, requests that a reply be prepared to the message you received from the President of the Commonwealth of The Philippines, in which President Osmena expressed the gratitude of the Filipino people for their liberation.

Attached is a proposed reply to President Osmena.

Respectfully yours,



Secretary of War.

2 Incls

- 1 - Proposed reply
- 2 - White House memo,
Mar 3 1945 with Pres
Osmena's msg atchd.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

DECLASSIFIED

DOD DIR. 5200.9 (9/27/58)

Date- 3-19-59

Signature- *Carol L. Spicer*



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

PROPOSED REPLY TO PRESIDENT OSMENA FROM PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

I have read with deep appreciation your inspiring message announcing the reestablishment of the government of the Commonwealth of The Philippines, together with your pledge of the continued support of your people against the brutal invader.

This occasion was a notable milestone on the road to final victory. Much remains yet to be done. I can assure you that the United States will continue the fight with all its power until the ultimate goal is reached. We have been proud to find our firm faith in the Filipino people more than justified throughout the dark years of Japanese oppression. We well realize the sufferings which your people have endured. Fulfillment of our promise to free the Philippines of the cruel aggressor has been hastened by the loyalty and courage of the Filipino people, whose steadfast and resolute devotion to our common ideals has been an inspiration to the oppressed peoples of the world.

Today we are proud to stand side by side with the Philippine Commonwealth. Together we can look forward to the day when we shall once more march in full freedom toward our common ideals.

CONFIDENTIAL

PSF: Philippines folder 1-45

**Office of the President
of the Philippines**

Jacksonville, Fla.
March 31, 1945

My dear Mr. President:

As I had the pleasure of reporting by cable to you on February 27 last, General MacArthur, following the procedure observed in Tacloban, Leyte, turned over to me the civil functions of government as soon as the occupation of Manila had been completed by the American Armed Forces. This was done in pursuance of your established policy looking towards the speedy restoration of constitutional processes in the Philippines. Permit me, Mr. President, to reiterate to you the sincere gratitude of the Filipino people for the deliverance of their capital and for the deep interest and abiding faith you have shown them all through these hard years.

Great as is the jubilation of the Filipino people over the arrival of their American liberators, it grieves me deeply to report to you the wholesale destruction of our capital city. Manila, once proud and beautiful, has been freed, but physically it is only a mass of rubble and ruin. The enemy, in violation of the rules of war not only had applied the torch to every house he could reach, but also had murdered, raped, looted and tortured thousands upon thousands of helpless and innocent civilians. No explanation for these frenzied barbarities can be given other than a desperation and vindictiveness coming from a savage people, embittered by their complete failure to win the Filipino people to their side. I know that the resources of the United States are needed in other theatres of war, but may I not ask you, Mr. President, to send us as soon as possible, added strength in men and materials so as to give the theatre commander the means with which to complete the liberation of the Philippines within the shortest time possible.

The outcome of the military operations in the Philippines has never been in doubt. They are being prosecuted by our gallant soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen not only under highly competent leadership but also with the wholehearted support of the entire Filipino people who, even in the darkest hours of their captivity, never wavered in their loyalty to America.

But if we Filipinos feel proud of the moral endurance

shown by our people, it would be unjust if we failed to recognize the very important part you have taken in their struggle against the common enemy. Your public pronouncements, Mr. President, and the treatment accorded by you to our government in exile have a direct bearing in the maintenance of the whole Filipino resistance. I am referring to your appeal to the Filipino people sent to them when the late President Quezon and I were still in Corregidor in the dark hours of December 1941. As you kept faith with the Filipino people, so they kept faith with you - in your exalted leadership, in your sense of justice, in your high regard for human rights. When you allowed the Philippine Government-in-exile to exercise not only its normal functions but those possessed by independent governments, when on August 13, 1943 you reiterated your pledge to my people, followed by your message to Congress and by the Congressional action supporting your pledge, there could be but one result - continuing Filipino resistance against the enemy to the limit of their physical and moral endurance.

The war has upset the whole equilibrium of national life in the Philippines - economic, social and political. To restore this equilibrium and prepare the country for the responsibilities of early independence, problems resulting from the war must be carefully studied and solved as soon as possible.

It is for this reason, Mr. President, that I am looking forward with eagerness to our scheduled conference so that together we may consider vital matters affecting not only my country but also this great American Republic in so far as its interests in the Pacific are concerned. I am, therefore, taking the liberty of sending you herewith a list of the matters which I would like to take up with you.

Thanking you again for granting me this conference, and with the highest consideration and respect, I am

Faithfully yours,


SERGIO OSMEÑA

The President
The White House

*Philippines folder 1-45
file*

LIST OF MATTERS TO BE TAKEN UP
WITH THE PRESIDENT

I. MILITARY OPERATIONS

Successful and well-led as the military campaign in the Philippines has been, the fact is that the majority of the people of the Philippines still remain under Japanese domination and control. It is, therefore, highly desirable that the military campaign be intensified, if at all possible, in order to relieve from extreme suffering those yet under enemy rule.

II. RELIEF

In the liberated areas, we found the people not only famished but actually starving as a result of the enemy occupation. Some relief was immediately extended by the United States Army to those people, but the magnitude of the task calls for considerably increased shipments of relief supplies to the liberated areas. In line with the established policy of the United States Government in extending relief to the liberated countries, it is hoped that Congress will appropriate a sum of money to meet adequately the immediate relief needs of the Philippines.

A Relief Administrator, if appointed by the President, will be in a position to effectively coordinate the activities of relief agencies.

III. INDEPENDENCE

With the actual progress of military operations and the expectation that constitutional processes will soon be restored in the Islands, the carrying out of the purposes of S.J. Res. 93 will be in order. For this reason, it is believed advisable to determine the approximate date of Philippine independence and the procedure to be followed in the actual establishment of the Philippine Republic.

IV. REHABILITATION AND TRADE RELATIONS

Since the problem of rehabilitation is of an urgent character, it is hoped that steps be taken to assure immediate action on the various proposals made by the Filipino Rehabilitation Commission, including the matter

of compensation for war damages in the Philippines. The proper adjustment of future trade relations between the United States and the Philippines is of prime importance to both countries and is essential to the economic stability of the Philippines. The support of the President is particularly needed in this respect.

V. DEFINITION OF POLICY REGARDING COLLABORATIONISTS

The delicate nature of the problem involved calls for a definition of the scope of the President's policy regarding collaboration as enunciated by him in his statement when he signed S.J. Res. 93 and 94. A fuller understanding of the background of the presidential position and of the directive issued by the Joint Chiefs of Staff will help to produce a uniform policy on the matter of collaboration. The vesting of responsibility in the C-in-C until the military phase is over is undoubtedly sound. Likewise, it seems logical that the Philippine Government should subsequently be entrusted with the responsibility of handling this problem.

VI. NAVAL AND AIR BASES

The retention and acquisition of naval and air bases in the Philippines by the United States for the mutual protection of both countries are provided for both by the Tydings-McDuffie Law and S.J. Res. 93. Some preliminary understanding should be reached as to the location of these bases and the terms under which they will be established and maintained. The existence of such bases will create a relationship which will require the closest cooperation possible between the United States and the Philippines.

VII. AMERICAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Close cooperation between the United States and the Philippines will find expression not only in the field of mutual defense but also in other fields, including cultural, political and economic. For this purpose, it is the desire of the Philippine Government to take advantage of the existing legislation to secure American technical assistance in solving its numerous problems.

VIII. REDEMPTION OF EMERGENCY NOTES

In the early part of the war, the President of the

Philippines created Emergency Currency Boards which issued emergency notes to help finance the United States Army in the Philippines. After the fall of Bataan and Corregidor, the Filipino and American guerrillas continued to issue emergency notes for the purpose of carrying on the struggle against the enemy. These emergency notes, amounting to millions of pesos, have been declared legal tender and are still in circulation. To what extent these notes will be redeemed and what portion, if any, of these notes should be chargeable against the Philippine Government, is a matter for consultation and agreement between the two governments.

IX. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMONWEALTH

With the limited funds of the Commonwealth now almost exhausted, it is essential that financial assistance be secured from the United States until sufficient taxes can again be collected to defray the basic expenses of the government. This assistance may be in the form of direct Congressional aid or temporary loans from the United States Treasury.

X. SPECIAL MISSION

If the President feels that before acting on the problems of relief and rehabilitation and on the question of advancing Philippine independence, a previous survey is necessary, it is suggested that a special mission be sent to the Philippines to examine the existing conditions there, report on them, and submit recommendations. A man of great prestige with Philippine experience, well-known for his sympathies for the Filipino people and their aspirations, will be needed for the task. This special mission may be of great assistance to the Filipino Rehabilitation Commission, and after consultation with the Philippine Government, it may be able to recommend a procedure to be followed in the early establishment of the Philippine Republic.