

46. AFFIDAVITS
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AFFIDAVIT

I, IRIBO BUENOSERA, Col., P.A., now on duty at Hq. P.A., Manila, after having been duly sworn in accordance to law, depose and say:

That I was Assistant Chief of Staff ^{ph. 10} G-1 at the outbreak of the war; that after the mobilization of the Philippine Army was completed I was directed by the Chief of Staff (on or about December 20, 1941) to organize the Anti-Sabotage Regiment with the mission of guarding all military and civil installations in Manila and vicinity and guarding the concentration camps where Jap civilians were confined.

That on or about December 26, 1941 it was decided by the Chief of Staff that the Anti-Sabotage Regiment was to remain in Manila which had been declared "Open City", to maintain peace and order till the entry of the Japanese army.

That prior to the entry of the Japs, details from the Regiment by request of American officers and the instructions given by General Francisco (who was designated originally to remain in Manila before it was decided to leave me, instead,) undertook the job of blasting bridges south of Manila, wrecking B.R. engines in Calocan and Montalban and placing obstacles in Balara Airfield.

That Capt. Jose Garrido was the S-4 of the Anti-Sabotage Regiment and I have given him authority to commandeer trucks and materials to accomplish the above mission.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of September 1945.

Irigo Buenosera
IRIBO BUENOSERA

WILLIAM J. ACKERMAN
1st. Lt., JAGD
Investigating Officer

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PRO-102

COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES)
City of Manila) S. S.

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A F F I D A V I T

JOSE GARRIDO, being duly sworn deposes and says:

That he is a Captain, Corps of Engineers, Philippine Army, presently assigned to the 5th Replacement Co., 3rd Replacement Battalion, P. A. Camp Murphy, APO 75.

That in December 1941 deponent was Regimental S-4 of the Anti Sabotage Regiment, USAFFE stationed in Manila and said regiment was charged with the mission of fighting a delaying action against the advancing Japanese Army. Said regiment was in urgent need of trucks to transport personnel and supplies from place to place in and around Manila. Colonel Irineo Buencamino, commanding officer of the said regiment gave deponent verbal authority to requisition the necessary trucks, which deponent did.

Deponent does not recall the requisitioning of this particular truck but has examined the requisition receipt submitted as exhibit _____ and finds it to be his true and genuine signature.

That said truck was not requisitioned to prevent its use by the enemy and nor commandeered prior to the invasion of Manila by the Japanese.

That the ultimate disposition of said truck is unknown to deponent.

JOSE GARRIDO

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of September, 1945.

WILLIAM J. ACKERMAN,
1st Lt, J.A.G.D.,
Investigating Officer.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
) SS
 CITY OF MANILA)

DECLARATION

By this instrument of declaration, be it known and made manifest unto all this presents may come or may concern that I, AMBROCIO P. FUELLAS, (Alias-Magdalena, PP or Pedro Pedro) solemnly declare as follows:

Q. What is your name and other personal circumstances?

A. Ambrocio P. Fuellas, of age married and now residing at Bambang Street, Pasig, Rizal.

Q. Were you connected with the USAFFE prior to and after the outbreak of the war?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you give me a detailed statement of your activities prior to and after the outbreak of the war?

A. Prior to the outbreak of the War, I was appointed as confidential agent of the Information Division, Philippine Constabulary on 9 March 1941. When the war broke out I was then in the service of the Philippine Constabulary and when our unit was ordered to move to Bataan on or about the middle part of December 1941, I was left behind in Manila for intelligence activities. In the later part of December 1941, I was attached to the 3rd Battalion under the command of Capt. Taguinod. The 3rd Battalion was a unit designed for anti-sabotage activities under the command of Col. Buencosejo, with headquarters at the Singalong Elementary school. On or about the end of December 1941, the headquarters of the 3rd Battalion was transferred to Paranaque, Rizal, where our unit was disbanded in the early part of January 1942. While the battle for Bataan and Corregidor was still being fought, I was attached to Capt. Osundo Comigo, 1st Lieutenant then and I was assigned as Intelligence Officer in Manila until the surrender of the USAFFE in Bataan and Corregidor. That in June 1942, by written order from Col. Straughn we began to organized guerrilla warfare in Manila and the vicinities and our first guerrilla unit was called the 1st McKinley Regiment. I was then given the rank equivalent to the 2nd Lieutenant in the Philippine Army and was assigned by Col. Straughn as Recruiting Officer in the Manila-Rizal Area. That in 1 October 1942, Col. Hugh Straughn renamed our unit and was called The Fil-American Irregular Troops under his overall command. I was then promoted to the rank of Captain, designated as Company Commander of the Makate-Rizal Unit, with the strength of about 200m men as of 1 October 1942 to 1 February 1943. Later I was promoted to Major and was designated Regimental Liaison Officer of the McKinley Brigade, PAIT, GBQ and was subsequently assigned as Battalion Commander of the Makate-Rizal Unit. When Col. Straughn was captured on or about 5 August 1943, Gen. Vicente Lim, who

File - Appendix file

was then the adviser of Col. Straughn, took over the command of FAIF, and I was taken to the same guerrilla unit be Col. Emilio G. Borromeo, who was then the duly appointed Procurement Officer and Chief Signal Officer by Col. Straughn. That on June 1944 Gen. Lin and Col. Borromeo departed for an unknown destination and latter I received information that they were captured by the Japanese in Batangas on their way to Mindoro. As a result of this incident, I contacted Braulio P. Sedano, Alias-J. Howard, who was then the commander of the McKinley Brigade. That on 1 December 1943, I was promoted to the rank of Lt. Colonel by Colonel J. Howard and was as Regimental Commander of the 7th Infantry, McKinley Division, FAIF, up to the liberation of Manila, when our unit liberated Santa Ana before the American forces of liberation arrived.

- Q. When you were connected with Col. Straughn do you have knowledge relative to the procurement activities of Capt. Emilio G. Borromeo?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What was then the procedure carried by Col. Straughn in securing loans and the procurement of foodstuffs?
- A. To the best of my knowledge and belief, all unit commanders were authorized to procure foodstuffs and secured loans from civilian sources for the maintenance of GHQ troops and other field units. That when Col. Straughn was still alive, he personally issued procurement receipts duly signed by him as CO of the FAIF, where the quantity and space for the counter-signing of procurement officers remained blank and only filled after the items procured were received.
- Q. Do you think you can recognize the specimen of handwriting of Col. Straughn if ever you see one?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What can you say about these different receipts? (Investigator showing different receipts.)
- A. Through my constant contact with Col. Straughn and my dealing with him in writing I become familiar with his handwriting and signature. I recognize and certify that the handwriting and signature as appearing in the different receipts are those affixed by Col. Straughn.
- Q. How about those of Emilio G. Borromeo?
- A. Yes, the signatures as appearing and countersigned therein are those signatures and handwriting in the quantities procured are those of Emilio G. Borromeo.
- Q. Do you know for what purpose were money and foodstuffs procured for?
- A. Money were distributed to different unit commanders in the field and other guerrilla families whose husband or sons were sent to field missions.

- Q. Have you ever received money from Col. Borromeo?
- A. Yes, I received about \$100.00 Jap war notes for guerrilla expenses.
- Q. Why only that amount?
- A. Because I was also authorized to commandeer or procure foodstuffs or loans from civilian sources by Col. Straughn, for the subsistence and maintenance of the unit under my command.
- Q. Did you ever commandeer or procure foodstuffs or money from civilian sources?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Can you recall then the name of persons from whom you secured loans and procured foodstuffs?
- A. Yes, they are filing their claim with your office.
- Q. Is it true that after the capture of Col. Straughn Gen. Lim took over the command of the FAIT?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Was Gen. Lim using his name or was he assuming an alias when he took over the command of FAIT?
- A. I cannot now recall.
- Q. Do you know then who was assuming the name of Edmond P. Ellsworth?
- A. To the best of my knowledge and belief this Edmond P. Ellsworth was a fictitious name of one Filipino Officer who was connected with the FAIT, but I cannot recall the real name.
- Q. Do you have knowledge of the procurement activities of Emilio G. Borromeo under Gen. Lim?
- A. Yes, to the best of my knowledge and belief, after the death of Col. Straughn, procurement receipts were made and mimeographed in Manila under the direct supervision of Miss Remedios Filoteo, who was then one of the confidential agents of Gen. Lim. The original procurement receipts already signed by Edmond P. Ellsworth were issued, but the space for quantity of items to be procured and the space for the countersigning of procurement officers were left blank but were only filled after the items were procured.
- Q. Are you familiar with the handwriting of Gen. Lim?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Can you recognize the handwriting appearing as that of Edmond P. Ellsworth as of Gen. Lim's handwriting?
- A. There is a great difference in the handwriting and the signatures as appearing therein as of Edmond P. Ellsworth are not of Gen. Lim's handwriting.

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- Q. Is this your handwriting and signature appearing in the letter directed to Mrs. Borromeo?
- A. Yes, because at that time I was already wanted by the Japanese Military Police and so in order to secure some funds for guerrilla expenses I wrote Mrs. Borromeo a letter to secure the money from Mr. Pyre of the Swiss Community.
- Q. Who was this J. M. BAYS in real person?
- A. J. M. Bays, is the fictitious name of Bonifacio Arraulio, who was also connected with our guerrilla unit.
- Q. What was his assignment then at the time?
- A. I cannot now recall because I only this man to be J.M.Bays after the liberation of Manila.
- Have you anything more to say?

A. No more.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I signed this declaration on this _____ at Manila, Philippines.

AMBROCIO F. FURELLAS
Affiant

This is to certify that foregoing statement was made by the party signing the same voluntarily before me on this _____ 194_ at Manila, Philippines.

WOLFRANCO E. CAPINPIN
Certifying Claims Investigator

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June 21, 1934

The Honorable
The Secretary of the Interior
Manila

S I 7 :

I have the honor to submit the following report of the Bureau of Non-Christian Tribes for the fiscal year ending December 31, 1933:

General Statement

In spite of typhoons which hit northern Mindanao, and of the locusts which devastated big areas throughout the Island, and in spite further of the economic depression, living conditions, in general in the nine provinces under the Bureau of non-Christian Tribes namely, Agusan, Bukidnon, Cotabato, Davao, Lanao, Mountain Province, Nueva Vizcaya, Sulu and Zamboanga, and the territories inhabited by non-Christians in the regularly organized provinces over which the Bureau has past jurisdiction, were satisfactory. There was no unrest. The people went about their toil towards the improvement of their living conditions and the extension of their property holdings. The state of peace which existed throughout these communities was marred only by the two assassinations between the Gobernadorcillo and Maros in Zamboanga and by an attempt by Igoates in Bukidnon on the life of a mining worker whom they suspected of proposing the government to dispossess them of their property rights. Private initiative for economic and social development has been encouraged by the local government and by this Bureau in so far as their resources permitted the provision of funds for means of transportation and communication, for the protection of life and property and for better hygienic and sanitary conditions.

Appropriations and Expenditures

The year closed without any deficit in the appropriations of the Bureau of non-Christian Tribes. Its total appropriation of P400,000.00 for the year, including the allowance of the Sultan of Sulu and his counselors amounting to P0,700.00, was less by P140,000.00 than that of the preceding year, 1932. The amount of P00,000.00 was deducted to cover forced savings thus reducing the amount available for the Bureau to P401,470.00 which was all spent. Appended hereto is a comparative statement of appropriations and expenditures for the years 1932 and 1933.

Political Organization

With the view to defining the boundaries between the subprovinces of Agusan and the province of Cagayan, the Governor-General has been authorized by act No. 413, approved on December 2, 1930, to issue an executive order separating the cities of Zamboanga and Zamboqui from the municipal district of Lanao, subprovince of Agusan, and the cities of Letran, Cagayan, and Maratal from the municipal district of Hingon, subprovince of Agusan, and merge the cities of Zamboanga and Zamboqui with the municipality of Pampanga, and the cities of Letran, Cagayan, and Maratal with the municipality of Misal, both of the province of Cagayan. No executive order has as far been issued in the premises.

By Executive Order No. 410, the barrios of Tinglayan, municipal district of Bukidnon, subprovince of Zamboanga was reorganized by dividing the same into two independent barrios under the names of Imugan and Tinglayan.

In the province of Sulu the municipal districts of Malabang and Puring were reorganized under Executive Order No. 408 by converting the territory comprising the same into three municipal districts under the names of Malabang, Malabang and Puring.

Elections

No general election was held during the year. Only a few municipal elections were held for the selection of municipal districts

presidents and secretaries. These were conducted in a most orderly manner. The persons so elected were the ones appointed by the Provincial Governor to such positions.

Administrative Investigations

The Bureau conducted three administrative investigations, one against the Provincial Governor of Bukidnon, the result of which being a reprimand and a warning for the partial action he took in a riot fight between his brother and a sanitary inspector in the Provincial Building of Bukidnon; another, against the Municipal President, the Municipal Treasurer, the Municipal Secretary and a majority of the members of the Municipal Council of Iloilo which resulted in their suspension except the case against the Municipal Secretary who was finally separated from the service on account of negligence and inefficiency in recording proceedings of the Municipal Council; and the other, against the Provincial Treasurer of Zamboanga who was censured from the charge of impropriety and abuse of authority.

Twenty-six administrative cases were admitted to this Office for review and decision. The majority of these cases were for suspension of public funds and neglect of duties. The respondents found guilty were either removed from the service or given disciplinary punishment.

Besides the sweeping, a number of complaints of minor importance affecting provincial and municipal administration were received by this Bureau and acted upon in accordance with the merit of each case.

Work in the Provinces Regularly Organized

In most of the provinces regularly organized where there are non-Christians, the Bureau of non-Christian Tribes has its representatives of non-Christians who look after their welfare. The main portion being to insure them to give up their nomadic mode of living. Funds of the Bureau were expended in paying for initial household fees of poor non-Christians and buying agricultural implements and

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carpentry tools for them. Seeds and medicines have also been provided for. Their organization into even small but compact communities will render easier the work of the Bureau of protecting them from exploitation by the unscrupulous and would afford them better opportunity to improve their living conditions.

Christian and non-Christian Relations

Typical of the excellent relations existing between the Christian and non-Christian population of the Philippine Islands, I desire to quote the following from the 1933 annual reports submitted to this Bureau

by Governor James B. Fagots of Iloilo

"The relations of all elements of the population of Iloilo were most pleasant. A fine general spirit of cooperation and helpfulness prevailed. These actually existing conditions directly contradict the idea that there is any 'problem' based upon antipathy of any kind between any groups of the population. The administration has labored to promote and maintain these good relations, and to direct the general attention to a future in which suitable progress made will lead to the regular organization of the local municipal and provincial governments."

by Governor D. Gutierrez of Cotabato:

"The relationships between the different elements of the province had been marked by tolerance and unity. There had not been any friction of any consequence registered during the year between Christians and Mohammedans or Christians and Pagans, and the relation between the Mohammedans, Hindus and Pagan natives is now closer than ever before.

"There had been, of course, some instances where by reason of conflicting land claims these different elements could not come to a satisfactory agreement among themselves, but with the timely intervention of the government authorities, they had invariably submitted such agrarian conflicts for settlement or decision to the court or to the Bureau of Lands or to this office and its field representatives. This peaceful attitude of the residents of this province of abiding by the laws and regulations instead of taking the law in their hands is an index of the satisfactory condition of peace and order and administration obtaining here.

"Differences of religious, customs and interpretations are no barriers to social relations. Intermarriage among these elements are now a matter of course. Commercial and social intercourse are unhindered in the least suspicion or distrust, and it is now only a matter of time that their ultimate assimilation and amalgamation will be realized."

by Governor Carlos Tomas of Zamboanga:

"The method practiced in previous years for drawing the

Christians and non-Christians together has been followed this year. Mutual cooperation and friendly relationship between them have been established. To carry out this method gradually and effectively, two special agents, who are prominent and influential among the Moslems and who are familiar with the laws of our government, are now employed in the government service. Deputy governors and municipal presidents are instructed to respect the customs, religious beliefs, idiosyncrasies and traditions of the non-Christian. As a whole the non-Christians in this province are friendly to their Christian brethren."

Non-Christian Scholarship

During the year under report an average of 80 non-Christian students mostly Moro, the greater number of whom from Davao, were given full or partial financial assistance to enable them to attend schools and colleges in the City of Manila and the College of Agriculture at Los Baños, the Central Luzon Agricultural School at Makao, the Philippine School of Arts and Trades and other vocational schools.

Revenue Collection and Assessment of Real Property

There was considerable decrease in revenue collections. Comparative figures for 1933 and 1932 in the same provinces under this Bureau for the most important provincial and municipal revenues, namely, school, realty and municipal license taxes and market and slaughterhouse fees are given below:

	1933	1932
School tax including penalties --	P 447,070.00	P 521,000.00
Land taxes including penalties --	672,990.00	610,830.79
Municipal license tax including penalties --	226,108.71	294,607.47
Market and slaughterhouse fees --	127,008.35	140,904.00

Timely provisions, however, were taken to forestall financial embarrassment. The expense of government administration was reduced by subjecting the personnel to reduction in salary. Overdrafts were consequently avoided. The Mountain Province was greatly benefited by mining activities. There was an increase in the number of mining instruments retained for record from 1,121 during 1932 to 20,703 during 1933, or an increase of 19,582, the province realizing the unusually big income from such prospecting of P70,512.00 during 1933 as against P0,000.00 during 1932.

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In the case of the assessment of real properties, an increase was registered during 1933 over the 1932 figures. They are -

Table

	Provincials	Municipals
1933	510,000	P 108,000,000
1932	510,207	107,889,000
	<u>4,071</u>	<u>P 1,111,000</u>

Summary

1933	20,000	P 11,604,940
1932	21,600	12,000,000
	<u>1,100</u>	<u>(P 1,395,060)</u>

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Recommendations

The Bureau of non-Christian Tribes being a creation of an act of the Congress of the United States, the Jones Law, it may have to be discontinued upon the organization of the new government contemplated in the Tydings-McDuffie Law. It is accordingly believed opportune to make the following recommendations in the interest of the non-Christian inhabitants of the Archipelago with particular reference to Mindanao and Sulu:

1. That a distinct office be organized under the new government with duties and functions identical to the present Bureau of non-Christian Tribes. Such an office may be called Bureau of non-Christian Affairs. In order, however, that its work could be more effectively carried out with the view particularly of the rapid economic development of Mindanao, its powers should be amplified. This point was thoroughly discussed in a development plan which was submitted by the undersigned to the Governor-General early this year and the letter to the Governor-General on the matter is hereby made a part, as appendix, of this report.
2. That as an alternative to the foregoing recommendation, the defunct Department of Mindanao and Sulu, with certain changes, be

revived. The Department would exercise administrative control over the provinces of Agusan, Bukidnon, Cotabato, Lanao and Sulu and over the municipal districts of Zamboanga and Davao, those last two national provinces to be organized as regular provinces. The province of Sarangani also to be organized as a regular province. The Mountain Province would be administered by the Department of the Interior thru an office division to be created for the purpose. This division would also have supervision over the regions inhabited by non-Christians in the thirteen provinces regularly organized now under the supervision of the Bureau of Non-Christian Tribes.

The Department of Mindanao and Sulu would have its offices in Mindanao at a place to be designated by Executive Order of the Governor-General.

The organization of the Department would have as its principal aim the rapid moral, economic, social and political development of Mindanao and Sulu, by the adoption of a comprehensive program to be systematically carried out among which would be included the following:

- (a) Construction of inter-provincial highways connecting the Department with the national highways.
- (b) Improvement of ports and dredging of canals and rivers for purposes of navigation.
- (c) Subdivision of public lands and their settlement by selected immigrants, to be carried out in a systematic manner.
- (d) Initiation of an educational plan in order that primary instruction could be given to those living in the remotest regions of Mindanao.
- (e) Establishment of agricultural colonies in the most convenient form and to the extent that available funds permit.
- (f) Adoption of other measures for the progress and welfare of Mindanao and Sulu.

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To finance this program, it is recommended that P8,000,000.00 be appropriated annually for a period of ten years; or, instead of such appropriation, all the Excess revenues collected in Mindanao and Sulu be used to finance said program.

It is expected that at the end of ten years, Mindanao and Sulu will have progressed to a point where it should no longer be a problem and a burden but rather a substantial asset and a great help to the Nation.

3. That, in any case, the following provision be included in the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands to be organized under the Tydings-McDuffie Law: The Commonwealth shall continue the work for advancement and liberty in favor of the regions inhabited by non-Christian Filipinos and to foster by all adequate means the moral, material, economic, social and political development of those regions. This provision is deemed necessary in order that the non-Christian elements, especially the Mohammedans, of the Archipelago would not feel as they sometime do that it is only because of American intervention that the non-Christians are being given by government authorities equal opportunity for advancement and that the Christian Filipinos are not inclined to give them a square deal.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCISCO QUINONES
Director

THE NON-CHRISTIAN GROUPS

The Bureau of non-Christian Tribes exercises direct supervision and control over thirty non-Christian tribal groups of the Islands distributed as follows:

AGUTAN

Bukidnon
Munozon
Munobo

BOHOL

Bukidnon
Munobo
Munguligan

COLEMAN

Alos
Bajobos
Bilanao
Tugbilla
Magindanao
Tirapala

DAYAO

Alos
Bajobos
Bilanao
Tugbilla
Yamala
Malambo
Mankayano
Munobo
Munguligan
Sungala
Tugassilo

LANAO

Bukidnon
Munozon

MAJULUNDAO

Toraja
Dajao
Duala

MARICORAN

Magindanao
Duala
Subanon
Talana

MT. PROVINCE

Alos
Apyano
Caldana
Ifigano
Igoroto
Kalinga
Maginon or Itaga
Dostosa

MINDANAO

Ifigano
Igoroto
Ilaga

In addition, the Bureau has extended, by virtue of the provisions of Section 706 of the Revised Administrative Code, its activities to the non-Christian inhabitants of the provinces of Davao, Cebu, Iloilo, Misamis, Occidental Mindanao, Oriental Mindanao, Palawan, Pangasinan, Rizal, Tarlac, Tuzson, Surigao and Zamboanga. In these provinces there are Alos, Mangyan, Subanon, Bukidnon, Davao, Palawan, Tugonon, Ilaga, Daga, Munobo and Munobon.

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CONSTRUCTIVE WORK

The foregoing data indicates that the nature of the work we have to undertake in Mindanao and Sulu is eminently constructive. With the different tribes, the majority of whom leading a primitive life; with the extensive territory which remains uninhabited and uncultivated; and with the inexhaustible natural resources awaiting exploitation, these islands, which constitute one-third of the territorial extension of the Archipelago, can be said to be still in their age of infancy. We have "to foster, by all adequate means and in a systematic, rapid, and complete manner the moral, material, economic, social, and political development of these regions, always having in view the aim of rendering permanent the mutual intelligences between and complete fusion of all the Christian and non-Christian elements populating the provinces of the Archipelago". (Sec. 706, Administrative Code).

PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT

A definite plan should be adopted for the development of Mindanao and Sulu. The government at present has no such plan. There has been much talk and publicity about these islands but it can be said that nothing has as yet been done to develop them upon a concrete and definite basis. The government has been making provisions for their current needs as circumstances demand, allotting only funds which are barely sufficient to maintain properly the administration of local governments. In this manner, it is impossible to obtain the desired results.

FUNDAMENTAL PLANS IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT

I consider imperative the construction of a system of roads which, connecting the provinces there, will put them in direct communication with the rest of the country by the national highway which has been thought of descending from the Island of Luzon and the Visayas Islands towards Surigao. We have to survey about 3,000,000 hectares of the extensive lands available

and disposable, subdividing them into lots of 8 hectares each, to be given to selected landowners to go to Mindanao, following plans which should be carefully and efficiently laid out. We have to improve existing ports and establish new ones, and construct docks and wharves and other necessary improvements. We have to improve water highways which, in combination with the roads, will facilitate the development of the interior of Mindanao, especially the extensive valleys in Cotabato, Zamboanga and Davao. We have to extend the facilities of the schools in order that at least primary instruction can be given to children in the remote communities, giving emphasis to vocational school, so that they could be trained for household industries to which they are by nature inclined, planting, for example, in Lanao a school for silversmithing, this sort in this province being carried on since time immemorial by men who have not had a school education; and the fish industry in Palu where the Mohammedans have demonstrated ability in this line. Furthermore, measures should be adopted to attract capital in order that under satisfactory conditions the immense natural resources would be exploited. With this economic development, it is logical to expect as a consequence the moral, social and political development of these islands.

PLAN FOR FINANCING THIS DEVELOPMENT

To carry out this plan, I propose that by appropriate legislative action, all the customs collections, proceeds from the sale and lease of public lands, forestry charges, internal taxes and other revenues accruing to the Insular Government which are collected in Mindanao and Sulu be retained and spent there. According to my estimate, these amount to P8,000,000.00 every year. It should be exclusively appropriated for the construction of roads and port works, for the subdivision of public lands and for immigration. The Federal Government should,

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however, continue giving the usual appropriations for the activities in Mindanao and Sulu of the different bureaus which maintain offices there.

PERIODES FOR THE PLAN

This plan requires a period of ten years. Consequently, it is recommended that a moratorium be declared for this length of time, at the end of which it is expected Mindanao and Sulu will already be traversed by roads connecting the principal points in all the provinces, serving the agricultural and industrial zones and joining Mindanao with the rest of the archipelago. It is also expected that the population will be doubled, beginning 2 millions instead of 1 million. At the same time, wealth and revenue collection from real property and other sources will be many times multiplied. As the inevitable result of this economic development, we will have improved social, moral and political conditions followed by a complete unification of the different tribes inhabiting these islands and their forming a homogeneous group with the rest of the people of the Philippine Islands. This is not a dream; it is a reality if the proposed plan is carried out.

COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES

In the meantime, there should be adopted as a measure of immediate necessity along with the plan of amplifying the powers of provincial governors, another which would fix the responsibility of carrying out the policy of government for Mindanao and Sulu. This responsibility should be placed upon one of the bureaus of the Insular Government, and it would be logical for this responsibility to have its corresponding authority. This Bureau should then be vested with the power to coordinate the diverse activities of the government in Mindanao and Sulu which are now found dispersed and at times in conflict with each

other. The Bureau of non-Christian Tribes appears to be the office most called upon to assume this responsibility and be vested with this power. In fact, it has been created for the purpose. To bring about this proposed immediate measure, it is my opinion that an Executive Order of the Governor-General is all that is necessary.

SELECTION OF PERSONNEL

The selection of personnel for service in Mindanao and Sulu is another important and delicate matter. The administration of local affairs and the relations of the people with the government has to depend much upon its personnel. It is necessary consequently that for positions of importance and responsibility there should be appointed only those of proved efficiency, soundness and honesty in the service; who are sympathetic with the people; whose attitude towards the people would be like that of a father to a son, not exploiting them like what an unscrupulous merchant would do; who know the local dialect, usages, customs and religion; and who would have interest and the necessary vision to initiate constructive plans and to carry out what has been planned.

PARTICIPATION OF NATIVES

The native elements should be given opportunity for greater participation in the management of local governments. Under equal circumstances, they should be given preference in public employment. At present, all the positions of presidents, vice-presidents, councilors and other municipal district positions are in the hands of non-Christians. Many of them are also occupying positions of third member of provincial board and deputy governor. Amplification of this policy as far as circumstances permit is advisable.

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RELIGIOUS POWER OF THE SULTAN

"Agos" or the exercise of the religious power of the Sultan over family relations has always been and still is the cause of conflicts in Mindanao. The government, however, has maintained, in this connection, a fixed policy which is based on the principle of the sovereignty of the state and on a written understanding between the Sultan and the government. This power of the Sultan should be considered secondary or as only helping the government, and should be exercised only in those cases not covered by existing laws and ordinances pertaining to religion. At all times, the Sultan should be made to understand very clearly his position in regard to this matter and compelled to act accordingly.

THE POLICY OF ATTRACTION

We are of the opinion that the policy of attraction is still necessary but the same should be understood not to mean tolerance of crime and glorification of the criminal. This policy should be carried out, however, combining kindness with force, helping the good and punishing violators of the law. The non-Christians should be impressed, especially the Mohammedans, that we have a government of law and order which they should respect and that this government is clothed with powers and the necessary means to protect the life and property of its inhabitants and to punish transgressors of the law.

CONCLUSION

Favorable consideration and full support by His Excellency of the foregoing will be highly appreciated. If the proposed plan is carried out, it is our humble opinion that positive results can be expected for the welfare of our country.

Very respectfully,

(SIGNED) JACO GUISKORA
Director



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