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UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES  
TENTH MILITARY DISTRICT - MF  
109TH DIVISION

Cotabato Sector  
4 October 1943

To : Lt. Col. R. V. Bowler  
Subject : Organization of Cotabato Sector

1. The letter on the reverse side was written for delivery via Ganassi route. At that time, Matas agreed to join providing rank were advanced. He later changed his decision.
2. His latest demand adds (requires) assurance of continued command and no service under Pendatun.
3. Without authority to do so, I assured him of equality of rank with Dilangalen and believe it possible, just and good policy. His fitness or unfitness for command is shown by his appeal to the people for resistance to orders and by the great fear of many of his officers to even advise him. A large part of the population know their debt to him, but do not know the importance of his shortcomings. Any spellbinder Filipino can arouse his people to substitute emotions for reason in angry mob demonstrations. (I think orders must be issued here against officers making speeches.)
4. The attack that Pendatun asked for in July give many of the people a real fear of him, but, I believe, Capt. Orbase and I are the best assurance against its repetition and the presence of Mr. Kuder would further guarantee it. Major Pendatun has stated that all the suitable men for Provincial Officials are in the Army.
5. Capt. Gumbay Piang is reported near on his return from 10th Military District Headquarters. The proper place for him is Major Page's Regiment and first at Upi and later at Koronadal. Capt. Udtog is reported to have stated that he will file charges against Piang for pro-Jap activities. Justice requires that he (Piang) turn over his arms to our other units but policy might dictate otherwise.
6. We should clear a road to the coast, either at Parang, Lebak or Makar beyond Koronadal. Authority and ammunition for that are not at hand but aggressive attacks are not in mind.
7. Food is not so plentiful in many parts of Cotabato as is usually reported. The Japs are largely responsible.
8. In Jap controled areas, use of our money is prevented in purchases but a Jap treasurer is always present to exchange it for their money. This removes our money from circulation and is a hard policy to counteract.

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9. The Memorandum to Lt. Binoya, 27th September, 1942 authorized inclusion in Militia of every man, woman and child arrived with police clubs or seven inch knives in Militia. A later Memorandum

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

*R. B. Slade*  
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2d Lt. Inf  
Actg Ass't Adj Gen  
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from those Headquarters entitles them to a daily ration which implies that they are called to active duty which in turn by another memorandum entitles him to P12.00 per month. The implications are absurd and should be denied. On this authority Matas has organized and trained a Militia Force of over 4,000. On the whole they are enthusiastic and would make a suitable force to arm when arms are obtainable. On the other hand, their more important service is to produce food. MMF authority and requirements are entirely unknown.

10. As soon as I can complete organization work here, I shall try to contact Major Page personally. I believe his Headquarters are wrongly placed. He may need help to establish communicating lines with his wide spread units.

11. The USFIP money has not yet arrived from Talakag. It is badly needed. The allowances and pay are not sufficient for families. This is more serious in Bukidnon than Cotabato because of the extremely high prices there.

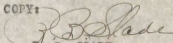
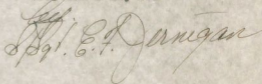
12. The newly-established messenger line between MD Headquarters and here might profitably be tested as a supply line, for such necessary articles as paper, radio and medicine. Also if available, a few telephone instruments would more than repay for the labor of transportation.

13. The Japanese have sent into Cotabato several Companies of Constabulary to garrison some of their stations. Their commander at Pikit in an address announced that this was preparatory to Japanese withdrawal and substitution of Chinese troops for theirs.

F. D. MCGEE  
Lt. Col. USA

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