

DISCUSSIONS ON:- PRES ROXAS' PROPOSAL OF RECOGNIZING GRAS
OR
COMMENTS TURNING IN USEABLE FIREARMS

F-33

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES WESTERN PACIFIC

CHECK SHEET

Do not remove from attached sheets.

FILE NO. SUBJECT: Recognition of Guerrillas

(1) FROM: G-3 TO:
 Capt. H. J. White Lt. Col. H. L. Shaftoe

The collection of firearms from civilians in an alien country is the direct responsibility of the government of the country concerned. They should if they pass legislation of this nature, assume all responsibilities that would result, such as finances, work involved, and any criticism that would result. The U. S. Government is not strictly adhering to its policy of Hands Off if it abets a country in enforcing its laws.

Shortly after the Liberation of the Philippines the Government of the United States adopted a set of policy of compensating worthy guerrillas and relatives of guerrillas who openly resisted and aided in resisting the enemy. Certain rules and regulations were formulated so as to determine who these individuals were. The rules and regulations have proven satisfactory thru experience.

If the Philippine Government desires to disarm all lawless elements within its confines then I repeat, it should accept all responsibilities financial and otherwise in connection with this policy.

To recognize the large number of individuals who surrender firearms, and make claims, they are bonafide guerrillas, will constitute a terrific amount of work, and involves unknown financial problems for the next thirty years (30). In addition to this it will create certain abuses.

Some of which are:

- A. Extensive black markets for dealing in weapons.
- B. Individuals who never resisted the enemy, (in many cases aided them). Will purchase weapons and easily secure affidavits substantiating their claims of being bonafide guerrillas.
- C. Tend to lowers the morale of recognized guerrillas. (Because of Section B).
- D. Place in as precarious situation thousands of bonafide guerrillas who have already obeyed the law, by voluntarily surrendering their weapons and have nothing to show for it.

The expectation that 50,000 guerrillas will surrender weapons is greatly under estimated. In outlaying barrios many of the citizens have two, and sometime three weapons. (The figures should be

around 250,000).

Conclusions:

Unquestionably a plan of this nature would not meet the approval of the majority of bonafide guerrillas. In fact it will in all probability create a feeling of unrest, which might lead to serious internal trouble.

Recommendations:

That we stick to our original objectives - to compensate only those, and their families who resisted the enemy. And not to accept any other plan that would retard or prolong the immediate assistance of these people.

Henry J. White Capt.
HENRY J. WHITE
Capt. CMP
Casual Section

Discussion

Certain requirements must be met, based on the laws as passed by Congress of the U. S. The Missing Persons Act and the Veterans Administration laws are two of the laws which are

I. "A recommendation has been made that we announce soon that we will recognize all people claiming to be guerrillas who will report to a camp and turn in a useable fire-arm when they report." In the case of machine guns, two or more persons might be recognized. The period of recognition should be short, probably 2 months. Rank is not particularly important. This offer should be held open for a limited time only, and further recognition considered closed. The president feels that this would recognize about 50,000.

II. Guerrilla Affairs Branch was established by GHQ AFPAC on or about 20 April 1945.

A. Mission (P 5 EX USATG History) Tab

1. Review and recommend final action on recognition of guerrilla units.

B. Requirements for recognition. (P 7 EX USATG History) Tab

1. Field Service.

2. Definite organization, adequate records.

3. Adequate control, commensurate operations.

4. Continuity of activity.

5. Full time service.

At a later date it was determined that the P. A. soldier was not included in the Missing Persons Act.

Since then a bill (HR 6508) has been presented to Congress giving the P. A. soldier certain benefits.

Discussion

Certain requirements must be met, based on the laws as passed by Congress of the U. S. The Missing Persons Act and the Veterans Administration laws are two of the laws which have definite effect.

W. D. Plan for Casualty Administration upon reoccupation of the Philippines.

1 Par V Fiscal Administration

(A) Upon return to control of person, determined to be entitled to accrued pay during absence, action as follows is authorized.

(B) Members of the Philippine Army, x x x the C. G. USAFFE may cause payment of accrued pay from the proper appropriation and with appropriate deduction.

(C) In cases of death or findings of death any insurance beneficiaries or relatives eligible for pension, x x x should be advised to present claims to x x x Veterans Administration x x x agency in the Philippines.

2 Par VII Philippine Army

(A) The Missing Persons Act has been authoritatively held applicable to members of the P. A. ordered into the services of the armed forces of the U. S. and placed under command of the C. G. USAFFE. x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x .

(B) Matters pertinent to pension and National Service Life Insurance are for determination and action by the Veterans Administration.

At a later date it was determined that the P. A. soldier was not included in the Missing Persons Act.

Since then a bill (HR 6508) has been presented to Congress giving the P.A. soldier certain benefits.

DECLASSIFIED Authority NND 883078

Paraphrase extracts of Radio O-81502 Z 9 June 46 (Bill in Congress to benefit veteran of the Philippine Army H. R. 6508). Copy tab.

Personnel who were with the service of the armed forces of the U. S. prior to 4 July 46 as part of the Army of the Commonwealth of the Philippines.

Members of the Guerrilla forces properly organized and recognized by the Armed Forces of the U. S. on or after 7 Dec 41 provided the commander under whom the guerrilla served was appointed or designated by the Commanding General of the South West Pacific or other competent and authorized authority in the A. U. S.

The above based on the order published by the President of the U. S. dated 26 July 41.

The services rendered were in accordance to regulations promulgated by the Secretary of War.

It was determined that all such services which may have been performed was substantially of similar character and is considered honorable service as would have been rendered by personnel of the A. U. S. under similar conditions and circumstances.

a. GO 51 forbids U.S. Army personnel to confiscate any weapons that are in the hands of Filipinos, except for cause. This order states it is the duty of the MPC (PA). USATG when they were in the field were permitted to receive weapons from any guerrilla that desired to turn same in.

b. Executive Order No. 68, signed by President Osmena dated 26 September 1946 Par 2 orders all unrecognized guerrilla units to turn in their arms. The Presidential Proclamation although ordering all Guerrillas to turn in Weapons had very little effect on the lawless elements. In most of the cases where Weapons were turned in it was done by the law abiding guerrillas.

c. Radio 26 June 1946 WARTAG "GAB AFWESPAC has responsibility of determining eligibility for recognition; this appears sufficient to cover requirements Sec 101 (a) (2) HR 608."

d. Ex Order 21 defines, ranks, grades and length of service when in a recognized military force.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

a. Points in favor of accepting this proposal:

(1) It will assist the government in restoring law and order.

(2) The speedy establishment of law and order will assist immeasurably in bringing foreign capital into the Islands, hence, improving the economic conditions of the Islands.

(3) It will strengthen the political prestige of the President.

a. The advantage of such a policy would be in disarming the civilians and unrecognized guerrilla for the Republic of the Philippines.

b. Points in favor of rejecting the proposal:

(1) It will be contrary to the Directives of General MacArthur.

(2) Restoration of law and order within the islands is a matter for the Republic of the Philippines.

(3) Although the intention of the President is undeniably sincere, well-thought out and based upon an obviously dangerous internal situation, the acceptance of this proposal will amount to nothing more than a deal made by the government of the Republic of the Philippines using American money to pay off.

(4) Errors have been made due to lack of records; duplicating, removing, overlooking, and dropping of deserving names and adding names of friends or relatives; depending upon the memory of the commanding officer of the unit.

(5) A recognized guerrilla in the service of the US is entitled to all pay, allowance, hospitalization and benefits authorized by the present or future laws. Lump recognition adds additional burdens on the US Treasury.

(6) While apparently the question of recognition would be solved quickly, legitimate claims would have to be recognized at a latter date. The present method is as fair to all concerned as the situation allows, in spite of its errors. Changing the rules would cause great discontent among those already recognized. The US Treasury is obligated for an indeterminate sum in the future.

8. A mere possession of a weapon does not indicate that the person who possess such weapon had done anything to contribute materially to the eventual defeat of the enemy. It would even recognize such persons who had gained a weapon from the enemy for their association and employment by the enemy.

9. At present many weapons are still obtainable in the fields and hills, and it would encourage a hunt for such weapons. Many persons have collected both enemy and allied arms for souvenirs purposes and it would encourage these people to distribute such arms to their friends and relatives in order to gain recognition, pay, and the advantages of the recognized guerrilla.

10. Such a policy would be a discredit to the United States government and its Army, in that we would not be fulfilling our promise to recognize the bonafide guerrilla, but rather we would be recognizing any person claiming to be a guerrilla who had a weapon in his possession regardless of if he used it or not or whom he used it against.

4. It is believed the number of men involved will be far in excess of the 50,000 estimated by President Roxas. An examination of the following figures will clarify this contention:

a. Exclusive of easualties 1,025,000 individuals have claimed recognition as guerrillas.

b. Of this number 241,000 have been recognized, 412,000 have been unfavorably considered, and 372,000 remain to be considered.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

5. The number of weapons in the hands of the people can not be accurately estimated, but a rough guess would place them in the number of 500,000 to 1,000,000. The source of these weapons are as follows:

- a. Those captured from the Japanese.
- b. Those issued by American forces from the period before the outbreak of the war up until the termination of hostilities and which have not been returned to the Army of the United States.
- c. Those stolen from the United States Army and the Philippine Army to include the MPC (PA).
- d. Those sold on the black market by American soldiers, white and black.
- e. In an AFWESPAC, G-2 report, as far back as Jan 46, the Hukbalahaps alone were estimated to have had 30,000 weapons.
- f. It is known that armed forays have been made against American and Philippine Army installations thruout the Islands up to the present time for the purpose of securing arms and ammunitions.

guerrillas who inflicted the province of Cavite and Batangas. Also the Moros in Mindanao.

6. It is felt that, should this proposal be accepted, a gigantic racket in gun-running will commence, including stealing from, high-jacking of, and murdering of individuals for the sake of their weapons.

7. In the past, attempts have been made by officers of the Guerrilla Affairs Branch to require guerrillas to turn over their weapons prior to recognition. The results obtained consisted of a motly collection of weapons of no military value, either because they were obsolete, parts were missing, or because they were too rusty to operate. It was felt by the Guerrilla Affairs Branch officers at the time that the guerrillas who did turn in these weapons still retained possession of more modern weapons.

8. The amount of money which will become involved cannot be accurately estimated, but there is no question that the outright cash-payments will run into the millions and that veterans benefits will eventually run into the billions of dollars. The question arises as to who will receive these weapons, the Philippine Army or the Army of the United States?

9. It is known that a large part of the so-called guerrillas who now have weapons in their possession were no more than bandits during the occupation. This might apply particularly to the "Hukbalahaps" and the so-called

is unable to disarm its civilians, and is trying to propose such a plan to bribe the United States Army to disarm their civilians for them.

5. In most cases the persons having in the past could not have previously fulfilled the requirements the previously set by General Douglas MacArthur.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

guerrillas who infested the provinces of Cavite and Batangas. Also the Moros in Mindanao.

Recognition of such individuals will cheapen the name of/and the work done by the genuine guerrillas. It will make a farce of all the work that has been done by the guerrillas up to the present.

1. It would be recognizing persons who had not complied with Executive Order No. 68, by the President of the Philippines, dated 26 September 1945, which states, "That all arms, ammunition, and military supplies and equipment in the possession of unrecognized guerrilla units or of individual members of such units be immediately turned in to the commander of the nearest unit of the United States Army or of the Philippines."

2. In many cases it would recognize persons who were never in a guerrilla status, but who had gained arms by finding them on the battle field, buying them, and procuring them by other means, and it would place these people in the same category as the bonified guerrilla.

3. If such policy was used it would indicate a possible strife among the various unrecognized units and individuals in order to obtain the arms in the possession of other guerrilla or none-guerrilla units or individuals.

4. It openly admits that the Republic of the Philippines is unable to disarm its civilians, and is trying to propose such a plan to bribe the United States Army to disarm their civilians for them.

5. In most cases the persons turning in the arms could not have previously fulfilled the requirements the previously set by General Douglas MacArthur.

Conclusions:

It is believed that this is a method of procuring weapons that the Government of the Philippines has been unable to procure or take away from certain lawless elements.

a. That it is a medium to put the responsibility on the AUS or the United States Government.

b. That it will not improve the situation in regards to bona-fide guerrillas and will put into the hands of the lawless elements a club which will show them their strength.

III. It is believed that this method is against the policy of the War Department directives that the AUS should not interfere with any of the functions of the Republic of the Philippines.

The proposal is of little benefits to the US

Completely change the entire conception of the recognition of guerrillas and will destroy all of the work previously done by this Branch.

It will cost the tax-payers of the United States untold billions of dollars in outright cash payments and veterans benefits. It will give rise to rackets pressure and illfeeling on the part of the genuine guerrillas and those who did something but not enough to receive a recognition, if they are not so fortunate as to posses AFWESPAC.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

Recommendations:

- I. That the request for the United States to take the responsibility of the recovery of the weapons in the hands of certain elements of the Philippines be disapproved.
- II. That the present procedure as set up by GHQ be continued to accomplish the recognition of guerrillas.
- III. That the proposal be disapproved in all its entirety.

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES WESTERN PACIFIC

CHECK SHEET

Do not remove from attach sheets.

FILE NO.

SUBJECT: Proposed recognition of
Guerrillas

16 July 1946

(1) FROM: G-3
H. M. CUSHMAN

TO:
LT. COL. CARNAHAN

For

Against

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Would gather in ^{arms} now in hands of Guerrillas</p> <p>2. Would cut down the process of recognition.</p> <p>3. Would tend to decrease robberies as arms would not be available to commit them.</p> | <p>1. Peaceful Guerrillas have already turned in arms.</p> <p>2. Recognition would be extended to persons not worthy of same.</p> <p>3. Would increase gangster activities to possess arms. Stealing would be common.</p> <p>4. American and P. A. arms would be stolen by gangsters.</p> <p>5. Deceased battle casualties could not be recognized.</p> <p>6. It is belittling the President's proclamation.</p> <p>7. It appears that this is a political move for there are more non-recognized Guerrillas than recognized ones.</p> <p>8. Morale would be lowered among Guerrillas who tried to obey President's Proclamation to letter.</p> |
|---|---|

Summary: 1. From the above it appears that this action would cause the Government to lose face, as it is catering to the lawless element and not to a people that are trying to do right.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

2. This action would cost the U.S. Govt a great deal of money which in my opinion is not going to be used properly.

3. This action will tend to cause a decided split between the bonafide Guerrillas who have been recognized under the present policy and those recognized under the proposed one. This would definitely divide the new Republic.

4. Gangster tactics would definitely be used to secure arms for recognition of undesirable persons.

5. The contemplated action seems to carry a penalty for those persons trying to obey orders, and presents the lawless group with a silver spoon.

H. M. Cushman
H. M. CUSHMAN
CAPT., M.A.C.

Proposed recognition of
Guerrillas

16 July 1946

H. M. CUSHMAN

LT. COL. CARNAHAN

For

Against

1. Would gather in now in hands of Guerrillas
2. Would cut down the process of recognition.
3. Would tend to decrease robberies as arms would not be available to commit them.

1. Peaceful Guerrillas have already turned in arms.
2. Recognition would be extended to persons not worthy of same.
3. Would increase gangster activities to possess arms. Stealing would be common.
4. American and P. A. arms would be stolen by gangsters.
5. Deceased battle casualties could not be recognized.
6. It is belittling the President's proclamation.
7. It appears that this is a political move for there are more non-recognized Guerrillas than recognized ones.
8. Morale would be lowered among Guerrillas who tried to obey President's Proclamation to letter.

Summary: 1. From the above it appears that this action would cause the Government to lose face, as it is catering to the lawless element and not to a people that are trying to do right.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NNJ 883078

G-3, PHILIPPINE ARMY DIVISION
GUERRILLA AFFAIRS BRANCH

Recognition of Guerrillas in Return for Useable Weapons

The undersigned believes that the U.S. Army should take no part in the bribery of individuals to clear the Philippines of their arms for the following reasons:

1. It is beyond the power of this headquarters to change the interpretation of a bona-fide guerrilla as directed by General MacArthur.
2. It appears that the Philippine Commonwealth admits its inability to disarm certain subversive elements of the nation. This writer feels that the U.S. Army cannot attempt the disarming of another nation while enjoying a status of a foreign but cooperating agency.
3. The fairness and justice to the bona-fide guerrilla who obeyed the law and turned in his arms when ordered to do so by Presidential order No. 68 is questioned. Those who collected the discarded arms of the forces during the invasion would be the only ones to benefit. For no other reason, but the submission of a fire arm, could put a collaborator or a buy and sell man in a position to create his loyalty status and therefore exonerate himself from paying his dues to society under the law of the Philippines.
4. In the past, AFWESPAC has been attacked by the press through certain elements as having recognized the so called fake guerrillas for one reason and another. However, in adopting this policy this agency would definitely be committing the very crime for which they have often been accused.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

5. The problem of recognizing guerrillas by this method also brings up the question of having persons become eligible for veterans benefits, who, in truth or in fact, may not have contributed in any way to the war effort. The question of pensions and hospitalization for those who qualify by merely donating a usable fire arm seems entirely out of the question and would unnecessarily obligate the U.S. Government to considerable expense for many years to come.

In conclusion, this writer wishes to state that he believes this question to be one which should be emphatically and firmly turned down for the reasons stated above. When the Philippine Commonwealth presents such a plan, it tends leave the impression that the present administration is not yet ready to handle its own internal affairs. Such a plan is only a means to satisfy the lawless elements who have not obeyed the laws as laid down in the past.

It is further recommended that perhaps a substitute plan could be placed into force, such as the purchase of the weapons from these elements. The opinion of the undersigned is that any such plan should originate and be financed by the Philippine Commonwealth itself.

DONALD M. THOMPSON
2nd Lt., Inf.
Guerrilla Affairs Branch.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

"A recommendation has been made that we announce soon that we will recognize all people claiming to be guerrillas who will report to a camp and turn in a useable fire-arm when they report." In the case of machine guns, two or more persons might be recognized. The period of recognition should be short, probably 2 months. Rank is not particularly important. This offer should be held open for a limited time only, and further recognition considered closed. The president feels that this would recognize about 50,000.

(1) Review and recommend final action on recognition of guerrilla units

b. Requirements for recognition, (if Y in 1955 history) etc

(1) Field service

(2) Political organization, accurate records.

(3) Adequate control, continuous operations.

(4) Continuity of activity.

(5) Full time service.

GHQ AFFAS

1. Guerrilla Affairs Branch was established on or about Apr 45.

a. Mission (P 5 EX USATG History) Tab

(1) Review and recommend final action on recognition of guerrilla units

b. Requirements for recognition. (P 7 EX USATG History) Tab

(1) Field Service.

(2) Definite organization, adequate records.

(3) Adequate control, commensurate operations.

(4) Continuity of activity.

(5) Full time service.

68 51 forbids U.S. Army personnel to confiscate
Discussion that are in the hands of Filipinos, except for
This order states it is the duty of the MFC (PA).

Certain requirements must be met, based on the laws which
are the Missing Persons Act and the Veterans Administration
Laws.

Executive Order No. 68, signed by President Osmond
Cir. 100 5 June 1946 Functions & Responsibilities of Recovered
Personnel Division Adjutant General Office AFWESPAC. Outlines
data that is necessary for them to procure.

It is not believed the statement that rank is not
Procedure and requirements of the Guerrilla Affairs Branch
under present conditions.

The Presidential Proclamation although ordering all Guerrillas
to turn in Weapons had very little effect on the lawless ele-
ments. In most of the cases where weapons were turned in it
was done by the law abiding guerrillas.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NNT 883078

a. GO 51 forbids U.S. Army personnel to confiscate any weapons that are in the hands of Filipinos, except for cause. This order states it is the duty of the MPC (PA). USATG when they were in the field were permitted to receive weapons from any guerrilla that desired to turn same in.

b. Executive Order No. 68, signed by President Osmena dated 26 September 1946 Par 2 orders all unrecognized guerrilla units to turn in their arms.

c. It is not believed the statement "that rank is not particularly important" will stand scrutiny-this from the experience of this Branch.

any cause payment of accrued pay from the proper appropriation and with appropriate deduction.

(C) In cases of death or findings of death any insurance beneficiaries or relatives eligible for pension, x x x should be advised to present claims to x x x Veterans Administration x x x agency in the Philippines.

2 Par VII Philippine Army

(A) The Missing Persons Act has been authoritatively held applicable to members of the P. A. ordered into the services of the armed forces of the U. S. and placed under command of the U. S. USMPTA. x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x.

(B) Matters pertinent to pension and National Service Life Insurance are for determination and action by the Veterans Administration.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

Legal matters which must be met, from the Law or W. D. directives. Bill in Congress.

1. W. D. Plan for Casualty Administration upon reoccupation of the Philippines. (Copy tab.)

1 Par V Fiscal Administration

(A) Upon return to control of person, determined to be entitled to accrued pay during absence, action as follows is authorized.

(B) Members of the Philippine Army, x x x the C. G. USAFFE may cause payment of accrued pay from the proper appropriation and with appropriate deduction.

(C) In cases of death or findings of death any insurance beneficiaries or relatives eligible for pension, x x x should be advised to present claims to x x x Veterans Administration of x x x agency in the Philippines.

2 Par VII Philippine Army

(A) The Missing Persons Act has been authoritatively held applicable to members of the P. A. ordered into the services of the armed forces of the U. S. and placed under command of the C. G. USAFFE. x x x x x x x x x x x x x x.

(B) Matters pertinent to pension and National Service Life Insurance are for determination and action by the Veterans Administration.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NNT 883078

Secret Radio report S 46043 to WD thru CIRCAPPAC dated 9

Extracts from paraphrase Secret radio reference pending Bill in Congress.

Paraphrase extracts of Radio O-81502 Z 9 June 46 (Bill in Congress to benefit veteran of the Philippine Army H. R. 6508). Copy tab.

is in reference to Guerrilla strengths, recognized and under consideration.

Personnel who were with the service of the armed forces of the U. S. prior to 4 July 46 as part of the Army of the Commonwealth of the Philippines.

Members of the Guerrilla forces properly organized and recognized by the Armed Forces of the U. S. on or after 7 Dec 41 provided the commander under whom the guerrilla served was appointed or designated by the Commanding General of the South West Pacific or other competent and authorized authority in the A. U. S.

The above based on the order published by the President of the U. S. dated 26 July 41.

The services rendered were in accordance to regulations promulgated by the Secretary of War.

It was determined that all such services which may have been performed was substantially of similar character and is considered honorable service as would have been rendered by personnel of the A. U. S. under similar conditions and circumstances.

Radio 26 June 1946 WARTAG "GAB APWESPAC has responsibility
Secret Radio report S 40043 to WD thru CINCAFPAC dated 9
March 46.

Sentence 8 and 9

Sentence 13 to 15

Sentence 20 and 21

is in reference to Guerrilla strengths, recognized and under
consideration.

1. Recognition should be an actual service not in possession of a usable firearm.
2. Guerrillas turning in arms per Ex. Order 68 are penalized in favor of those who disobeyed the order.
3. Beneficial unrecognized individuals and casualties would be stopped from applying for recognition.
4. Lump recognition cheapens the efforts of those recognized according to the merit of the five points.
5. Errors have been made due to lack of records; duplicating, removing, overlooking, and dropping of deserving names and adding names of friends or relatives; depending upon the memory of the commanding officer of the unit.
6. A recognized guerrilla in the service of the US is entitled to pay, allowance, hospitalization and benefits authorized by the present or future laws. Lump recognition adds additional burdens on the US Treasury.
7. While apparently the question of recognition would be solved quickly, legitimate claims would have to be recognized at a later date. The present method is as fair to all concerned as the situation allows, in spite of its errors. Changing the rules would cause great discontent among those already recognized. The US Treasury is obligated for an indeterminate sum in the future.

- c. Radio 26 June 1946 WARTAG "GAB AFWESPAC has responsibility of determining eligibility for recognition; this appears sufficient to cover requirements Sec 101 (a) (2) HR 608."
 - d. Ex Order 21 defines, ranks, grades and length of service when in a recognized military force.
3. Injustice of proposal
- a. Recognition should be an actual service not in possession of a useable firearm.
 - b. Guerrillas turning in arms per Ex. Order 68 are penalized in favor of those who disobeyed the order.
 - c. Bonafide unrecognized individuals and casualties would be stopped from applying for recognition.
 - d. Lump recognition cheapens the efforts of those recognized according to the merit of the five points.
4. Errors have been made due to lack of records; duplicating, removing, overlooking, and dropping of deserving names and adding names of friends or relatives; depending upon the memory of the commanding officer of the unit.
5. A recognized guerrilla in the service of the US is entitled to all pay, allowance, hospitalization and benefits authorized by the present or future laws. Lump recognition adds additional burdens on the US Treasury.
6. While apparently the question of recognition would be solved quickly, legitimate claims would have to be recognized at a latter date. The present method is as fair to all concerned as the situation allows, in spite of its errors. Changing the rules would cause great discontent among those already recognized. The US Treasury is obligated for an indeterminate sum in the future.

Conclusions:

It is believed that this is a method of procuring weapons that the Government of the Philippines has been unable to procure or take away from certain lawless elements.

a. That it is a medium to put the responsibility on the AUS or the United States Government.

b. That it will not improve the situation in regards to bona-fide guerrillas and will put into the hands of the lawless elements a club which will show them their strength.

It is believed that this method is against the policy of the War Department directives that the AUS should not interfere with any of the functions of the Republic of the Philippines.

7. The proposal is of little benefit to the US and its adoption is not recommended.

Recommendations:

I That the request for the U. S. to take the responsibility of the recovery of weapons in the hands of certain elements of the Philippines be disapproved.

II That the present procedure as set up by G. H. Q. be continued to accomplish the recognition of Guerrillas.

The suggestion made that we recognize the basis of weapons is entirely contrary to the directives that have been published.

There has been many persons recognized in the Guerrillas who do not have intelligence, medical, higher command or supply who could not be able to produce any weapons.

"Weapons"

The policy of AFWESPAC in regards to the surrender of weapons has been that the AUS would in no way interfere with the functions of the MPC (PA). That it was the duty of the MPC (PA) to collect said weapons from all Guerrillas or others who might have weapons in their hands.

The suggestion made that we recognize on the basis of weapons is entirely contrary to the directives that have been published.

There has been many persons recognized in the Guerrillas whose duties were intelligence, medical, higher command or supply who would not be able to produce any weapons.

Errors

Many times guerrilla leaders would substitute names of leaders from other units leaving out the names of the men or women who did the job. This again reflected on the Branch.

Have been made by the Branch but considering the number of persons who we have had to consider the average is very low. individual concerned.

Certain errors have occurred caused by false certifications, statements, affidavits and rosters.

Personnel who had to build the unit upon a T/O basis would place friends and relatives ahead of individuals who actually did the guerrilla work. This of course causes a certain amount of bad reaction.

Rosters have been submitted carrying names of persons who never lived in the area that the unit functioned in, but this was not the fault of the Branch but was the fault of the guerrilla leader who made up the roster.

ERRORS

have also effected the
Philippine personnel service
with the armed forces of the
U.S.

Many times guerrilla leaders would substitute names of leader from other units loaning out the names of the men or women who did the job. This again reflected on the branch but no one in the branch could make the adjustments as they, as well as many leaders did not know the individual concerned.

301 79th Congress
approved 15 Feb 46 excludes
all P.A. personnel from the
benefits of the M.P.A.

The JAG USA is not in accord with this but says the Filipino soldier is taken care of under the U.S. Mil. Appr. Act for 1946. He further states that the authorization of payment comes under the Philippine Law.

Laws and rules affecting the
Filipino personnel serving
with the armed forces of the
U. S.

Missing Person Act.
Was held applicable later a
radio No. 081502Z 9 June 46,
stated that this Act was not
applicable to the Filipino
serving in the armed forces of
the U. S.

Public Law 301 79th Congress
approved 18 Feb 46 excludes
all P.A. personnel from the
benefits of the M.P.A.

The JAG USA is not in accord
with this but says the Filipino
soldier is taken care of under
the U.S. Mil. Appr. Act for
1946. He further states that
the authorization of payment
comes under the Philippine Law.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

Based on this decision the Philippine Republic has recommended an Act to their Congress to take care of the personnel affected.

Veterans Administration
Have a law HR 6508 pending which will take care of PA personnel for
Pensions for disability
Pensions for death
Hospitalization
Burial, Benefits
General.

Radio 400 43 9 March 46 to CINCPAC
for WAR TAG.

Proposed law of the R of P in
regards to PA personnel

Cir 100 5 June 46
RPD

Paraphrase of Radio
81502Z 9 June 46
regards to HR 6508

Laws and rules affecting the
Filipino Personnel serving
with the armed forces of the
U. S.

Missing Person Act.
Was held applicable later a
radio No. 081502Z 9 June 46,
stated that this Act was not
applicable to the Filipino
serving in the armed forces of
the U. S.

Public Law 301 97th Congress
approved 18 Feb 46 excludes
all P.A. personnel from the
benefits of the M.P.A. actual-
ly did the guerrilla work. This of course
The JAG USA is not in accord
with this but sans the Filipino
soldier is taken care of under
the U.S Mil. Appr. Act for
1946. He further states that
the authorization of payment
comes under the Philippine Law.

Based on this decision the Philippine
Republic has recommended an Act to
their Congress to take care of the
personnel affected.

Veterans Administration
Have a law HR 6508 pending which will
take care of PA personnel for
Pensions for disability
Pensions for death
Hospitalization
Burial, Benefits
General.

Radio 400 43 9 March 46 to CINCAFPAC
for WAR TAG.

Errors

Have been made by the Branch but considering the number of persons who we have had to consider the average is very low.

Certain errors have occurred caused by false certifications, statements, affidavits and rosters.

Personnel who had to build the unit upon a T/O basis would place friends and relatives ahead of individuals who actually did the guerrilla work. This of course causes a certain amount of bad reaction.

Rosters have been submitted carrying names of persons who never lived in the area that the unit functioned in, but this was not the fault of the Branch but was the fault of the guerrilla leader who made up the roster.

Many times guerrilla leaders would substitute names of leader from other units loaning out the names of the men or women who did the jobs. This again reflected on the branch but no one in the branch could make the adjustments as they, as well as many leaders did not know the individual concerned.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NNT 883078

The policy of AFWESPAC in regards to the surrender of weapons has been that the AUS would in no way interfere with the functions of the MPC (PA). That it was the duty of the MPC (PA) to collect said weapons from all Guerrillas or others who might have weapons in their hands.

The suggestion made that we recognize on the basis of weapons is entirely contrary to the directives that have been published.

There has been many persons recognized in the Guerrillas whose duties were intelligence, medical, higher command or supply who would not be able to produce any weapons.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

Laws and rules affecting the
Filipino Personnel serving
with the armed forces of the
U. S.

Have been made by the Branch but our
sidering the Missing Person Act.
had to consider

Certain
by false certifi-
cates and was
Was held applicable later a
radio No. 081502Z 9 June 46,
stated that this Act was not
applicable to the Filipino
serving in the armed forces of
the U. S.

Personnel
upon a T/O base
relatives who
ly did the guerrilla
causes a certain
Public Law 301 97th Congress
approved 18 Feb 46 excludes
all P.A. personnel from the
benefits of the M.P.A.

Hostage
cases of persons
that the unit
not the family
of the guerrilla
master.
The JAG USA is not in accord
with this but says the Filipino
soldier is taken care of under
the U.S Mil. Appr. Act for
1946. He further states that
the authorization of payment
comes under the Philippine Law.

Based on this decision the Philippine
Republic has recommended an Act to
their Congress to take care of the
personnel affected.

Veterans Administration
Have a law HR 6508 pending which will
take care of PA personnel for
Pensions for disability
Pensions for death
Hospitalization
Burial, Benefits
General.

Radio 400 43 9 March 46 to CINCAFPAC
for WAR TAG.

Errors

Have been made by the Branch but considering the number of persons who we have had to consider the average is very low.

Certain errors have occurred caused by false certifications, statements, affidavits and rosters.

Personnel who had to build the unit upon a T/O basis would place friends and relatives ahead of individuals who actually did the guerrilla work. This of course causes a certain amount of bad reaction.

Rosters have been submitted carrying names of persons who never lived in the area that the unit functioned in, but this was not the fault of the Branch but was the fault of the guerrilla leader who made up the roster.

Many times guerrilla leaders would substitute names of leader from other units loaning out the names of the men or women who did the jobs. This again reflected on the branch but no one in the branch could make the adjustments as they, as well as many leaders did not know the individual concerned.

The policy of AFWESPAC in regards to the surrender of weapons has been that the AUS would in no way interfere with the functions of the MPC (PA). That it was the duty of the MPC (PA) to collect said weapons from all Guerrillas or others who might have weapons in their hands.

The suggestion made that we recognize on the basis of weapons is entirely contrary to the directives that have been published.

There has been many persons recognized in the Guerrillas whose duties were intelligence, medical, higher command or supply who would not be able to produce any weapons.

16 July 46

Discussion of President Roxas' Proposal

1. This looks like a cooked up deal which would immediately recognize all the lawless elements in the Philippines as national heroes and would still leave us as far as ever from recognizing the true guerrillas.

2. This is apparent when it is realized that the law abiding elements are the ones who have voluntarily turned in their arms most of them with no receipt while the lawless elements are the ones who have kept their individual arms or who have established large "caches" of arms throughout the islands. This Officer knows personally that in Negros and Leyte Islands, there have been and still are arms, radios, generators, and other military equipment hidden away in the hills by lawless bands of ex-guerrillas most of whom have been processed and recognized.

3. This proposal would further antagonize the legitimate guerrillas against the United States Army as it would give recognition and Veterans benefits to "fake" guerrillas or anyone possessing an arm while many of the real guerrillas would go unrecognized.

4. Furthermore, it would put the United States Army in the position of playing Philippine politics. It would be the money of the United States given as a bribe to lawless elements in order to gain access to their arms without the trouble of going out and getting them. It is an easy way out of a difficulty by using United States funds.

5. Likewise it is an admission by the Philippine Republic Government that they cannot cope with the fact that certain elements in their society are in possession of arms and that this government does not have the power to go out and disarm these elements. Now that the Philippines have been granted their independence, it is up to them by their own means to overcome this danger or fall to rebels.

6. The whole aim of Guerrilla Affairs Branch and its reason for existence is the continual striving to investigate and determine who are the real guerrillas so that they can receive their just reward to weed out the "late" and "fake" guerrillas so that they will not detract from the glory of the real Philippine heroes.

7. Therefore this Officer can see no justification to the proposal of President Roxas either from the angle of the United States and its army or from the angle of a new Republic trying to stand on its own two feet.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

VINCENT K. COATES
Maj. F.A.

16 July 46

Discussion of President Roxas' Proposal

1. This looks like a cooked up deal which would immediately recognize all the lawless elements in the Philippines as national heroes and would still leave us as far as ever from recognizing the true guerrillas.
2. This is apparent when it is realized that the law abiding elements are the ones who have voluntarily turned in their arms most of them with no receipt while the lawless elements are the ones who have kept their individual arms or who have established large "caches" of arms throughout the islands. This Officer knows personally that in Negros and Leyte Islands, there have been and still are arms, radios, generators, and other military equipment hidden away in the hills by lawless bands of ex-guerrillas most of whom have been processed and recognized.
3. This proposal would further antagonize the legitimate guerrillas against the United States Army as it would give recognition and Veterans benefits to "fake" guerrillas or anyone possessing an arm while many of the real guerrillas would go unrecognized.
4. Furthermore, it would put the United States Army in the position of playing Philippine politics. It would be the money of the United States given as a bribe to lawless elements in order to gain access to their arms without the trouble of going out and getting them. It is an easy way out of a difficulty by using United States funds.
5. Likewise it is an admission by the Philippine Republic Government that they cannot cope with the fact that certain elements in their society are in possession of arms and that this government does not have the power to go out and disarm these elements. Now that the Philippines have been granted their independence, it is up to them by their own means to overcome this danger or fall to rebels.
6. The whole aim of Guerrilla Affairs Branch and its reason for existence is the continual striving to investigate and determine who are the real guerrillas so that they can receive their just reward to weed out the "late" and "fake" guerrillas so that they will not detract from the glory of the real Philippine heroes.
7. Therefore this Officer can see no justification to the proposal of President Roxas either from the angle of the United States and its army or from the angle of a new Republic trying to stand on its own two feet.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

VINCENT K. COATES
Maj. F.A.

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES WESTERN PACIFIC
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

APO 707
15 July 1946

SUBJECT: Recognition for Guerrillas who surrender a weapon

TO : Chief, Guerrilla Affairs Branch

1. This proposition, in my opinion is a bribe and a very crude one at that. It should be turned down without any discussion but as that is impossible, a few reasons will be shown to back up my opinion.

2. A large number of guerrillas have already been recognized and a still greater number are pending investigation. It is common knowledge that a large number of guerrillas still possess weapons in spite of the fact that by a Presidential Proclamation they were ordered to turn in all weapons to the proper authorities and return home. Large numbers of weapons were turned in, for the most part by the genuine, law-abiding guerrilla but there still are thousands of weapons in the possession of so-called guerrillas who are no more than bandits. Many of these bandits belong to some guerrilla outfit that has been refused recognition and if this proposition is adopted these bandits would be recognized and have the same rights and privileges that the real guerrillas, who have been recognized, now enjoy. This system also penalizes many guerrillas who have turned in their weapons but still have not been recognized.

3. The undersigned was, for several months a Provincial Commander, Military Police Command, in the Bicol Area. US Army officers were forbidden, by G. O. 51, to confiscate any weapons in the hands of Filipinos, except for cause and in the Bicol Area there were comparatively few arms surrendered outside of those guerrillas who were processed by the USATG. We have many requests from guerrilla units from this area in our files, some of the units have been NFC and some pending investigation but a large proportion of the members of these units still possess weapons. I am personally acquainted with several of their leaders and I have actually seen and handled a large number of these weapons. If the US Army officers, who had supervision of MP units had been allowed to confiscate weapons in the hands of all ex-guerrillas there would have been very few weapons left in the possession of unauthorized persons.

Conclusions

It is my opinion that this proposition is neither feasible nor desirable, first, it will undo all the work previously done by the Guerrilla Affairs Branch; second, it is probably illegal and would

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

tend to make a catspaw out of the US Army, and lastly, it would penalize the real guerrilla and work a hardship upon him and his family and place a premium on lawlessness.

Recommendations

It is strongly recommended that the present policy of recognition be kept in force and that this proposed change be NFC.

George W. Titus

GEORGE W. TITUS
Major, CMP

Col Carnahan: Re New Proposal for Recognizing Guerrillas.

Discussion.

1. The recent proposal for a new basis of requirements for the recognition of guerrillas in my opinion will far from solve the situation.

2. Off hand it would appear to be a method of saddling the USA with the responsibility and inherent expense of cleaning up a problem which is solely a function of the Philippine Government. I refer to the "lawlessness" and "apparent refusal of the populace to abide by it's own Government edicts" which is so prevalent throughout the archipelago.

3. Undoubtedly the proposal was offered in all sincerity; however, there are ever so many angles to be considered. As these different points come to mind, what are the answers and will the resultant effect be advantageous to all.

4. Following are some features which have occurred to the writer:

a. How strong or valid will such a recognized guerrilla's claim be for future Veterans Administration Benefits as compared with one who complied with the previous rigid requirements?

b. The Missing Persons Act has been authoritatively held applicable to members of the PA ordered into the service of the US. How would the provisions of the Missing Persons Act apply?

c. Does not a GO of GHQ exist prohibiting the confiscation of Philippine arms? Would this be considered "buying arms" and if so who would obtain title thereto?

d. What becomes of the 5 points laid down by Gen McArthur? Will same be discarded in their entirety?

e. How about weapons which were turned voluntarily to USA units for which no receipts were given?

f. What about weapons in possession of families of guerrillas who were killed in action or died otherwise? Would surrender of same be sufficient evidence for recognition?

g. What would be considered "useable"? Who would inspect to determine serviceability?

h. What about intelligence agents, underground agents and secret operatives whose very nature of their duty precluded use of or carrying a weapon?

i. What about persons convicted of felonies which precluded their being a member of the armed forces?

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NNT 883078

Conclusions.

1. It is believed that the new proposal is definitely not advantageous or fair to the bona-fide guerrillas, whether they be recognized already or awaiting recognition and will only extend or aggravate the existing ill-feeling and criticism.

2. In my estimation 50,000 is far from an approximation. Over a million is involved according to applications filed. As a rough guess there must be more than a million fire-arms of all types available, legally or otherwise.

3. Presume the word "fire-arm" includes the AA and FA pieces allegedly in the hands of certain elements.

4. By using the word "fire-arm", it is presumed that such weapons as bolos, spears, kris, etc. are automatically excluded; thus eliminating the Bolo Units, but what about them securing arms and becoming eligible.

5. I foresee the GAB bearing an additional burden of checking and rechecking serial numbers of weapons to prevent deception.

6. Last but not least I foresee one grand "black market" for the illegal trafficking of fire-arms.

Recommendations.

1. That individual and casualty cases be definitely excluded from the provisions of the new proposal.

2. That the new proposal be turned down as impractical and unfair and that our present system of recognition be continued.

Robert C. Guhl
Lt Col, CAC

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 883078