

The Constabulary and Rural Development

By

Captain Iluminado Mangako, Inf



THE PHILIPPINE constabulary has a new job to do. The job is not normally concerned with law enforcement and maintenance of law and order. It is something bigger than that, a mission, a new program, not ordinarily handled by the PC before, as it has placed the entire resources of the constabulary's 7,000 officers and men behind a gigantic task.

The task: Rural Development.

A tremendous boost has been given by the constabulary in the large-scale development of the rural areas of the country when the PC took

over control of the anti-dissident campaign last January 16, 1956. The plan, which shifted the operational and administrative control of all AFP units in the military areas and the carrying on of the peace and order and anti-dissident campaigns from the Army to the Constabulary, is expected to help speed up the development of the backward regions of the country.

The development of the rural areas, which can only be done if there is peace and order in the fullest extent, came about after a se-

ries of conference with PC Chief Brigadier General Manuel F. Cabal and area and PC commanders throughout the country. The new effort placed the entire resources of the national police force behind the government's rural development program.

Considered by General Cabal as the *left hand* effort of the constabulary, the program of uplifting the plight of the barrio folks shall be carried out without hampering the all-out fight against dissidents. The constabulary will implement the administration's major program with the following measures:

1. Emphasis on the barrio as the basic area for a continuing analysis and solution of problems relative to

peace and order;

2. Extension of material assistance to the barrios;

3. Maximum support of the rural development program of the government; and

4. Enhancement of cordial relations between the civilian population and the military.

The *Left Hand* effort of the constabulary primarily concerns itself with projects designed to ameliorate the plight of the barrio folks through the extension of whatever aid the PC could give. The effort consists of psychological warfare action, all-out friendship, public relations, material assistance, and help for lawless elements who wish to return to a life of peace.



Emphasis on the barrio as the basic area for a continuing analysis and solution of problems relative to peace and order is now the added responsibility of the PC.

The need for a concentrated action on rural development was stressed by General Cabal to all PC provincial commanders throughout the country. Making the barrio as the target to obtain the support and cooperation of civilians, the PC chief ordered all area commanders to have provincial commanders give assistance to victims or their families affected by calamities or killings committed by dissidents and other lawless elements; to intensify their efforts in pacification drives; and the protection of other people whose lives are in danger.

All these and many more are being implemented by the constabulary in line with the government's rural development program. Methods to attain this end lies in the intensified campaign of information being conducted within the constabulary command. Among the means employed in carrying out this purpose are the mass media consisting of posters, lectures, house organs, films and live demonstrations.

All possible media of information directed at the general public and rural areas are being utilized by the constabulary in carrying out General Cabal's pet project such as the radio, newspapers, posters, billboards, lectures, live demonstrations, rallies, movies, public address system, the printed and non-printed promotions, and rural newspapers.

The program to ameliorate the living conditions of the barrio folks is also being tied-up with festivities in the localities. Material aids is promptly given by the constabulary

in coordination with relief agencies like the Social Welfare Administration, Philippine National Red Cross, the NARIC, etc. All these things are being undertaken by the various public affairs offices of the PC throughout the four military areas. With the Public Affairs Office at Camp Crame, headed by Major Mariano D. Manawis behind the controls, all necessary methods are being employed for the complete implementation of the left hand effort of the constabulary. The psy-war chief is leaving no stone unturned to enhance the psy-war activities of the constabulary designed to promote the relations between the civilian population and the military.

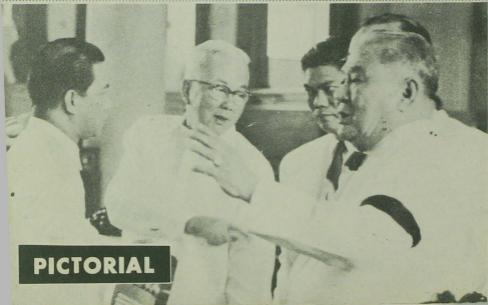
Since the start of the new effort of the PC aimed at the improvement of the lot of the common tao rallies, conferences, meetings, seminars and community assemblies are being conducted by the different PC provincial commanders throughout the length and breadth of the archipelago from time to time.

The role of the PC in the administration's rural development program is contained in a message of General Cabal to army authorities which said: "With the various units now engaged in a combined peace and order and rural development effort, the full realization of eventual complete return to normalcy and its consequent raise in standards of living throughout the country can be expected and realized in complete accord with the plans envisioned in the policy declared by President Magsaysay."

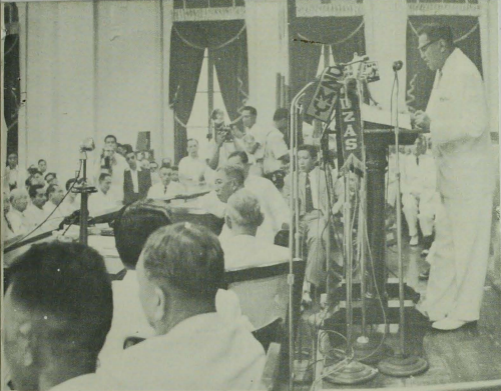
President Magsaysay is shown delivering his state-of-the-nation address Monday afternoon (Jan. 23, 1956) before the joint session of the third Congress at the session hall.



Congress in Session



PICTORIAL



"Must" bills were given a thorough once-over by Senators (left photo) and congressmen (above) as they conversed separately in their respective Capitol chambers. Majority and minority solons both in the Senate and in the house have the usual pledges of cooperation in the general legislative business. In left photo are shown Senators Puyat, Locsin, Cea and Senate President Rodriguez. In above photo are Speaker Laurel, Jr., Reps. A. J. Perez, Marcos, Villareal, E. Perez (minority floor leader), Macapagal and Cortez.



Later, senators visited Camp Murphy and were honored with parade and review by representative units of the Armed Forces. From left (above) are Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Senator Emmanuel Pelaez, chairman of Senate national defense committee, and AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Jesus Vargas saluting flag preparatory to inspecting honor escorts (below).

