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partial
review

by Andres G. Diez

A knotty problem solved by wisdom

For the last six months, Mr. Napoleon Valiente brought a knotty problem to the Nacionalistas of Camaligan by assuring all and sundry that he was a candidate for Mayor whether official or not. This is the way he made the people believe in all six months of intensive campaign.

But because convention is mandatory following the Rules of the party, Mr. Valiente was earnestly supplicated by the local chairman to enter the municipal convention which was set for yesterday Sept. 13, 1967 even if only to prove that he was a loyal Nacionalista. This supplication was offered to him for several times but his answer was always firmly on the negative.

One day before the convention, Manding Cledera, the NP official candidate for governor, always intellectually resourceful as he is, called Mr. Valiente to a conference for the purpose of making him see the side of the question that he (Mr. Valiente) could not clearly see.

Watch now the beauty of thought that was expressed in simple terms to Mr. Valiente.

"I called for you this morning to tell you that the convention of our party will be held in your town tomorrow evening. I was reliably informed that you will not, by any consideration, enter the convention. That will leave Mr. Loriga the lone candidate for Mayor and because he has no opponent his election in the convention is already a matter of fact. You have been assuring the people of Camaligan that you are definitely a candidate for Mayor whether official or not. In that case, there will be two of you for the Nacionalista to choose against only one for the Liberals. How can both of you hope to win under such adverse position? Two against one, that certainly is a hopeless fight. Considering further that the odds are in favor of the Liberal candidate, one, because he is the incumbent and two, because he has money, I honestly believe that both of you are as good as beaten from the beginning to the end.

"But one decides to be a candidate because he wants to win and not to be defeated. This should be your point of view. Between you and Loriga, you are my choice but all the people in Camaligan with whom I had personally contacted for general opinion, are unanimous that Loriga can lick the present Mayor. It is for this reason and for the sake of public interest that I am now asking you to be the team mate of Loriga for the position of Vice-Mayor instead of Mayor. It is my opinion that both of you will be jormidably unbeatable.

"Now, before we end, my last question is: Are you agreeable to my proposition? Convinced that there was wisdom in the sermon of Cledera, Valiente's reply was a curt "Yes".

The conference was ended. The municipal convention was held as scheduled, unanimously voted Loriga for Mayor and Valiente for Vice Mayor after which and in accordance thereto were proclaimed by Atty. Abonal, the party's official candidate for Board Member amidst cheers and ovations and the congratulations of everyone that was present."

My reason of putting this event into writing is primarily because of my personal admiration for the beauty and splendor of Cledera's imagination in solving problems that are considered knotty by the ordinary minds.

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Art Tilt at NPS

The on-the-spot Penafrañcia Art Contest sponsored by the Holy Rosary Major Seminary's Missionary Union of the Clergy and the Ateneo de Naga's Apostleship of Prayer was held at 3:00 P.M. last Thursday, Sept. 14th, within the Naga Parochial School Quadrangle.

All budding artists (professionals are disqualified) assembled within the quadrangle fifteen minutes before time for briefing. They brought their own drawing materials for either the black & white or colored categories they wish to enter.

All entries are on display in the "Faith Through the Missions" exhibit room at Santos Hall, ADN campus. Prizes will be awarded in the morning of the 18th and all non-winning entries may be reclaimed.

ADNAA Reunion On Rizal Day

The Ateneo de Naga Alumni Homecoming will be held on December 30 this year. It was agreed at the last ADNAA monthly meeting last Sunday. The day's festivities, starting with a Co-celebrated Mass to be offered by alumni-priests in the school chapel for the late Fr. Francisco D. Burna S.J., 1st ADN Rector, will be capped by the traditional alumni ball and induction of officers.

In between, there will be a mototrade around the city streets and a floral offering at the Rizal monument, the morning business meeting and election of new board members, luncheon, and basketball games featuring local and out-of-town teams.

In charge of this year's alumni affair are the '68 ADNAA board headed by Frank Timoner, president; Juan Regragio, vice-president; Jean Navarra Llorin, secretary and Armando Pural, treasurer. Meanwhile, Fr. Alfredo G. Paspas, S.J., ADNAA Moderator, announced that the long-awaited alumni directory now in the process of correction and up-dating, would include the '67 graduates and should be out before the end of the school year.

DBP Has New Coco Financing Program

The Development Bank of the Philippines is pleased to announce its new Coconut Financing Program which is designed to insure the steady and orderly development of the industry, thereby stabilizing and strengthening the country's previous position in the world market; and to promote the efficient production of copra and other exportable coconut products.

The financing plans under this program are of two (2) broad categories: the special coconut financing plan and the ordinary straight coconut loans. Under the first set-up,

(Cont. on page 8)

Gene E. Balfermoso

FROM THE HILLTOP



American Responsibility To The Free World (Nineteenth of a series)

"One of our great mistakes was to assure the enemy in advance we were not going to use such nuclear weapons."

Former President Dwight Eisenhower

The Vietnamese Resistance Continued—The rallying point in the stalemated American involvement in South Vietnam is the belief that U.S. supremacy in the land and air war which has gone to the point of escalation is the quid pro quo that military victory is in sight. Gen. Wesley Westmoreland, the American allied commander in South Vietnam has made the assurance that to meet the primacy of this requirement there should be a comparative increase in U.S. manpower deployment to an aggregate of 1,000,000 soldiers that could handle effectively the recurrent problems of North Vietnamese infiltration passing the notorious Ho Chi Minh trail onto South Vietnam.

The situation to be rightly appraised would mean that in filtration is going on steadily despite the U.S. bombing runs which Defense Secretary Robert McNamara definitively answered his critics that the bombings is intended solely to reduce the mode of infiltration of North Vietnamese military manpower and equipment. Today the American manpower status in South Vietnam is placed at 515,000 soldiers thus overshooting the half-million mark. With the request of Gen. Westmoreland for more fighting units the U.S. is expected to bolster its fighting men to 3/4 million or 750,000 soldiers by the end of 1967 and may reach the million mark by the middle of 1968. Thus far it is safe to say that the U.S. pragmatic policy is that U.S. involvement as a result of continued Vietnamese resistance is to live in an indefinite doldrums until such time as American strategy to devise better means or deploy better weapons of war as will compel and break the backbone of North Vietnamese to the negotiating table.

Vo Nguyen Giap—North Vietnamese Tactician In the preceding installment the writer discussed and traced the movement of the Vietnamese resistance culminating in the ignominious defeat of the French forces at Dien Bien in 1954. Nominally the Indo-Chinese war was so costly to the French trying the main bulk of the French armed forces to the Asiatic mainland for over a decade. The defeat of the French forces automatically reduced France as a second rate power.

In the travesty of the stiffened and continuing North Vietnamese resistance from 1944 to the end of the Indo-Chinese war in 1954 and from the year 1954 when the Americans took the cudgel for the defense of freedom in Southeast Asia—one man aside from President Ho Chi Minh of the North Vietnamese Republic is to be reckoned with and who consistently keeps the communist forces feverishly fighting without let up for their amor patriae. The man is Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap—the agile North Vietnamese Hanoi Professor turned military man. As Secretary of Defense of the North Vietnamese communist forces he has indoctrinated the wily art of guerrilla warfare to the point that Nguyen Giap personality has become the symbol of the continuing Vietnam dialogue and ever continuing stiffened resistance. From the year 1954 when the Kingdom of Annam (Indo China) was partitioned as a result of the Geneva Conference, the United States has practically stayed in South Vietnam for 13 years in a straight row without yet knowing for sure when the undeclared war would end.

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