

REEXAMINING NATIONAL SECURITY

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AS A CITIZEN and congressman, especially as chairman of our House of Representatives' national defense committee, I devote much unconceited thought to national security and how it can best be maintained and enhanced. I believe earnestly that this nation, to be safe, must not now or in the immediate or far future feel secure, and that she cannot be secure unless her national defense forces are accurate and adequate. I use the word "accurate" advisedly because prepara-

tions of our defense forces for repelling armed aggression are to be, and should of necessity be, free as much as possible from avoidable misestimates as well as well-slanted to the foreseeable menaces that they are intended to stave off, if they are to be effective.

National survival demands that our defense establishment be strong and prepared. That is common sense, and it is good national policy. To satisfy the demand of national survival, it is necessary, as our Pres-

ident Magsaysay has once said, to maintain well-trained armed forces of such strength that will assure national security, and to provide for their prompt and rapid expansion in case of emergency.

It is fundamental in defense that before the onset of war — long before it if possible — there are already forces, both standing and reserve, but more so of the latter, capable of being rapidly mobilized. It is necessary that they have already been well-trained as well as properly informed and educated. It is essential that their provisions and equipment have already been assured.

tional defense preparation must decidedly be commensurate with the national economy if feasible. In this regard it will seem inadvisable to strain the national^o economy for the purpose of making the necessary defense preparations. I wish, however, to point out how much I accord with the opinion of a former defense secretary that it would be worth sacrificing for national security. Any investment is less costly than blood. The nation may be so taxed financially in her process of defense build-up, but the loss incurred would be smaller than the loss of national security. When national security, not only economic securi-

Man who heads national defense committee in Congress assesses present national defense set-up, sees inadequacy of force for repelling aggression, says any investment is less costly than blood and stresses that when national security, not only economic security, is lost, everything is lost

Guidepost

I wish to emphasize how much I am convinced that in considering national security one must be concerned with security from elements within as well as those outside, and that in putting our forces in readiness to increase our capacity to resist armed aggression the fact that our nation is limited by time and money should likewise be considered.

The capacity to repel aggression is said to depend greatly on the productive capacity of the nation. This cause-and-effect relationship between the national defense and the national economy is recognized. The na-

tion, is lost, everything is lost. Let that serve as a guidepost.

Sound Policies

National security is demanding. The nation, which is seemingly far removed at present from war, cannot be safe for always unless her national defense forces are prepared sufficiently. To prepare them, there is need for carrying out certain policies and for providing the means with which to carry them out.

Among our recommended national military policies that I have come across, are the maintenance of well-trained armed forces and provision for their rapid expansion; the merger, in case of emergency, of the military, quasi-military, and police forces

for effective prosecution of defense efforts; the integration of military planning with planning for civil defense; for formulation of plans to carry out guerrilla warfare, in case of war, against any aggressor in the furtherance of war objectives; the provision for a coordinated intelligence system that can furnish adequate, accurate, and timely intelligence to national security agencies; the attention to immediate and long-range research and development in all fields of military endeavor as will best achieve the mission of the armed forces; and the provision of the necessary means for the realization of mutual defense efforts with other nations as will best enhance our national interests and enable us to fulfill international commitments.

The foregoing are sound recommended national military policies.

Reminder

If the last war proved anything, it is that unpreparedness is not conducive to victory, much less to national security. Yet history repeats itself. It will for a nation lacking diligence.

It is equally well to call attention to the fact that no nation, however rich, is free from financial burdens in the job of maintaining her national security. The willingness to assume such burdens is the test for a people. Many nations which to us appear far detached from defense

fund problems because of their wealth, are themselves plagued by such problems. It is because the international arms race is mostly limited only by scientific knowledge, and international mistrust and misunderstanding are less limited. Defense expenditures bid fair to be limitless.

In tackling our defense job, it is sensible, of course, that we do not grapple with more than we can grasp, and that it is well to be aware that in postwar years the national defense budget is biggest



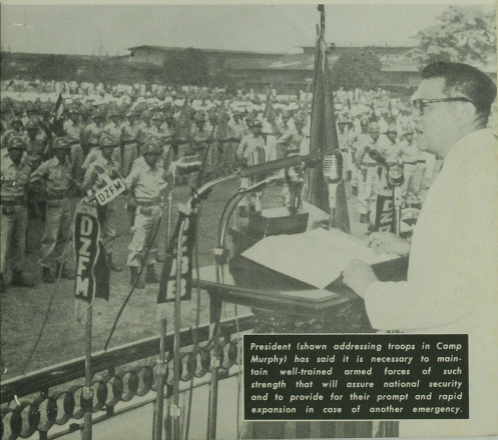
among those for the various departments of the government. But it is equally well to appreciate that the national defense job is biggest, and that for the agency charged with it to fail will precipitate serious consequences to the nation.

Impractical Desire

Everybody wants a strong Armed Forces and simultaneously a little expense for it. The desire is natural but impractical. You cannot and you do not have too much for too little.

The present standing force is a little too small, in much the same manner that the reserve force is. It is my belief that should an aggressor launch an attack today, the present defense forces unaided would be inadequate to repulse him, and would capitulate in a shorter time than that of our forces' in World War II.

Yet it is a fact that amidst these stern realities there are those who do not entertain a thought of abetting our forces and allowing them to take the up-slope ride to the de-



President (shown addressing troops in Camp Murphy) has said it is necessary to maintain well-trained armed forces of such strength that will assure national security and to provide for their prompt and rapid expansion in case of another emergency.

fense efficiency peak. Contrariwise, they harbor a desire to witness a financial fluctuation for the national defense establishment. The reason given for the desire is that the dissidents have been contained. I wish to point out in this connection that, desirous though I likewise am of a defense budget slump — call it economy if you wish — I do not see the downfall of the Huk dreamland as a preclusion of the possibility of armed attack from outside. I share

accorded to the anti-dissident campaign be funnelled.

Real Readiness

I have in mind not only the expansion of the reserve force but also the improvement of every segment of the defense organization. I mean not only the raising up of men for the reserve forces but the necessary effective training for them to fight in modern war. I mean national defense forces that will not merely offer token resistance and



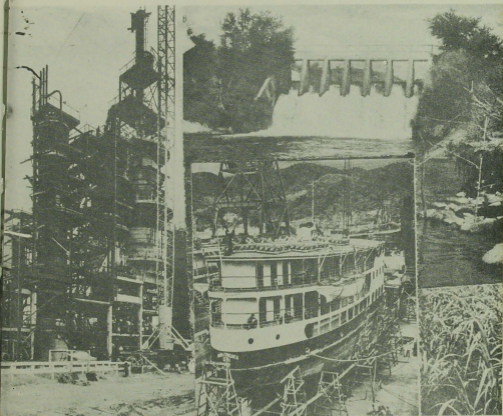
It is necessary for nation to undertake in earnest military training of youths and other reservists. In above photo are 20-year-old trainees undergoing training in Fort McKinley.

the economic desire of many people, but not their national security confidence. For the internal foes may have been temporarily contained but the external enemy remains active and dangerous.

For the active enemy must the nation prepare; and to the job of preparing the nation's defense forces to ward off such enemy must the resources and means heretofore

delay or stall an invading enemy as in the last war, but those that will effectively repulse if not crush an aggressor attempting for a foothold of our shores.

To attain this kind of defense structure, it is necessary that the nation undertake in earnest the military training of the necessary number of youths as well as the retraining of inactive reservists to en-



Nation's resources are limited, but because to lose national security is to lose everything, it is worth for nation to sacrifice in interest of future national defense.

able them to grasp the new techniques and skills in warfare. It is necessary to construct a standing force that may be small but hard-hitting because it is well-trained, well-equipped, well-educated and high in morale. There is a need for raising up the level of military training, of military planning, of military discipline and everything military as though the enemy would attack tomorrow. The individual sol-

dier must not only be well-fortified with knowledge of the coordinated operation of arms and trained in teamwork but also saturated with patriotic determination, information and education as befit his position in a citizen army.

For all these things it is necessary to revitalize the responsible agencies and to mobilize the means of accomplishing their missions. The art and quality of leadership and of



A standing force that may be small but hard-hitting because it is well-trained, well-equipped, well-educated and high in morale is necessary for the nation. Photo shows Filipino troops parading in Korea where they fought gallantly against Chinese communists.

leading troops, the production of localized and applicable service manuals, the publication of information and education journals and other materials for troop consumption, and the attention to all media that will assist the armed forces in their missions and enhance the national

interests must be given extensive and intensive impetus.

In the final analysis, I can say that the nation must be concerned with preparations not merely for national defense, but for national defense that will effectively insure the security of the nation in a shooting war.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Hon. Numeriano U. Babao is a native of Lobo, Batangas. He obtained his Associate in Arts from the National University and graduated from the Philippine Law School in 1929, and passed the Bar Examination the same year. He first represented the second district of Batangas in the Second Congress. Was reelected in 1953. He is at present the Chairman of the Committee on National Defense and a ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations.



PMA Cadet Mess Hall is housed in dilapidated, smoky, poorly ventilated quonset hut which leaks during rainy season. Release of much needed appropriated funds by Congress will hasten five-year development plan of Philippines' "West Point."

and stem amebiasis for which Baguio is noted, to the absence of good training guides. All these naturally hamper the Academy from fulfilling its noble mission of helping keep inviolate the security and freedom of the nation.

Some badly misinformed quarters believe that the PMA is unnecessary and expensive to the taxpayers. To these, Col. Marcos G. Soliman, present PMA Superintendent, says, "As we look back to the growth of this Academy, we take pride in remembering that it has produced men who ungrudgingly contributed their share in our nation building. Men who led the punitive expedition against outlawry in the early days; men who did their share ungrudgingly in fighting the battles of World War II; men who commanded units of our Philippine contingents in the Korean War; and men who led many of our Battalion Combat Teams in the campaign against dissidents and communists of recent

years — these were the men who came from this great institution, our nation's Military Academy. We invite the tax payers to assess the dividends with impartiality and courage in terms of sacrifice and service to their people and to their country — service and sacrifice whole-heartedly rendered to the nation in return for their small investment."

On the other hand, President Magsaysay, speaking in the same vein said: "The Academy today proudly rests on a fine military tradition. I am for its maintenance if it is to continue making men of fine character and resolve."

This show-window of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, this national institution, the cradle of our military leaders, must be fully supported to enable it to fulfill its assigned tasks creditably, for penny-pinching will only stunt its growth to the prejudice of the liberty loving people of this country.