

JUDGE REGALA'S MESSAGE ON FIRST PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE

Fellow Countrymen.

I am happy to greet all Filipinos in the Western States and Alaska on this, the first Anniversary of the inauguration of the Republic of the Philippines.

We can be justly proud of the record of our people upon our completion of one year of membership in the concert of nations. When our Independence was proclaimed on July 4, 1946, the Philippines was still suffering from the worst destruction experienced by any country of comparative size in the last World War. But thanks to the progressive leadership of President Roxas and the resourcefulness and industry of our people, the Philippines stands out as among the most stable countries in the Orient today.

As we observe this anniversary of our day of freedom, it is timely to note that we Filipinos abroad are much more fortunate in many ways than our folks back home. They carried the brunt of the enemy invasion and occupation. They put up the kind of resistance to enemies of democracy which won the admiration of the whole world. By their suffering and gallantry, they won recognition as a people who deserved to be free. Most of us abroad can never comprehend the hardships they had been through.

But those of us, who, being abroad, had suffered less, now reap the most of the blessings of freedom for which our folks back home had fought and died. I say those of us abroad are more fortunate because the essence of Independence consists in recognition by foreign powers of our sovereignty. Independence is more real to us who are in foreign lands.

No longer are we nationals of dependency. We are a sovereign people now. At every international gathering, our Flag proudly flies, a symbol indeed that the Philippines has come of age.

Let us therefore make this a day of dedication. Let us pay tribute to the great people of the United States for making our country what President Roxas described as "the show window of democracy in the Far East". Let us show our appreciation of the great work done by our people back home by giving them material and moral support at every possible opportunity.

We can best carry on the great tradition of our people by remembering that we are all unofficial ambassadors of goodwill of our land and that it is our duty to so conduct ourselves as to add honor and dignity to the people we represent.

May the Lord bless our country now and forever more.

ROBERTO REGALA,
Consul General,

Lung-Chong-Fong Cafe

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