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troleum, gas, acetylene, dynamite, gunpowder, explosives, blasting supplies, or ingredients thereof, and other highly combustible matter;

- To cause the inspection of factory buildings and other structures which are considered fire hazards and recommend to the proper authorities their removal or remodeling so as to provide sufficient protection against fire;
- To encourage the observance in every municipality and chartered city of Fire Prevention Week Proclaimed in Proclamation No. 248 dated January 20, 1938; and
- To submit from time to time to the President of the Philippines its recommendations on fire-fighting and prevention.

The General Chairman may also call the group chairmen to a meeting from time to time.

The groups shall meet at the call of their respective chairmen.

All officers and employees of the different departments, bureaus, offices, agencies, and instrumentalities of the National Government and those of the provinces, cities, municipalities, and other political subdivisions are hereby enjoined to cooperate with the Board in the performance of its functions and, with the approval of the corresponding Head of Department, shall, when necessary, render such service as the Board may assign to them.

Done in the City of Manila, this 30th day of August in the year of Our Lord, 1949, and of the Independence of the Philippines, the fourth.

(SGD.) ELPIDIO QUIRINO  
President of the Philippines

By the President:  
(SGD.) TEODORO EVANGELISTA  
Executive Secretary

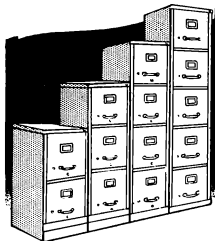
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## United States Government Agencies in the Philippines

The U. S. Maritime Commission

**T**HE U. S. MARITIME COMMISSION, the American Federal Agency entrusted under the Philippine Rehabilitation Act of 1946 with restoring and improving Philippine inter-island commerce, has been quietly engaged for three years in rehabilitating the Philippine maritime industry and looking after the interests of Filipino seamen who served in American ships.

To carry out its portion of the Philippine Rehabilitation Program, the Agency started operations with a large staff in April, 1945. Today, with most of its work done, the staff consists only of two Americans: Capt. F. H. Byrne, Superintendent of Engineers, USMC, and Mr. R. R. Spence, Maritime Attaché of the American Embassy.

Perhaps the most important work of the Commission is the chartering on a "bareboat" basis of U. S. Maritime Commission-owned vessels to local steamship companies. The company that charters a boat on "bareboat" basis acquires the boat alone without supplies, furnishings, or crew; the company itself has to supply these. At present there are nine ships chartered; two to the Everet Oriental Lines, three to the Philippine Steam Navigation Company, three to the Compañia Maritima, and one to the Manila Steamship Company. These chartered ships, together

with those turned over to the Philippine Republic by the U. S. Army, have helped Philippine shipping establish normal inter-island traffic once more.

At the time these vessels for charter were put to commercial use, many of the companies that chartered them were pessimistic about the enormous overhead expenses involved both in servicing and in operating the vessels. However, means were found to cut down on costs and today the country's seaways are traversed by ships that once flew the American colors but now display the flag of the Republic.

Shipping operators, whose first reactions to the U. S. Maritime Commission's aid were dubious, admit today that if this Federal Agency had not cut through maddening red tape in 1945 to secure ships for transporting badly needed consumer goods to the Philippines, the situation would have become critical. The first shipments started as a trickle in August of 1945, but later shipments flowed so copiously they choked harbor traffic.

Another important portion of the U. S. Maritime Commission's assignment is the training Filipinos as future deck and engine officers. Paragraph B of Section 306 of the Philippine Rehabilitation Act of 1946 authorizes the U. S. Maritime Commission to train Filipinos to be designated by the President of the Philippines at the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, Long Island, New York. To date, 70 cadets have been sent. Fifty were sent in 1947 and are expected to graduate next year. Twenty were sent last February and will graduate in 1953. These students have been establishing records that reflect credit on the Philippines. An important part of their training is the one-year of sea duty spent on American ocean-going merchant vessels. Each cadet serves at sea in the second year of his four-year course. The graduates will qualify either as officers in the Philippine merchant fleet or in the Philippine naval reserve.

The Maritime Commission, in looking after the interests of Filipino seamen who served in the American merchant fleet, has been paying the beneficiaries to those Filipinos who were killed during the war while serving on American ships. To date, all claims, with the exception of two whose beneficiaries can not be found, have been paid. Total value of all claims is P600,000.

#### The U. S. Civil Aeronautics Administration

**W**HEN AN AIRLINER or an international flight stops at Manila in 1950, it will land on the Manila International Airport's modern runway under the guidance of expert airways communicators and airport traffic controllers — all Filipinos. In fact, by that time, all the service facilities necessary for the maintenance of interisland and international air navigation will be in the hands of Filipinos who know their business. This is the situation the U. S. Civil Aeronautics Administration will leave behind in 1950 after completing its assignment as provided in the Philippine Rehabilitation Act of 1946.

Section 307 of this Act authorizes the U. S. Civil Aeronautics Administration "to acquire, establish, operate, and maintain a system of air-navigation facilities and associated airways communications services in the Philippines for interisland airways operation and to connect Philippine airways with international and interoceanic routes." The Federal Agency

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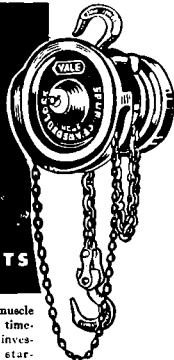
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