

TOWARD PEACE AND ORDER

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ON the fifth anniversary of our independence, force of arms still makes up the government's basic policy in its fight for existence. Twenty-four battalion combat teams now bear the brunt of communist-inspired and communist-led depredations in our towns and barrios. The 10th BCT, which is now of international renown, and the 20th BCT, which is scheduled to relieve the Philippine Expeditionary Force, make up the contribution of the Republic to the struggle abroad for the perpetuation of our way of life. Prior to our assumption of the responsibility to maintain peace and order in the country, there had been statements that the "situation is under control." Those declarations were from the military point of view, sound but premature.

Since the first of April, last year, we have followed a two-pronged attack which did not leave the problem of peace and order discussible only in military terms. We have adopted two general principles: the policy of attraction, aimed to bring back the dissidents into the folds of the government; and the policy to meet force with force, aimed to destroy the HMB diehards who, unyielding, seek to overthrow the government by armed means.

It is pursuant to the policy of attraction that we founded the ED-COR (Economic Development Corps), a land settlement project designed to give repentant dissidents as well as needy families in congested regions an opportunity to devote their time and energy to productive pursuits and to acquire lands they can call their own and cultivate.

To supplement this project, we have established a carpentry shop where-in ex-Huks with optitude in this craft are induced into productive effort. Now in operation, the shop has become the source of tables, chairs, and other office equipment of the Armed Forces. It is manned entirely by former dissidents, among whom are former high-ranking Huks. I am glad to observe that they, like those now engaged in our land project in Capatagan, Lanao, are happy in their work and are becoming useful citizens. We have been helping the families of captured Huks by giving them food, clothing, money and medicine. In fact we are following the

system of aggressive military operations by using the military might of the Republic coupled with tact, diplomacy and human understanding.

In our psychological warfare, which the department is pursuing with progressive intensity, we have reached the people not only through the press and the radio. We have also gone direct to the people through community assemblies held even in remote towns and out of the way barrios. We have not stopped there. The government's long-drawn project of collecting loose firearms is now in full swing, through congressional authority, to purchase them.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has undergone radical changes in what many consider is a sweeping reorganization. The purpose should be obvious: to eliminate dead-woods, throw into operation the energetic and courageous men who are ready to give up everything they have in defense of the democratic ways of life, and to sacrifice even life itself to regain the confidence of the people in the Armed Forces and in the government.

By its organization and training, the Armed Forces of the Philippines is primarily for stabilized warfare. To adopt it for the type of enemy it is engaged with, we have resorted to various tactics, including the unorthodox, and had to organize such special units as the Commandos, Scout-Rangers, and even canine units. In the aerial phase of our operations, we likewise have found it necessary to resort to the employment of napalm bombs of our own manufacture.

In the naval phase, the Philippine Navy has formed the nucleus of a Marine Combat Battalion to fight the dissidents and at the same time our naval patrols actively guard our coastlines and sea lanes against the smugglers, either of contraband goods or aliens.

Sometime ago, the Department of National Defense purchased and issued to the AFP's combat units a total of 2,000 cameras for the purpose of documenting the Huk casualties inflicted by our forces. Official records compiled by the Armed Forces with the help in many instances of these cameras, show that from April 1, 1950, up to June 22,

this year, the HMB has lost, in a total of 1,286 encounters, an aggregate of 5,269 men, as follows: Killed—2,794; Captured—1,458; Surrendered—1,017. During the same period, the HMB has likewise lost a total of 3,137 firearms, all of which were either captured or confiscated by, or surrendered to the Armed Forces.

The Judge Advocate General's Office, being the legal arm of the armed forces and servant of the people, has been vigorously championing the cause of the tenants in the operation of the 70-30 crop-sharing tenancy law. Representatives from this office in cooperation with Civil Affairs Officers in the field render the maximum assistance within the bounds of law to all tenants who are aggrieved, one way or another; by their landlords. Complaints of the people against the armed forces have been investigated expeditiously with no attempts at "whitewash." The guilty parties have been punished to the fullest extent of the law.

What other things the current campaign has so far succeeded to accomplish is probably for the public to say. I shall merely add that in this campaign we have not confined our work to engaging the HMBs in combat. We have, as the people know today, also conducted a drive against the local Communist Politburo and against the country's economic saboteurs which has resulted in the busting of the huge dollar smuggling syndicates and the breaking of organized arms smuggling rings.

We do not intend to deviate from our policies. This movement which has been masquerading as a campaign for agrarian reforms has been completely unmarked by our Armed Forces. Our people now realize that it is a movement that must be stopped if our freedom is to be preserved. With every Filipino citizen who treasures his liberty helping the Armed Forces in the restoration of peace and order, we can expect to conclude the military phase of the problem in one course.

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