

A NEW ORIENTATION

It is still the early morning hours of the day of the political emancipation of the Filipinos. It is, of course, an emancipation immediately following a nightmarish interlude of destruction, bloodshed, and moral chaos, after over forty years of gradual and peaceful preparation. Those were not forty years of aimless wandering in the wilderness. They covered decades of dream, struggle, and restlessness towards a definite goal. They were decades of hectic preparation in education, in social improvement, in political self-management, and to some extent in economic self-sufficiency. The national structure was being erected step by step according to a general plan. But all of a sudden the catastrophic event of the World War engulfed the country and demolished much of the material assets previously accumulated and shook the moral reserves the Filipino had patiently developed.

Over twenty years have passed since that fateful occurrence; they have been years of needed reconstruction and rebuilding. It has been a period of changing conditions, changing demands, and changing attitudes and relationships in this country and in all parts of the world. In this changed atmosphere, the need is urgent and imperative to follow a new plan for the national structure, one adapted for an edifice suitable to meet the tensions and stresses of a different world. To reconstruct according to the old model is not enough. To build a new structure fit for the new conditions is inescapable.

The young Filipinos whom we find in our colleges and universities today should have a new orientation and should adjust themselves to the new environment. Creativity, daring, and integrity are urgently needed for a reconstructed society. — V.G.S.