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Commonwealth Government Officials Broadcast to the Philippines

MANUEL L. QUEZON inaugurated early last month a series of official broadcasts beamed to the Philippines through the radio facilities of the Office of War Information, and intended to give a factual report of the activities of the government in exile now in Washington, to the people of the Philippines. He advised our countrymen to maintain their faith in the United States and to ignore the Japanese propaganda that Philippine independence can ever come from Japan.

"Not many days ago I spoke to you about how the Japanese invader is trying by every possible device to win your goodwill and cooperation, and to destroy your faith in America," said the President. "He tells you that America has completely neglected you, and that your freedom and independence can only come from Japan. Don't believe this. A nation where freedom of speech and of the press is a thing unknown, a nation where everything is state-controlled, from raw materials to political ideas and ideals—such a nation can not be expected to give freedom to the peoples it has conquered."

President Quezon pointed out that for the last eight months the Japanese had not scored a single victory but that, on the contrary, they had suffered serious defeats in many places in the Pacific.

"Japan will never tell you about her defeats," said President Quezon. "Japan does not want you to know what the Government of the United States and your own Philippine Government are doing to hasten the liberation of our country."

The President assured his people that the day of Philippine liberation would surely come.

"We must remember that, in this grim fight for freedom, we are not alone," he continued. "We must remember that every victory our allies win in Russia, in Africa or anywhere in the Pacific brings us closer and closer to freedom and victory."

The President concluded: "All I ask of you is that you have faith in America, that you have faith in the great destiny of our country, and that you be true to the soldiers who died so gallantly for our country's freedom. *Mga Kababayan: Araw at gabi hindi ko kayo linilimut.*"

SERGIO OSMENA, Vice President of the Philippines, outlined three main achievements of the Commonwealth Government in his broadcast to the Philippines.

He pointed out:

(1) The Philippines is now a member of the United Nations, resulting in the virtual recognition of the Commonwealth as an independent nation.

(2) The Philippines has gained a seat in the Pacific War Council, a body working to hasten Japanese defeat.

(3) President Roosevelt and President Quezon have agreed to set up a joint commission to study problems of Philippine economic reconstruction, financial rehabilitation and future security.

"Rest assured, then, my beloved countrymen, that your own Government-in-Exile and the United States Government are straining every effort not only to hasten the day of redemption and freedom, but also to lay the solid foundation of economic stability and security for the future Philippine Republic—a Republic that will, with a United Nations victory, take its place among the free nations of the earth," the Vice-President concluded.

JOAQUIN M. ELIZALDE, Philippine Resident Commissioner, gave the Filipino people a detailed report of the war activities of Filipinos in the United States.

He mentioned the First Filipino Infantry now in training in California; the Filipinos serving in the United States Navy, the Coast Guard, Army transports and merchant marine; Filipino workers in defense industries and on farms, and the Filipinos in all walks of life buying war bonds regularly.

Summing up the contributions of Filipinos on all fronts, the Commissioner said, "Service, money, life—these are the contributions of the Filipinos in the United States to the successful prosecution of this war. It's their way of fulfilling President Quezon's pledge that 'We stand with the United States in life and in death.'"

MAJ. GEN. BASILIO J. VALDES, Chief of Staff of the Philippine Army, informed the Filipino people that America has seized the offensive initiative in the Southwest Pacific.

Disclaiming any attempt to raise false hopes, he answered the question, "How soon will the Japanese be driven out of the Philippines?" in the light of developments in the first fourteen months of war.

"There is no doubt that America has begun the job of beating Japan," he said. "It will take a long time yet of bitter fighting to bring her to her knees. But whether it takes months or years, one thing is certain—the job is going to be done, and done uncompromisingly."

The General concluded with President Roosevelt's address to the American people in which the President declared: "We do not expect to spend the time it would take to bring Japan to final defeat by inching our way forward from island to island across the vast expanse of the Pacific. Great and decisive actions against the Japanese will be taken in the skies of China—and in the skies over Japan itself. The discussions at Casablanca have been continued in Chungking with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek by General Arnold and have resulted in definite plans for offensive operations. There are many roads which lead right to Tokyo. And we're not going to neglect any of them."

Quezon Pleads for Pacific Aid

EXPRESSING grave concern over recent reports of Japanese naval concentration in the island arc north of Australia and a new Japanese mass air offensive on allied Southwest Pacific bases, President Manuel L. Quezon issued this statement on April 15:

"The whole world knows that my heart is in the Philippines; and I cannot forget that the fate of the Filipino people, who are now under the iron heel of a ruthless enemy, is bound up with the course of the war in the Pacific.

"Japan must not be allowed to make further gains. She must not be granted time to devote all her energies to consolidating her position and mastering the immense natural resources now available to her—resources even greater than those available to Hitler. To give Japan the chance to do these things would mean very serious risks for the United Nations and would raise tremendously the price of her ultimate defeat in lives and in sacrifices.

"I hope, therefore, that steps will be taken—and taken immediately—to strengthen our arms in the Pacific, at least enough to stop Japan in her tracks.

"It is true that, in waging this global war, many cold-blooded decisions must be made. There have been, and no doubt will continue to be, times when whole battlefronts and even whole nations will be considered temporarily expendable in order to win the final victory. But it is impossible for me to conceive that the entire Far East is expendable."

JAIME HERNANDEZ, Auditor-General of the Philippines, assured the Filipino people that the Commonwealth Government will be as financially sound at the end of the war as it was before the Japanese invasion of the Philippines.

The Auditor-General reported that practically all the funds of the Philippine Government were saved from Japanese hands and that the interest accruing to Government bonds and funds on deposit in the United States is sufficient to meet the much-reduced expenses of running the Government, the payment of interest on Government bond issues, and the payment of allowances to Government pensionados and to young Filipino students stranded in the United States.

Mr. Hernandez stated that the Commonwealth Government is keeping its expenses within its limited income.

"We are saving every peso we can for the day of victory," he said. "And when that day comes, as come it must, your Government will be financially prepared for the gigantic task of our country's reconstruction."

This he believed possible through continued cooperation between the United States and the Philippines. He concluded, "With the economic assistance of the United States, we can face the future with confidence. With God's help, we can look forward to a greater, stronger, more prosperous Philippines."

Tribute to Wainwright

On April 19 President Quezon paid tribute to the gallant defender of Bataan and Corregidor, Lt. Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright, on the occasion of the President's participation in the state ceremonies honoring General Wainwright and the heroes of Bataan and Corregidor, at Hartford, Connecticut.

He reminded his audience that in thus rendering due honor to General Wainwright, who was the son of the State, they should remember that they owed him more than a citation.

"You owe him," President Quezon emphasized, "the pledge that he will soon be freed from the prison camp; that the flag of freedom will again fly over Corregidor, and that the Filipino people will be liberated from the invader, governing themselves under the independent Republic they will establish after the enemy is driven out."

The full text of the President's address follows:

"I have come to share with you the sentiments that inspire this official recognition, by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, of the gallantry and heroism of that great soldier, Lieutenant General Jonathan M. Wainwright, and his American and Filipino officers and men.

"The memory of those desperate days of fighting in the Philippines is always with me, and my heart is pierced by that memory. I think of those fighting men—yours and