

forth in that great document, known as the Atlantic Charter, which was proclaimed by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill on August 14, 1941.

"We have been battling since December 7, 1941, to preserve our country from the menace of Japanese aggression. Although a large part of our territory is overrun by Japanese military forces, our soldiers are still actively engaged in meeting and harassing the foe wherever possible. We do not intend to be cowed by the armed might of Japan. We shall continue the struggle with every means in our power.

"We desire to associate ourselves with those nations which are fighting for the preservation of life and liberty against the forces of barbarism that seek world domination. Accordingly, the Commonwealth of the Philippines hereby formally adheres to the Declaration by United Nations of January 1, 1942."

Mr. Hull, in his prompt reply to President Quezon's letter, said:

"The entire freedom-loving world admires the great courage and valor shown by the people of the Philippines

during the past six months as they have gallantly fought to preserve their country from Japanese aggression. On behalf of this Government, as depository for the Declaration by United Nations, I take pleasure in welcoming into this group the Commonwealth of the Philippines."

The Philippines was the 28th country to join the United Nations. Since President Quezon signed the Declaration three other nations have joined. These nations of different creeds and races are united in the war to preserve human dignity and freedom.

This international recognition of the Philippines signaled the world's awakening to the Filipino's long struggle for freedom. It was a realization of a hope of the countless Filipino heroes who had given their lives in centuries past and more recently in Bataan and Corregidor.

As one of the United Nations, the Philippines will participate in the reconstruction of the world envisioned by the Atlantic Charter. Because of the Filipinos' long contact with both Western and Oriental civilizations, the Philippines stands in an excellent position to serve as interpreter of the West to the East and of the East to the West.

Quezon Tells Why Filipinos Fought As They Did

President Quezon recently explained to the American people why the Filipinos fought as gallantly as they did in the Battle of the Philippines. He pointed out the vital difference between the resistance put up by Filipinos against the Japanese invaders and the much less impressive resistance shown by the people in Indo-China, Burma, Malaya and the Netherlands East Indies.

The President said that Filipinos were fighting for their own freedom and for a country which fully belonged to them. He told Americans that Filipinos fought not because they owed allegiance to the United States but because America had done what no other colonizing power had done to its colonies. "Under your flag we had tasted freedom," the President declared.

President Quezon's timely message to the American people was delivered before the Maryland Bar Association in Baltimore. The full text follows:

Full text of the speech delivered by President Manuel L. Quezon before the Maryland Bar Association in Baltimore on January 16, 1943.

I APPRECIATE more than I can say your invitation that I be your guest of honor on this occasion, and I thank Senator Radcliffe for the invitation he has extended to me in your behalf.

Today, as you know, the Japanese occupy my country. But before they succeeded, we fought them to exhaustion, despite overwhelming odds. Even now there are still many Americans and Filipinos who have refused to surrender. They are in the hills, still resisting. We will continue to fight them until the American forces arrive in sufficient numbers to throw the Japanese out of the Philippines. We have not accepted defeat in the Philippines. The word is

victory, and it will come. The Japanese occupation of our homeland we see only as a passing—though tragic—phase of our history. Our eyes are on the future, and on the happiness and freedom which the future holds for us.

The record of the Filipino people in this war has been written in blood, and it is a record of which you and I can be proud. It is a record of unflinching loyalty to the United States, a record of heroic deeds. It is a record without parallel in the Orient, and—I may add—in the history of colonialism.

In the case of China, which fought and is fighting Japan with a courage and determination that is the admiration of the world, she is defending her own sovereignty and her own flag. In the Philippines, it was your flag and your sovereignty that were assailed. It is true that it was our country that was invaded. But so was Indo-China, and Burma, and Malaya, and the Netherlands East Indies, where the flags of foreign countries were flying. Have the natives of these countries fought the invader? Except for those who were enlisted in the regular armies of these sovereign nations, no one else among them took part in the war by the side of the governments to which they owed allegiance. Certainly, the people as a whole did not fight.

WHY WAS there this vital difference in the Philippines? The answer is that, when we fought for your flag, we were fighting for our own freedom; when we resisted the invasion of our country, we did so because we knew the Philippines was our country not only de facto but de jure. And we were loyal to you, to your flag and to your

country, not because under international law we owed you this allegiance, but because you have won our undying friendship and affection—because you did by us what no other colonizing power has done by the people who had fallen under its sway. For you have been our benefactors and liberators, and the presence of your flag in the Philippines was the symbol of our freedom. It was there only to allow you to finish the work you had started to do—to help set up an independent Philippine Republic.

That is why not only the regular Filipino soldier fought by your side, but our own citizen army. That is why not only our citizen army, but the whole civilian population, to a man, answered the call of duty and did their part in resisting the enemy.

THE IMMENSE majority of General MacArthur's infantry—that superb military commander—was composed of Filipinos, and 20,000 of our young men laid down their lives in the Battle of the Philippines—many, many more than the lives lost by their heroic brothers, the Americans.

According to official United States Government statistics, America has lost some 8,000 soldiers, sailors and merchant seamen on all fronts everywhere in the world since the war began. In this figure are included those Filipinos who were serving in the Regular Army of the United States, and the total is less than half the number of those killed who were serving in the Philippine Army.

And now let me tell you why the Filipino people fought by your side to the bitter end.

By the time Admiral Dewey came to Manila, the Spaniards were able to offer only a token resistance. America's war against Spain was fought, in the Philippines, with the aid of the Filipinos themselves.

After the last crumbling remnant of Spain's Empire was forced out of the Philippines, the Filipino people felt that the time had come for self-government. Their hopes were not realized. And there came instead several years of bloodshed between Americans and Filipinos.

After the early years of bitterness and distrust, the Filipino people began to know and understand the real purpose of America. They realized that the American people were not embarked on a ruthless imperialistic policy. In the words of President McKinley: "The Philippines are ours, not to exploit but to develop, to civilize, to educate, to train in the science of self-government. This is the path of duty which we must follow or be recreant to a mighty trust committed to us."

EACH American President who followed McKinley reiterated this thought in his own words. During the administration of Woodrow Wilson, the Congress of the United States enacted the Jones Law, which promised independence when a stable government could be established in the Philippines. This pledge America kept. Your own Senator Tydings, under the administration and with the recommendation of President Roosevelt, introduced the Bill in 1934 that fulfilled that promise. In the course of the debate on his Bill in the Senate, referring to the war between Americans and Filipinos, Senator Tydings said: "That war never was intended. We [Americans] never intended to

stay there. We promised the Filipinos that, if they would cooperate with us, we would stand by them and give them their country. . . . In Heaven's name, is it too much to ask under these circumstances that we give them every chance to work out a just destiny under their own flag, and that they shall have all the assistance we can give them?"

In 1934, the Tydings-McDuffie Act was passed. The Filipino people will be eternally grateful to Senator Tydings for sponsoring this legislation. I repeat: The battle we fought on Bataan and Corregidor less than a year ago was fought because of the spirit that lay behind the Act which bears the name of the gentleman from Maryland.

It might have been easy for us to delude ourselves into accepting the siren song of Japanese propaganda, which told us that Japan was waging war only against the United States, and not against the Filipino people. They pounded the Philippines with this propaganda. But they failed completely, because we knew what Japan had done in Manchuria and in China. And we contrasted their deeds with what America had done in the Philippines.

UNDER your flag, we had tasted freedom, and no people who have known the blessings of liberty will want to live without it. Under the terms of the Tydings-McDuffie Act, the Filipino people had established the Government of the Commonwealth under a Constitution of our own making, in preparation for complete independence.

That is why the Filipino people fought. They fought for freedom. They fought because they knew that America had made a promise, and that she would keep the promise. They fought because they respected themselves and knew that they—like any other nation—had a right to determine their own destiny as part of the interlocking society that is the human race.

All this, I am sure, was somewhere in the mind of Jesus Villamor, the young Filipino flier who led a squadron of six obsolete planes to battle fifty-four Japanese bombers somewhere south of Manila.

It was the impulse which caused the Filipino soldier to hold his own helmet over the bare head of General MacArthur while the shell fragments tore into his hands on Corregidor.

It was etched deep in the soul of the Filipino school teacher who preferred to die rather than obey the Japanese order to lower the American flag and fly the Philippine colors alongside the "Rising Sun" over his little village schoolhouse.

The school teacher was paying tribute to the solidarity between the United States and the Philippines—a solidarity that will live even when, one day soon, the Philippine flag flies alone over our schoolhouses. That will be on our day of independence, when the Philippine Republic takes its place among the family of sovereign states.

WHEN our flag flies alone over the Philippines, your own Star-Spangled Banner—which has outlived the bursting bombs of Fort McHenry and of Corregidor—will always wave in our hearts, and your friendship will always be cherished by every one of us above the friendship of any other nation.

Here in Maryland, before you, the citizens of the Free State, I want to pay tribute now to Senator Tydings, co-author of the Philippine Independence Act, and to all his colleagues in the United States Senate and House of Representatives. As for your President, under whose leadership the Tydings-McDuffie Act was passed, and who was co-author of the Atlantic Charter, his name will be written in history as one of the world's greatest spokesmen of freedom and human dignity.

The tides of war and destruction have swept over the Philippines since the passage of the Tydings-McDuffie Act. Today a new situation exists there. The years of peace and progress foreseen in the Philippine Independence Act have been scarred by Japanese aggression.

The Pacific war has taught us a lesson—both the United States and the Philippines. President Roosevelt doubtless meant this when he said, while the battle was raging in

Bataan: "I give to the people of the Philippines my solemn pledge that their freedom will be redeemed and their independence established and protected. The entire resources in men and material of the United States stand behind that pledge."

I hope that we shall have the full support of both Senator Tydings and Senator Radcliffe in carrying out President Roosevelt's pledge on behalf of the American people.

WHAT America did in the Philippines in time of peace has repaid her well in her hour of peril and in terms of the esteem and respect of all mankind. I speak for the people of the Philippines when I express our lasting recognition of America's honorable and high-minded policy. Today, in the midst of war, the whole world looks to you to add even greater lustre to your name and reputation as the champion of human freedom.

Commissioner Safeguards Filipinos' Interests

Resident Commissioner Joaquin M. Elizalde can look back on more than four years rich with accomplishments in protecting Filipinos in their legal rights as citizens of the Philippines, in establishing unity and cooperation among various Filipino groups in the United States, and in promoting friendlier understanding between Americans and Filipinos.

A one-time source of much trouble to Filipinos was their citizenship status in the United States. As non-citizens they were barred from many opportunities enjoyed by citizens. At the outbreak of the war, clarification of their status became imperative. In many cases arising from this particular difficulty the Resident Commissioner succeeded in obtaining just and equitable legislation and rulings for Filipinos who, as citizens of the Philippines, owed allegiance to the United States and were entitled to privileges and opportunities accorded citizens of the United States.

Even with their status as United States nationals fully established, Filipinos often encountered difficulties in having themselves identified as citizens of the Philippines. To cope with this problem, the Resident Commissioner's office, through its Nationals Division, with the approval of the Office of Philippine Affairs in the Department of State, issued certificates of identity, providing documentary evidence of their citizenship. This certificate helped many Filipinos retain or secure employment, which otherwise would have been closed to them as a result of a misunderstanding of their true status.

Filipinos Eligible to Work in Defense Plants

In January, 1939, when the appropriations for the Works Progress Administration were submitted to the Congress, it was provided that no part of the money would be paid to anyone who was not a citizen of the United States. Thus many citizens of the Philippines would have been deprived of the benefits of this relief measure had it not been for the timely intervention of the Resi-

dent Commissioner. He succeeded in including among the beneficiaries of this measure "persons owing allegiance to the United States who are in need." The same provision was included in later relief appropriations.

Similar provisions in appropriation acts and national defense contracts for 1942 and 1943 permitted Filipinos to work in war plants. Today thousands of Filipinos work in shipyards, arsenals, airplane plants and Government agencies, like the Office of War Information and Office of Censorship.

Passage of another bill providing "that no person shall be eligible to hold any civil position or civil office under the United States, and in the continental United States, unless such person is a citizen of the United States." It was, fortunately, never reported out of committee.

Other legislative measures enacted by Congress on the strength of representations made by Resident Commissioner Elizalde include the Nationality Act of 1940, which, as amended, permits the naturalization of Filipinos who have joined the armed forces of the United States; the law appropriating the sugar excise tax funds to provide for public relief and civilian defense in the Philippines, and an amendment to the Merchant Marine Act of 1936 to give preference to Filipino seamen in posts allowed non-citizens in the American merchant marine.

Legal Division Alert

At one time a bill was introduced in the Senate of Washington State prohibiting aliens from joining labor organizations. This measure would have adversely affected Filipinos. With the assistance of the War Department and the congressional representatives of the state of Washington, Mr. Elizalde had the bill amended so as not to affect Filipinos.

In some passport and immigration difficulties, the Office of the Resident Commissioner has rendered assistance to Filipinos. Representatives of this office have appeared before the Immigration Appeal Board in behalf of citizens