

United States Government Agencies in the Philippines

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey

UNLIKE land and air transportation hazards, maritime hazards are not above the surface; they lurk unseen, a little submerged under the outwardly safe expanse of water. No sober mariner would risk his vessel in waters where these dangers abound uncharted. And Philippine waters, because of the war, have become littered by wrecks of sunken ships to a condition where the channels in Philippine harbors are unsafe unless carefully charted. This need for re-charting Philippine waters was seen by the American Congress when it enacted the Philippine Rehabilitation Act which provides, among other things, for the resumption of coast and geodetic survey work in the Philippines.

The Act authorizes the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey to continue until June 30, 1950, the survey work it conducted prior to December 7, 1941. It also authorizes the Director of Coast and Geodetic Survey to train 20 Filipinos designated by the President of the Philippines each year until 1950. The rehabilitation program is further discussed in the agreement between the American and Philippine governments signed on May 12, 1947. Under this agreement, the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey undertakes the rehabilitation of its Philippine counterpart, the recharting of Philippine waters, the continuation of other survey work conducted before the war, and the training of qualified Filipinos for future officers and personnel of the Philippine Bureau.

Immediately upon the start of the program, the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey acquired for the Philippine Bureau the three-story concrete Oracca building and compound in Binondo, Manila. Then the local office was headed by Lt. Glenn W. Moore, USCGS, who was at that time temporarily serving in the U.S. Army. He was succeeded in June, 1947, by Lt. Comdr. Charles Pierce, the current head. Capt. Andres O. Hizon heads the Philippine Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Among the major accomplishments of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey program are the outfitting of the Philippine survey fleet with 5 vessels, the preparation of a weekly notice to mariners, the re-surveying of the Manila harbor and Bay area, the topographic mapping of Manila Bay and parts of the city of Manila, the establishment of precise level lines from Manila to San Fernando and to Sangley Point, and the establishment of primary tide stations

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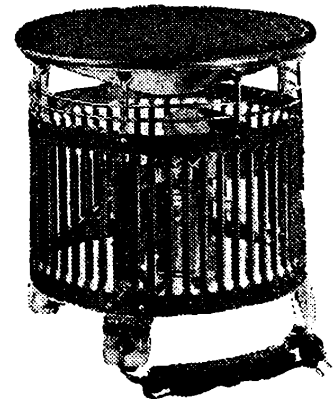
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at Manila, San Fernando, Legaspi, Cebu, Davao, and Jolo. At the time of writing, arrangements are being made by the USCGS for the acquisition by the Philippine Government of complete reproduction and printing equipment which will enable the Philippine Bureau of Coast and Geodetic Survey to reproduce or print nautical charts, maps, coast-pilot notes, tide tables, and other related publications.

The program is financed by funds, taken from the lump sum of \$120,000,000 allocated by the Philippine Rehabilitation Act for the restoration and improvement of public property and essential public services. Varying amounts are appropriated every fiscal year; \$178,235 were appropriated in 1947 and \$306,178 in 1948. For the current fiscal year \$381,892 has been appropriated. An estimated \$330,000 is expected to be appropriated for 1950. More than one-third of the total appropriations has been used in rehabilitating the bureau offices, in the purchase or repair of equipment, and in the commissioning, repairing, and outfitting of survey vessels.

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The U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey training program for survey officers, consists of two 10-month training periods, the first spent in the Philippines and the second in the United States. Ten trainees already finished their training and are at present holding commissions ranging from ensign to captain in the Philippine Bureau of Coast and Geodetic Survey. Ten trainees are scheduled to return to the Philippines early this year upon completion of their training period in the United States. Another 10 trainees have finished the Philippine phase of their train-

ing and are scheduled to leave for the United States this month. Applications are at present being entertained for openings in the next group of trainees.

It is generally expected that before the termination of the program in 1950, there will be enough able Filipino officers and personnel to run the affairs of the Bureau. It is also officially believed that if additional responsibilities are delegated to the Philippine Bureau of Coast and Geodetic Survey by Philippine legislation, such as administering the lighthouse service, producing topographic maps, compiling aeronautical charts, gathering magnetic and seismic data, establishing a magnetic observatory, etc., the organization existing in 1950 will be in a position to take over additional duties and make full use of its trained personnel.

The number of persons currently employed by the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey is 111; 8 are Americans and 103 are Filipinos. The Philippine Bureau of Coast and Geodetic Survey employs a total of 230 officers and civil service personnel. When the American rehabilitation agency ceases to operate in 1950, the Philippine Bureau is expected to function with a complement of 45 officers and some 200 enlisted men and civil service personnel.

United States Information Service, Manila

“The United States aid policy is not directed against any doctrine, but against hunger.” — *Paul G. Hoffman*

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