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The Philippines After American Rule: United States-Philippine Relations

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preoccupation with love." She *could have*: but did she? Why could the Filipino poetess not have been influenced by other poets—by Keats or Shelley or Elizabeth Barrett Browning? That is a question that can be answered only by examining Tarrosa Subido's text: but we are given no text, only an assertion.

Again, on a preceding page we find this statement: "Angela Manalang Gloria's intense lyricism and passionate romanticism were derived probably from Edna St. Vincent Millay...." Again: *derived probably*. No proof.

Perhaps the author may have thought that no proof was needed. In which case we are in the realm of personal impressions, of surmises, of statements whose truth is taken for granted without documentation.

Which may explain the rather startling statement on page 2: "Proofs of the existence of a pre-Spanish tradition were lost with the destruction of Philippine incunabula." To be destroyed, the Philippine incunabula must have existed. How do we know they existed? Does the author seriously suggest that printing existed in the Philippines before the coming of the Spaniards? If so, where is the proof for such a novel suggestion? (Don't say: "The proofs were destroyed when the incunabula were destroyed.")

This kind of assertion renders the scholarship of the book suspect. Perhaps it is not a finished book. Since the author certainly knows her subject, may we express the hope that she will write a more carefully documented and more critically oriented work on this same subject? It is a subject worth writing about, for those four decades from 1898 to 1941 were among the most important decades in Philippine history.

MIGUEL A. BERNAD

THE PHILIPPINES AFTER AMERICAN RULE

UNITED STATES-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS, 1946-56. By Sung Yong Kim. Washington, D.C.: Public Affairs Press, 1968. iv, 158 pp.

Dr. Sung Yong Kim examines the political, economic, and military relations between the Philippines and the United States covering the first ten years after the withdrawal of American sovereignty. The decade under consideration is, of course, both significant and unique. It is significant because it was during the period that the initial details of "close and special" ties with the United States, after the

latter's withdrawal, in the form of agreements, missions, and pledges were laid down; unique because it was during the years mentioned, but notably during the Magsaysay years, that the "close and special" ties with the United States reached their peak.

While recognizing the irritants in the relationship between the two countries, the author believes that in the light of economic uncertainties coupled with the external threat of communism at that time, what each side gained and conceded in favor of the other was on the whole a fair exchange. Acceptance of the assessment suggests that the formal agreements which form what is now known as "special relations" were entered into in pursuit of national goals each side considered, to advance its own national interests, rather than, as sometimes naively assumed especially on the part of the Philippines, mainly on the basis of historical friendship. Allusions to this historical friendship were resorted to in so far as they promoted national objectives. That there is now a move to reexamine United States-Philippine relations can partly be explained by the fact that past agreements accidentally or coincidentally served similar goals for dissimilar reasons or priorities. For example, Dr. Kim points out in connection with the formation of the SEATO:

The Republic of the Philippines was the only Southeast Asian country in which the United States had operating military establishments readily available for supporting collective action in the area; Filipino cooperation in any measures to be taken, therefore, was almost indispensable. Thus, it was that the Philippines' desire to strengthen national security and the United States policy of thwarting the Communist conquest of Southeast Asia, came to complement each other. (p. 46)

The author sees two currents of nationalism which attained their clearest articulation in the confrontation between Magsaysay and Recto. The former "stood for maintaining and strengthening the close ties with the United States while cultivating friendship with Asian countries outside the Communist bloc." (p. 39) The latter on the other hand, advocated "loosening the bonds with the United States and giving priority to closer relations with neighboring Asian countries," (p. 39) including members of the communist bloc. Needless to say, whereas Recto was the spokesman for a very small minority during the Magsaysay administration, today his views pervade the "new" orientation of Philippine foreign policy.

The discussion of the Magsaysay-Recto controversy is effectively utilized by the author to analyze the various aspects of Philippine-American relations during the period under consideration. But while the approach is useful in regard to political and military relations, it is too simplified when extended to examine the economic. Chapter IV

("Towards Economic Security") needs a little more elaboration. Some discussion of the fiscal policy controversy during the Magsaysay administration would have been a helpful background. The move to attain economic equality with the United States during the period was an important aspect of the controversy. Similarly, there is a need to explain some of the forces operating in the United States that bear on foreign policy in general and relations with the Philippines in particular. While there is a brief allusion to decision-making and special interests in Chapter 1 (p. 4) the reference needs to be spelled out. After all, foreign policy is one of the outputs of the political system. Not unlike other policies or outputs, foreign policy is the outcome of competing demands on the decision-makers. When ultimately promulgated, it assumes authoritativeness, uniformity, and finality, thereby making its much checkered background.

The author's final observations are worth noting: "The United States recognized the value of the Island...The Filipinos, anxious for their security against the Communist menace...wanted to continue United States military protection apart from the economic benefits of the association. There was no prospect of Philippine nationalism assuming a neutralist character in the foreseeable future." (p. 148) The observations were as relevant in 1956 as they are today. What then might have been asserted as the realities of the period are now raised, however, as questions within the context of the succeeding years.

The book contains a few misspelled names: Lanuza (p. 128) for Lanuza; Mabañag (p. 137) for Mabanag; Bancita Warns (p. 38) for Pacita Warns.

MANUEL S. ALDANA

WHAT VISITORS THOUGHT OF AUSTRALIA

VICTORIA. A VISITORS BOOK. By John Oldham and Alfred Stirling. With a Foreword by the Right Hon. Sir Robert Menzies. Melbourne. The Hawthorne Press, 1969. 139 pp.

A few decades ago, when the Philippines was still an American colony and Australia still a British possession, there was very little contact between the great Australian continent and our far-flung islands. We were located in the same hemisphere, yet the two countries were as far apart as the Antipodes. Filipinos went to Melbourne for the Eucharistic Congress, and Australians came to the Philippines to deliver beef and butter; but there was little cultural contact between Filipinos who looked eastward to America, and Australians who looked westward to England.