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## First Asian Conference on Legal Education

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of the Church that this grace of sanctification be more readily, more deeply and more widely received and made effective.

Priests, religious, and laity, therefore, have distinctive roles and functions in the life of the Church. They are all sent forth together with tasks which are different but complementary. Each group has need of the others, and the Church needs all.

The priest has a task which he alone can do. The religious is in the Church to witness to its world-transcending origin and destiny. To the laity belongs the tremendous responsibility of transforming the temporal order and bringing it to the feet of Christ. If they fail in their task, who shall do it for them?

PEDRO C. SEVILLA, S.J.

## *First Asian Conference on Legal Education*

About 100 delegates from Asian and Southeast Asian states gathered at the University of Singapore from August 27 to September 1, 1962 for the first conference on legal education in Asia. Representing the Philippines were Dean Vicente Abad Santos and Professor Bienvenido Ambion of the College of Law, University of the Philippines; Professor Enrique M. Fernando of the Code Commission; Dr. Jorge R. Coquia of the Office of the Solicitor General; Dean Crispin Baizos of the Institute of Law, Far Eastern University; and Dr. Enrique P. Syquia of the College of Law, University of Santo Tomas.

Among the prominent participants of the Conference were Dean L. A. Sheridan and Vice Dean L. C. Green of the University of Singapore; Justice T. S. Fernando and Professor T. Nadaraja of Ceylon; Justice S. A. Raman and Professor A. T. Markose of India; Solicitor General A. V. Winslow of Singapore; Dean Hadinoto of Indonesia; Judge M. Komatsu of Japan and Professor S. Z. Rahman of Pakistan.

Educated in either British, American or European legal institutions, the delegates, composed of law professors, justices, government lawyers and practicing attorneys, discussed such common problems of law school development as standards of admission, curriculum, teaching methods, and the language of instruction. With the exception of Japan and Thailand all the states represented were former colonies of western powers, hence the legal concepts expressed in the conference were predominantly those of the West. More particularly, many of the delegates came from states which were former British colonies and thus reflected the English common-law tradition. The Philippine delegates, on the other hand, represented the Roman-Spanish law and

American juristic methods. The legal methods of Thailand and Japan were distinctly their own.

At the session on the relations of law schools with the bench, bar and government an interesting discussion arose concerning academic criticism of government policies. Code Commissioner Enrique M. Fernando of the Philippines, who led the discussion, gave an account of the sharply critical comment on the conduct of government which law professors in the Philippines, even those of the state university, indulged in as a matter of course.

The Conference certainly brought home to Asian professors of law and legal scholars a clearer realization of their common responsibilities and problems—and has paved the way for further exchange of ideas. It appears that not only in the Philippines but in the other Asian countries also there are too many law schools with too many students, and too many lawyers licensed but unfit to practice law. Hence the raising of standards of law education and the improvement of the quality of the law profession is a common concern of all the states represented in the Conference, for in the final analysis, the improvement of the standards of the legal profession should mean greater respect for the rule of law in Asia.

JORGE R. COQUIA

## *Toward Greater Philippine Exports*

To those who think in pictorial terms, the word "export" in the Philippines conjures up sawlogs and lumber, bags of sugar, gold and mineral concentrates, piles of copra and bales of abaca. These five traditional export products have provided over 80% of the total traditional foreign exchange earnings and have, as a result, tended to circumscribe and cramp our thinking.

To export more has come to mean to export more of the traditional products. A great part of our best energies and attention has been devoted to this, with an ever increasing tendency to shut our eyes to other possibilities. While traditional exports should continue to receive full encouragement, we should not think only of them. To be realistic is not to be ungrateful. We must, however, recognize the overall unlikelihood that these products can continue to grow as they have in the past or even grow at better than a 5 to 7% rate per year. The demand for sugar is relatively inelastic and the other traditional crops face serious competition. If the economy is to grow, export earnings must grow much faster than this.