

philippine studies

Ateneo de Manila University • Loyola Heights, Quezon City • 1108 Philippines

The Peace Corps

John W. McCarreon

Philippine Studies vol. 10, no. 1 (1962): 150–151

Copyright © Ateneo de Manila University

Philippine Studies is published by the Ateneo de Manila University. Contents may not be copied or sent via email or other means to multiple sites and posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's written permission. Users may download and print articles for individual, noncommercial use only. However, unless prior permission has been obtained, you may not download an entire issue of a journal, or download multiple copies of articles.

Please contact the publisher for any further use of this work at philstudies@admu.edu.ph.

<http://www.philippinestudies.net>
Fri June 30 13:30:20 2008

sensed a Macapagal victory, since by 11:35 a.m., Wednesday, OQC had already tabulated 58% of the total vote. Four years earlier, at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, the day after election, the fastest unofficial tally had tabulated only 13% of the total vote.

On Wednesday night, 24 hours after the close of the polling places, Bohol Congressman Bartolome Cabangbang aired a radio protest against supposedly unreliable and partisan telegraphed OQC figures. OQC National Directorate official Attorney Francisco Ortigas replied over the radio and through the newspapers that the movement was strictly non-partisan, a project of the citizenry at large.

Of the movement, President-elect Macapagal later said: "It marks another milestone in the Philippine democratic way of life." Max Soliven, publisher of *The Evening News*, wrote: "In spite of many delays and distractions... the men and women of Operation Quick Count deserve a vote of commendation, not an investigation as threatened yesterday by Congressman Bartolome Cabangbang (Nacionalista, Bohol). They never pretended their tabulations were official, but could not help the fact that they were also psychological."

RODOLFO F. CONCEPCION

The Peace Corps

The first unit of President Kennedy's Peace Corps, 138 strong, arrived in Manila on October 12, 1961. Busses immediately took them to hastily built barracks at the Boy Scout Jamboree Headquarters in Los Baños, Laguna. Here the group lived and trained for six weeks (a dialect course and acclimatization lectures), after which they were posted on December 3 to the Bikol and the Visayas, where most now act as teacher's aides in barrio public schools.

The main aim of the Peace Corps, be it noted, is to have Americans learn about people in other countries — how they live, what their interests and motivations are. Teaching and other services rendered in any country are incidental. The real hope is that out of this group and other such groups will come well-informed and sympathetic foreign service officers. The idea is, of course, not new, although the scale on which it is being done now is new. It is a good idea and it is succeeding.

The necessary and expected confusion attending the organization and training of the first group was aggravated by several factors. Los Baños is too far (two hours or a little less by car) from Manila for

the skilled training resources, which are located mostly in that city, to be readily available. Staff officers for the Corps are too few. More than the usual ill-considered, if not ignorant, public comment about the Corps affected the morale of the volunteers. Comfortably placed American government personnel considered the Corps an affront to themselves, while some American businessmen labelled the whole operation jejune. Americans in Manila could have done more to lighten the burden laid on the staff officers, who often had to work around the clock.

Many Filipinos, noticeably the young, received the volunteers of the Corps with great hospitality and thus made a very positive contribution to the training program. The University of the Philippines was host to the group, while Ateneo de Manila supplied orientation lectures.

As the program develops, more effective training methods will be instituted and experience will define more clearly the goals of the Corps locally. These clearer goals, it is hoped, will break the relationship out of the traditional government-to-government mold and make it instead a true people-to-people thing. Resources outside of government circles have yet to be exploited by the Corps.

Meanwhile, the young people of the first group are already in the barrios, learning as they go, and from all reports making a fair start towards the ideal of warm *personal* contact.

JOHN W. MCCARRON

National Science Week

The *mañana* spirit may be "accepted" in the Philippines, but the impossible can also be accomplished with speed and efficiency. The National Science and Technology Week, held from November 20th to the 26th, can certainly be viewed with the pride of accomplishment.

As late as June it was decided to postpone the annual Science and Technology Week from July to November so that it would become part of the Rizal Year Centennial celebration. It was also decided to vastly expand the activities of the Week. The result had everyone's eyes popping.

Outstanding scientists from Australia, Israel, the United Kingdom of Great Britain, West Germany, Thailand, India, and a large group from the United States were on hand to lend counsel, prestige and encouragement to the growing science-consciousness of the Philippines.