

PHILIPPINES RUSH DEFENSE EFFORT

General MacArthur and Staff of American Officers Train Filipino Manpower

SUPPLIES SENT FROM U. S.

By H. FORD WILKINS

MANILA, P. I.—The growing Pacific crisis has upset the old argument that any Japanese expansion southward would strike directly at the Philippines and thus force the United States into war. Japan today is playing for bigger stakes. The United States is involved in bigger issues. The Philippines are endangered primarily because of their ties to the United States.

They offer to Japan a vulnerable point in the American armor. If a quick blow were necessary to appease public unrest in Japan, or to vindicate a fatal engagement in war, the Philippines would be a logical point of attack. That is why intensified defense efforts are under way here. That is why General Douglas MacArthur has been recalled to active duty and chosen to head the Far Eastern forces of the United States, with headquarters here.

America has never maintained more than token garrisons in the Philippines. Since 1900 the American personnel has not exceeded 10,000 men and officers, and the United States air force, coastal defense and ordnance were not considered sufficient to hold off a determined attack. President Manuel Quezon as late as last year was saying that it would be impossible to repel an invasion.

A Change of View

President Quezon has changed his mind. For the past several months army transports and commercial vessels have been unloading soldiers, guns, ammunition, trucks and airplanes here. General MacArthur is organizing supplies of food and equipment, providing quarters and transportation and giving intensive tactical training to the growing forces. For the bulk of the man power he is using Filipino soldiers with only about six months' training. Absorption of these brown-skinned young fighters has already begun. Original plans called for a trained army of 400,000 Filipinos by the time the country was ready for independence. About 130,000 have already undergone their period of compulsory training and are available as fighting material.

General MacArthur is convinced that the Philippines can be defended. He has never said that they could be made absolutely secure from invasion, but he has said that invasion could be made so costly that no foreign power in its right mind would attempt it. He told Filipino student officers:

Price of Conquest

"Just as any machine-gun nest can be captured if the attacker is willing to pay the price, so can the Philippines be captured if the enemy is willing to take the losses. It has been estimated that the Philippines are worth \$6,000,000,000. If your country follows the present plan, if you are determined to defend your rights and liberty and homes to the last ditch, it will cost an invader between \$5,000,000,000 and \$10,000,000,000 to take your country from you."

Probably the best outward evidence of America's intentions can be seen in the activity around General MacArthur's quarters. With increased scope of action and millions of dollars of War Department funds at his disposal, he has enlarged his administrative staff and is working ten to twelve hours a day. Seven American generals are under his command, each with specific assignments in infantry, coast defense, air corps or administration.

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