

munities and cultures. Each in his own way expressed the same determination and capacity for effort. With them the cake of custom and tradition, the common language, abide. And they would share even in their separations common memories of the old country, the same old land of the Ilocos, cherished no doubt all the more for what it had exacted of brawn and sacrifice from countless generations of Ilocanos.

It is a phenomenon which may have been described as "clannishness". It is probably better described as a sense of community and an attitude toward life, strong because it is deeply rooted in tradition.

COMMENTS IFOR SOLIDUM

Philippine Center for Advanced Studies

In a sense, Dr. Fernandez's piece may be viewed as it were of a cultural community whose traditional homeland is Region I, but whose ethnic members are all over the country. Region I belongs to the second category of regions, that is, regions with minimal development. In spite of the harshness of the land the anvil of adversity produce an intrepid people. What has been the effect of intrepidity of the Ilocanos on the rate of development of the Region? It has been observed that generally, migrants are more enterprising and intrepid than the regional population. Has migration therefore, and with it the drain of intrepidity not been a negative factor to the Region?

Fernandez: I think that this Ilocano trait will be there for generations to come. I believe that the Ilocos region in spite of all its problems is faring very well compared with the other regions because of these traits — the continuing practice of thrift, sturdiness, etc. We just don't feel very good when we don't do anything. It has become to be the habit. If I may say so, I'd like to imagine that Vigan is like Athens and the Philippines is Hellas

OPEN FORUM

Participant: Dr. Fernandez said that the Ilocanos must make for political stability and he has enumerated a good line-up of Ilocano greats. What would you say about Jose Ma. Sison and his participation in the Ilokano Movement which justifies President Marcos's move to save the Republic and reform society?

Fernandez: I did not include another Ilocano, General Carlos P. Romulo because he is still alive. Let us leave that to history and history has a very enduring way of rendering judgment. For instance, in his time, Stalin was considered a murderer along with other Russian Tzars. But all the violence is forgotten. It will all depend on the outcome of history. So I think we should reserve that for another time.

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