

ADDRESS

By

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It has been suggested to me that we are living in a pragmatic age. That people no longer are satisfied entirely with theories. That they now demand concrete, practical results. The words "we" and "people" are *embrasive* and whilst I would hesitate to agree that esoteric theories no longer attract I do agree that the desire for concrete, practical results is gaining ground.

Today we witness the formal inauguration of the Statistical Training Centre. This, I think may be regarded as being both concrete and practical. The idea of a Statistical Training Centre arose out of recommendations by a UN Technical Assistance expert and has been brought to fruition through the combined efforts of French, Indian, and American experts and their Filipino counterparts. The persons, the results of whose combined efforts are responsible for the Statistical Training Centre, deserve to be remembered. They are Dr. William I. Abraham, Mr. Max Lacroix, Dr. Meredith B. Givens, Mr. Satya B. Sen, all of the United Nations; Dr. Enrique T. Virata of the University of the Philippines and Director of the Centre, Dr. Horacio C. Lava of the Central Bank, Dr. Leon Ma. Gonzalez of the Bureau of Census and Statistics, and Mr. Cesar M. Lorenzo of the Philippine Statistical Association and of the Central Bank. These gentlemen working together towards a common goal, in a true spirit of cooperation, have brought into being what in May 1952 was but an idea on paper. Thus in a matter of two years, we see the translation of an idea into reality.

It will not be necessary, I believe, for me to go into the purposes of the Statistical Training Centre, or the methods the Centre will pursue in order to carry out its purposes. A short statement on this subject will be found on the second page of the programme. It would, however, not be out of place to

make brief reference to the work the United Nations is doing in the field of statistics. In 1953 the United Nations sent 34 different statistical experts, drawn from 16 countries, to work in 19 countries. Behind these field activities is the Statistical Office of the United Nations. That office assembles and publishes basic information for all countries. Then there is the Statistical Commission, which is concerned with international statistical standards and programmes.

His Excellency, the President has emphasized the importance of statistical development in relation to international needs. These needs are not peculiar to the Philippines but are common to all nations. They are international. As His Excellency has said, statistics play a basic and integral part in the development and operating plans of Government and, I would add, of private enterprise. To bring about the establishment of sound and permanent industry, whether privately or government owned; whether it be large-scale industry, cottage industry or farming; statistics are essential. Statistics and census, properly interpreted, are the basic facts that enable leaders to guide nations toward progress and prosperity. They are the basic facts that will enable your leaders, whether government or industrial, to solve many of the economic problems with which your nation is faced and so fit the nation's economic requirements into the larger sphere of international life and trade. The Statistical Training Centre which has been inaugurated today will, if given adequate support and backing, play a vital role first and foremost as a national institution and later, perhaps, as an international Statistical Centre. You may be assured that the United Nations and its Agencies will continue its support and from the remarks of His Excellency I have every confidence that the Statistical Training Centre will receive every encouragement to develop on sound lines so that it may meet the continually expanding needs of the nation.

