

ADDRESS

By

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The Statistical Training Center was established by agreement between the Philippine Government and the United Nations with firm commitments by both parties to support its operations as long as funds will permit. There are two immediate objectives: the first is to provide instruction to Filipino students as well as those of the neighboring countries in statistical science and the second is to enhance the efficiency of the government workers in statistics by offering to them in-service training. The academic phase of the work started last June with about forty students, the majority of whom are employed in government offices and government agencies.

The in-service training phase is to be started and it is the purpose of this ceremony to mark its inauguration. The circumstances and environmental climate which attended the establishment of this Center could not have been more propitious. One of the first things which President Magsaysay did soon after he assumed the high office to which the Filipino people overwhelmingly voted him was to proclaim *Statistics Week*. This proclamation gave indication to the importance which our beloved President attaches to statistical science as a means of collecting and interpreting data needed for administration, planning and policy determination both by government leaders and executives of business and industry.

As the specific goals of the present administration were unfolded to the public, the need for current, accurate and comprehensive data about our country was greatly accentuated. My time allotment does not permit me to discuss or even mention all of these specific aims and so I will limit myself to two of them. There is no doubt that these data and data analysts are needed if we are to place this country on a self-sufficient basis with respect to rice, with a price within the reach of the consumers. Factual data and analysts will likewise be necessary if

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we are to increase the tempo of our industrialization in order to lay the foundation which will enable us to raise the standard of living of the rural population in our barrios. These specific goals compose the facets of the fundamental objective to make the Philippines a truly democratic and free society.

The different entities and organizations established in Manila have demonstrated that they are entirely in accord with the establishment of this Center in this city. The Foreign Operations Administration, the Philippine Council for United States Aid and the various regional organizations of the United Nations such as the World Health Organization, the Food and Agricultural Organization have expressed their sympathetic cooperation and have extended valuable personnel and are ever ready to extend financial assistance to this project. Finally, the Heads of the various Departments of our Government have shown so much interest in the Center that the working staff cherish the hope that they would be able to do what is expected of them.

In conclusion, I want to take the opportunity to express the deep gratitude of the staff of the Center to our beloved Vice-President for his graciousness in attending this ceremony in spite of the heavy demands on his time by the affairs of the State.

