

October 26, 1964

Notes from the Philippines

To the Academic Council
From Mr. Albertson

It was wonderful to get reports in letter form from you, Mrs. Burns, from Gordon Haferbecker and also from Kurt Schmeller. I appreciated the news that each of your letters brought to me and the opportunity to keep up with some of the activities and other areas of interest on the campus. Needless to say I am looking forward to the conclusion of this experience and return to the campus and an opportunity to assume responsibilities there.

The trip to MalayBalay was rewarding and exciting in many respects and while it had some moments of unusual interest I am pleased to have that trip behind me and also an experience at LosBanos. Let me mention briefly some of the things connected with these two trips. With respect to the flight down to MalayBalay, we had no trouble getting into Cagayan de Oro and then catching the plane for MalayBalay. However, due to the altitude in MalayBalay and the surrounding mountains there was some question with respect to whether or not the plane would land. We circled the air port twice and finally did put down with no difficulty. However, the pilot suggested to me as I got off the plane that he would advise that I not plan on coming out the following day (Tuesday, October 20) due to the fact that the weather was almost certain to be bad in the afternoon when the plane was scheduled to arrive in MalayBalay and again depart, and also because of the fact that last week out of a schedule of four stops at MalayBalay the plane only landed once. True to form, the clouds rolled in that afternoon and while I was enjoying a very fine visit at the Normal School and the opportunity to meet the dean and some of the faculty members there, it clouded up and rained and the plane did not land that afternoon. The weather forecast was for more rain the following afternoon and so we immediately started making inquiries regarding the possibility of a ride from MalayBalay to Cagayan de Oro by means of a service vehicle. We managed to hitch a ride on a land-rover going to Cagayan de Oro at 4:00 A.M. on Tuesday. The young engineer and C.P.A. were taking their wives to the airport for a flight to Manila and they were also taking the engineer's mother and another young man, so the eight of us left MalayBalay at 4:00 A.M. via landrover and drove the 75-85 miles over one of the roughest mountain roads that I have been on. I sat in

the back of the landrover on one of the seats and literally bounced for four hours while we made the trip down through some very beautiful country in the northern Mindanao. We went through three deep canyons, saw many waterfalls and observed some of the loveliest tropical flowers that have been my privilege to see. African tulip trees, growing sixty feet tall, were rather common and the bright orange blossom up against the dark green foliage was indeed spectacular. Also the acacia trees were in bloom, as well as other tropical flowers and shrubs that were most spectacular. We passed by several large pineapple plantations, the most outstanding was the one of the Philippine Packing Company. This plantation, in addition to raising pineapples, also was in the cattle business and has developed a process of feeding the pineapple refuse to cattle, and the company is enjoying considerable success in this venture. The Del Monte Company is also in northern Mindanao with its pineapple plantations, and recently Dole Pineapple has gone into that area. In fact, there is considerable discussion in the Philippines with respect to the Dole Company's entry into the pineapple field here in the Philippines. It seems an agreement was reached between Heron and Dole whereby Dole has acquired at a rather nominal sum a long-term lease on some very favorable land. The question of "Yankee Imperialism" and the "Colonial Psychology" of the Philippines is being discussed to some length and in some degree of heat.

We made it to Cagayan de Oro in good time and I was able to get my tickets changed so that I caught a non-stop flight from that city to Manila.

On Wednesday of this week (yesterday) I had one of the most interesting experiences while in the Philippines. Dr. Williams, the Educational Chief of AID, Dr. Rork, the Higher Educational Specialist, and I went down to LosBanos and visited the Agricultural College of the University of the Philippines. It was also our privilege to go over and visit the International Rice Institute, an agency established by the Rockefeller Foundation, and one that is engaged in basic research as well as applied research in the area of improving rice production and allied interests. The physical facilities are excellent and the outdoor test plots are most interesting to see. It was also a privilege to tour the facilities, meet scholars from all over the world, and have an opportunity to be apprized of the program of the International Rice Institute. Then the most interesting part of the trip followed the luncheon that we had at the Institute. Specifically, we went with a technician from the Agricultural College to four barrios (villages) south of LosBanos. There we were privileged to see the improvement programs developed in conjunction with the Agricultural College and the barrio lieutenants and citizens. The program consists of a team of four technicians, one in

farm management, one in home management, one in plant and one in animal husbandry. These four persons go into a barrio and live from one to two years, assisting the citizens in the improvement of their farm, their home, the agricultural products and animal raising. It was fascinating to see this actual research program at work and to talk with the young Filipinos who are members of the teams in these four barrios. There is no question in my mind but that this is the best example that I have seen or read of about the attempts to "democratize" these local communities, to strengthen them, and thus to provide a bulwark against the development and spread of Communism in this nation. At the present time some 44 barrios have either participated in the program or are currently participating in it. They are using a new strain of rice that has been developed by the International Rice Institute that has a shorter stalk, is more resistive to disease and to other factors that affect the development of the rice and also one that is non-photosensitive. Thus it is able to have a shorter growing season and matures earlier. In addition to the improved seedlings that they are using they are also trying to effectively eradicate the problems that come with rats. I was astonished to learn that from 30 to 40 percent of the rice crop is eaten while the rice is either in the growing stage or in storage by rats. If they are able to successfully eradicate rats then they will be able to actually export rice. At the present time they are importing about 10 percent of their crop.

We also visited a Cooperative Store that was established in one of the barrios and is part of the team project. Here it was most interesting to watch the technicians discuss with very obvious pride what they are doing with the group of citizens in the barrio and the involvement of the citizens in decision-making processes. I only hope that the pictures that I took are adequate to help describe pictorially some of the things that I saw.

Tomorrow I go to Bayambang, some four and a half hours' train ride north from Manila, to visit another Normal School. This Normal School was developed originally by UNESCO and was an attempt to develop a "model" Normal School for Southeast Asia. Apparently, for reasons that are not known to me at this time, the project failed, but it is a school that is supported by the national government and several have urged that I see this program in action. I will leave on the train at 6:30 in the morning and hope to return late tomorrow night.

Saturday afternoon I have been invited to a "cock-out" given by Mr. and Mrs. Ingersoll. Mr. Ingersoll is the Chief of the entire AID operation and is second in command to the Ambassador here in the Philippines. The

"cook-out" will be held at the Sea Front. This is an establishment that is a club commissary recreational area, owned and operated by the United States Employees Association. It was formerly a navy base.

I find myself anxious to wrap up this project and to start on my homeward journey. I have made my decision with respect to which one of the five candidates I am going to recommend for affiliation with us and I will go into some detail with respect to that man and the rationale for the choice in another tape.