

FILIPINOS RAISE GUARD AGAINST 'FIFTH COLUMN'

Japan, Irked at Immigration Quota Bill, Hints at Reprisals.

By JOHN THOMPSON
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SAN FRANCISCO, May 3. The undermining of governments through "fifth column" activities in Scandinavia, the Balkans and other parts of the world have made the United States and the Philippines look to their own affairs in the Philippines Islands.

It is still an open question whether we will get out of the Philippines by 1945, as presently provided by law, but at least until then we are responsible for their defense. We want nothing to happen there that would make our job more difficult than it is.

The term, "fifth column," originated during the Spanish Civil War, and especially during the siege of Madrid. The Franco forces were divided into four columns advancing against the Loyalists, each more or less independent of the other, but all converging on the Loyalist forces.

Started by Franco

Gen. Franco was quoted at that time as saying the ultimate victory would be won, not by any of these four columns, but by his fifth column, by which he meant his supporters inside Madrid and behind the Loyalist lines, operating in his favor from within, by espionage, sabotage, "boiling from within," and the like.

The Loyalists took up the term, and began designating all such "inside activities" as the Fifth Column. Radicals throughout the world then took it up from the Spanish Loyalists, and today it is widely accepted as any aggregation "boiling from within" a regime to undermine and destroy it in favor of some outside force.

Manila, frankly afraid of Japanese infiltration, is now putting the finishing touches on an immigration bill which will reduce the annual influx of Japanese into the Islands from 3000 to 500.

Applies to All Nationals

To avoid offending the sensitive Japanese, the new immigration quotas are to apply to all nationalities. In addition, the word is being passed around that the restrictions were forced upon the Philippines to prevent unemployment caused by an influx of refugee Jews and Spaniards.

In spite of this soft-soaping, the Japanese don't like the new bill, and are accusing the United States of pulling the strings which animate the Philippines to bear down on their immigration.

It is all right, as the Japanese see it, to put Europeans on quotas, but the Philippines are Asiatic and the Japanese, as Asiatics, are entitled to come in as they please.

Not Entirely Consistent

This is not entirely consistent with Japanese practice, which strictly controls all immigration into Japan and the areas she dominates, but in this case prestige and national aims not logic, dominate.

The Japanese press is whipping up public indignation over what it terms a "glaringly unfriendly act of the Philippines in their attempt to restrict Japanese immigration." It hints at reprisals.

It is claimed in Japan that the immigration bill was originated in Washington and that Paul V. McNutt, former U. S. High Commissioner to the Philippines, was instrumental in its framing. The claim of the Filipinos that they have a right to say who they want to admit to their country is ignored in Tokyo.

Filipinos See It as Proof

Manila views this Japanese outburst as proof that after all, there may be something to the suspicion that "fifth column" activities are contemplated already in operation. The Filipinos point out that they have been very tolerant in their immigration policy hitherto.

Some portions of the Philippines, notably the Davao region, are so full of Japanese that Japan's law governs the everyday lives of the Japanese there. In fact, some Manila wags have nicknamed the Davao region "Davaokuo"—a word play on Manchukuo.

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