

COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES

ARMY HEADQUARTERS

MANILA

IN REPLYING, REFER TO

January 8, 1937

MEMORANDUM -

For: Colonel Ord.

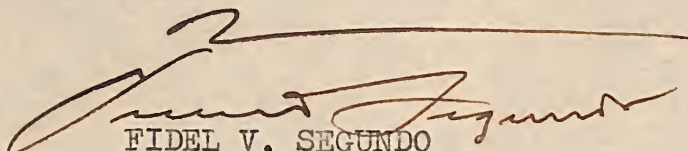
I understand that Lieutenant Velasquez is going to remain a First Lieutenant inasmuch as he was not rated sufficiently high to place him among those eligible for promotion to the grade of Captain. The point by point system used in the grading placed too much stress on Constabulary work, naturally, Lieutenant Velasquez with a relatively short experience in spite of his other qualifications could not overcome the loss of points incident to that system of rating.

When I first graduated from West Point I was at a loss groping for that undefinable thing which every ambitious man looks forward to, the opportunity to show what stuff one is really made of. My conception of duty, honor and country, as I understood them from West Point, was so high that that conception was out of place in the surroundings I was thrown into and handicapped me rather than helped me. Nevertheless, I have always insisted on the fulfillment of that conception of these three words, believing that the merit of the phrase "West Pointer" lies in them. As Filipino graduates we have formed some sort of an exclusive association and we know each other thoroughly. It is sad to report that several have failed to imbibe the spirit that our Alma Mater imparts to her graduates. There has come into their lives a certain distortion of the shiboloth of the corps through the temptations of modern life, greed for lucre and fast living. These have lost their military character. Lieutenant Velasquez remains a standard bearer of what is best of the West Pointer.

Lieutenant Velasquez functions under me as a member of the G-2 Section. He has demonstrated a manner of performance of duty, a norm of gentlemanly conduct, clear thinking and superior judgment unencumbered by political expediency or personal favors

and a distinctly qualified military knowledge that should place him head and shoulders above officers in his rank in the military service. And he is ambitious and progressive, spending his leisure in furthering his military knowledge, something that very very few officers even of the United States Army do.

Lieutenant Velasquez should be given a rank commensurate with his present usefulness in the military service at this period when there is a deficiency for personnel in that type of character and military knowledge needed at this stage of organization. I would not be shy to recommend Lieutenant Velasquez in the grade of Major. The Philippine Army will profit by it not only because of his military knowledge but because of what the "grip" imparts to the Corps.



FIDEL V. SEGUNDO
Colonel, PA.
A C of S, G-2