

May 17, 1928

Mr. Halstead Dorey
Malacanang Palace
Manila

Dear General:

On May 9, 1929, there will be a total eclipse of the sun, visible in Visayas. This eclipse is remarkable, because it last long (about 3 minutes) and because the sun will be quite high at the time of the eclipse. At the beginning of 1927, Americans sent an expedition to Sweden to observe an eclipse, which was to last less than a minute. The sun was quite close to the horizon, the eclipse taking place only one hour after sunrise.

In the International Astronomical Union there is a section devoted to the observation of eclipses. The Chairman of the Section is Col. Stratton, Cambridge, England. The American sub-delegate is Prof. J. Miller, President, Swarthmore College, Philadelphia. Now some time ago Prof. Miller was requested to report on the conditions of the Philippines for the observation of the eclipse. He wrote to me asking me to do the work for him. The result is the Publication, four copies of which I beg to present to you, for information of His Excellency. The International Astronomical Union is going to convene in Leyden, Holland, on July 5, 1928. I have mailed 50 copies of the report to Col. Stratton so that he may submit them to the astronomers assembled at Leyden. Whether astronomical parties from Europe will come to the Philippines, or Sumatra, or Siam or the Federated States, I do not know.

The U. S. Naval Observatory seems to be inclined to come to the Philippines as per inclosed letter. To this letter I sent by radio through NPO on January 20, 1928, the following reply:

"Superintendent, Naval Observatory, Washington, D.C. Reference eclipse 9 May 1929 weather first days May generally fine, dry, hot, fair clear afternoons. As to numerical data refer my article Popular Astronomy April 1927. More data being gathered ready for printer within two months. Last Christmas have gone over prospective places and chosen several sites between Iloilo, San Jose Buenavista. Ideal places around Iloilo. Transportation, communication living facilities very good. Earnest desire cooperate U.S. Naval Observatory every way, language, local experience within our means. - SELGA"