



Foundation Vice-President Modesto de Jesus (left) meets with Taguig Mayor L. Mariano (center) and MEC District Supervisor Juanita Carlos to discuss possible sponsorships of students in the area and to gauge official reaction to the Foundation.

MODESTO DE JESUS JOINS FOUNDATION AS PHILIPPINE "ANCHOR"

Modesto de Jesus ("Mod"), who served as Director for Management for 12 years in the Peace Corps/Philippines Manila Office has graciously accepted our offer of directing the work of the Foundation in the Philippines. He recently retired from Peace Corps and visited many of his former Peace Corps friends during a one month U.S. tour in July. Having become accustomed to long bus rides in the R.P., Mod and his wife opted to see America via Greyhound, travelling coast to coast and back again a la Peace Corps style. Probably an experience few of us have matched, or ever would like to. We feel fortunate to have someone as capable and hard-working as Modesto to represent us in the Philippines.

FOUNDATION WELL RECEIVED

A reception was held on November 30, 1983 at the Washington residence of philanthropist Stewart Mott. The Foundation's history, purpose and modus operandi were formally presented by Foundation President Jan T. Twarowski. Informal discussion with more than sixty guests indicated strong support among all and a willingness on the part of many to contribute their time and skills to the Foundation. The greater-than-anticipated turnout for this event and the quality of the feedback foretell success for the involvement of an expanded and active support base.

FIRST PEACE CORPS ALUMNI FOUNDATION AWARDS GIVEN

In June 1983, the Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development awarded its first scholarships. Awards were given to Elmo C. Singson of Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte to study Civil Engineering at the Technological Institute of the Philippines in Manila, and to William Catubig of Cagayan de Oro, Misamis Oriental to study Commerce at Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro City.

Mr. Catubig comes from a family with seven children of very modest means. Throughout high school he worked as a laborer and truck helper in order to provide money for his own schooling and to help supplement his family's meager income. Out of 191 graduates in his class, he was able to finish in the top third despite a large commitment of time to his job.

Mr. Singson is one of six children whose father is unemployed and mother works as a housekeeper and occasionally buys and sells small items. He has demonstrated academic excellence and according to one reference, a Catholic nun, "Elmo may be the only hope for the progress of the family. His elder brothers and a sister were not able to finish college due to their poor financial status."

We are pleased to be able to extend assistance to these two highly recommended Filipinos and wish them all the best in their studies and other activities.

EDUCATORS VOICE CONCERN OVER POPULATION GROWTH

The Manila daily newspaper the Bulletin Today recently reported that educational leaders in the Philippines have proposed and encouraged the adoption of effective government measures to curtail the growth of population which is the single most important cause of the varied problems plaguing the Filipino people, including shortage of classrooms, high unemployment, poverty and disease.

The educators meeting in Manila further cited statistics given by Education Minister Onofre D. Corpuz who said that at least 1 million young Filipinos enter Grade 1 each school year. Out of these 1 million, only 670,000 will reach Grade 6 and only 390,000 will ever finish high school.

We urge all of you to transform your concern into some kind of action. The Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development is one mechanism for doing this.

REGIONALIZATION OF FOUNDATION PLANNED

Several Peace Corps Alumni from different geographic areas have expressed an interest in serving as regional representatives/organizers for the Foundation. These persons will be involved in forming smaller groups that will assist in raising funds, disseminating information to interested parties, and providing inputs and feedback to the Board of Directors in Washington, D.C. If you are interested in becoming a regional representative, or in forming a regional group, we would be very happy to hear from you.

SUPPORT FROM FILIPINOS FOR FOUNDATION VERY STRONG

Many citizens of the Philippines have written to us to express their support and interest in the Foundation. One young Doctor from Cebu City wrote the following in a letter to one of the Board Members: "During elementary and high school I had friends and classmates who were so poor that their parents couldn't afford to continue their education. I particularly remember one girl in my grade six class who was in the top 10-she was really good but wasn't able to attain a college education for monetary reasons. I think what happened to her will be happening to her children, unless somebody helps them because the last time I met her was when she delivered her fifth child in Kauswagan (Hospital). She and her husband had just enough to survive."

DIRECT MAIL CAMPAIGN SHOWS PROMISE

The direct mail campaign which began in March 1983 has raised more than \$2,000 thus far. To date, about 1,000 RPCVs and staff who served in the Philippines have been solicited. The response rate has been approximately 10 percent -- an extremely high figure. More typical of mail solicitation is a 1-2 percent rate of response.

The Foundation wishes to thank those of you who have so generously contributed to the Foundation and we urge the rest of you to send in your checks soon. Without continued and further support of RPCV's, former PC/P staff members, and friends, it will be impossible to extend financial assistance to other able and deserving scholars.

CONTRIBUTORS							
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