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CHAPTER 12: THE MALOLOS REPUBLIC

Introduction

Emilio Aguinaldo returned to the Philippines from Hong Kong with a plan to form a Filipino government. To show the capacity of the Filipinos for self-government, Aguinaldo established the Dictatorial Government in May and, a month later, the Revolutionary Government. Different departments were created to take charge of the multifarious duties of the new government. In September the Congress was convoked at Malolos and a constitution prepared to guide the government in its progress toward republicanism. Diplomatic agents were sent abroad to work for the recognition of Philippine independence. But the United States, however, had decided to take over control of the Philippines, and in December 1898 the Treaty of Paris between Spain and the United States was concluded. The treaty gave the Philippines to the United States. Even so, the Filipino leaders proclaimed the Philippine Republic in Malolos with Aguinaldo as President.

The Dictatorial Government

In the wake of his military victories, Aguinaldo decided that it was time to establish a Filipino government. He had with him when he arrived from Hong Kong a draft of a plan prepared by Mariano Ponce for the establishment of a revolutionary government: Consul Wildman, however, had advised Aguinaldo earlier to establish a dictatorial government which later on could be the nucleus of a republican government similar to that of the United States. Probably because the critical times demanded a government with a strong executive, Ambrosio Rianzares Bautista, Aguinaldo's adviser, told him to form a dictatorial government. Consequently, Aguinaldo made known his intention of establishing such form of government when he announced, in the morning of May 24, 1898, that he was assuming "command of all the troops in the struggle for the attainment of our lofty aspirations, inaugurating a dictatorial government to be administered by decrees promulgated under my sole responsibility..." Later in the day, he issued a decree formally establishing the Dictatorial Government. The decree nullified the orders issued under the authority of the Biyak-na-Bato Republic and asserted that the Dictatorial Government was temporary in nature, "so that, when peace shall have been re-established and our legitimate aspiration for unrestricted liberty attained, it may be modified by the nation, in which rests the principle of authority."

Treatment of Enemy

In general, the Filipinos treated the Spanish prisoners with justice. But there were times when, because of hatred of the former masters, the Filipinos exceeded their enthusiasm and maltreated some Spaniards. Aguinaldo, wishing his people to follow the paths of righteousness and justice, appealed to them to treat the Spanish prisoners humanely. One of Aguinaldo's first acts as Dictator was to issue a circular, dated May 29, 1898, urging the people to stop the disgraceful treatment of the Spanish prisoners. On June 1, Aguinaldo issued another order providing that all classes of crimes were to be tried by competent military tribunals to maintain peace and order and to suppress crimes. Again and again, he impressed upon the people the necessity of respecting the persons and property of the enemy.

Declaration of Independence

With a government in operation, Aguinaldo thought that it was necessary to declare the independence of the Philippines. He believed that such a move would inspire the people to fight more eagerly against the Spaniards and at the same time lead the foreign countries to recognize the independence of the country. Mabini, who had by now been made Aguinaldo's unofficial adviser, objected. He based his objection on the fact that it was more important to reorganize the government in such a manner as to convince the foreign powers of the competence and stability of the new government than to proclaim Philippine independence at such an early period. Aguinaldo, however, stood his ground and won. On June 5, Aguinaldo issued a decree setting aside June 12 as the day for the proclamation of Philippine independence. At the same time, he commissioned Julian Felipe, a composer from Cavite, to prepare a composition which would be played during the independence ceremonies.

On June 11, Felipe showed to Aguinaldo the draft of his musical composition, which was entitled *Marcha Filipina Magdalo*. Aguinaldo and other revolutionary leaders, upon hearing the composition played on the piano, adopted it as the official march of the Philippines. Aguinaldo then requested Felipe to teach the music to the members of the band of San Francisco de Malabon so it could be played the next day. Felipe changed the title of the march to *Marcha Nacional Filipina* (Philippine National March).

On June 12, between four and five in the afternoon, Aguinaldo, in the presence of a huge crowd, proclaimed the independence of the Philippines at *Dambanang* Aguinaldo situated in Cavite Viejo, Province of Cavite. For the first time, the Philippine National Flag, made in Hongkong by Mrs. Marcela Agoncillo, assisted by Lorenza Agoncillo and Delfina Herbosa de Natividad, was officially hoisted and the Philippine National March played in public. The Act of the Declaration of Independence was prepared by Ambrosio Rianzares Bautista, who also read it. A passage in the Declaration reminds one of another passage in the American Declaration of Independence. The

Philippine Declaration was signed by ninety-eight persons, among them an American army officer who witnessed the proclamation. The proclamation of Philippine independence was, however, promulgated on August 1 when many towns had already been organized under the rules laid down by the Dictatorial Government.

Apolinario Mabini

It was immediately before the proclamation of independence that a young man was brought before Aguinaldo as his adviser. He was Apolinario Mabini. Born of very poor parents, Inocencio Mabini and Dionisia Maranan, in Talaga, Tanawan, Batangas, Mabini studied in a school in Tanawan, then conducted by a certain Simplicio Avelino. Much later, he transferred to a school conducted by the famous pedagogue, Father Valerio Malabanan. He continued his studies at San Juan de Letran and at the University of Sto. Tomas, where he received his law degree in 1894. His dream to defend the poor led him to forsake the priesthood, which his mother wanted him to take. Early in 1896, he contracted an illness, probably infantile paralysis, that led to the paralysis of his lower limbs. When the revolution broke out the same year, the Spanish authorities, suspecting that he was somehow involved in the disturbance, arrested him. The fact, however, that he could not move his lower limbs showed the Spaniards that they had made a mistake. He was released and sent to the San Juan de Dios Hospital. Mabini, it must be noted, was not entirely free from nationalistic association, for he was a member of Rizal's La Liga Filipina and worked secretly for the introduction of reforms in the administration of the government. In 1898, while vacationing in Los Baños, Aguinaldo sent for him. It took hundred of men taking turns at carrying the hammock he was in to bring Mabini to Kawit. Aguinaldo, upon seeing Mabini's physical condition, thought that he must have made a mistake in calling for him to help him in his work. What could a man in such condition do to help him? But when Mabini spoke, Aguinaldo's doubts vanished. There was firmness in the sick man's voice, and Aguinaldo decided to make him his trusted adviser. From then on, it was Mabini who stood behind Aguinaldo. Envious enemies called him the "Dark Chamber of the President," but his admirers considered him the "Brains of the Revolution."

Reorganization of Local Government

In view of the fact that Mabini believed in order, therefore, he prepared a decree for Aguinaldo's signature. Believing in the democratic principles, Mabini inserted in the decree a statement to the effect that it was "the first duty of the government to interpret faithfully the popular will." Mabini wanted Aguinaldo to be surrounded by representatives close to the people and who knew their needs so that the head of the State could take measures to meet those needs. Consequently, the Decree of June 18, 1898 provided for the reorganization of local government in those provinces already freed from Spanish control. Made electors were those inhabitants who were prominent for their high character and social position. These electors were to elect the town chief, the headman for each barrio, and three delegates, namely, the delegate for police and internal order, the delegates for justice and civil registry, and the delegate for taxes and

property. The town chief, the headmen of the barrios, and the three delegates constituted the Popular Assembly. The town chief was to act as president of the assembly, with the headman of the poblacion or town proper as vice-president, and the delegate for justice and civil registry as secretary.

The chiefs of the towns, in consultation with their respective popular assemblies, elected the provincial chief and three councilors. The provincial chief, the chief of the capital of the province, and the three councilors constituted the Provincial Council, whose chief duty was to propose measures for the general welfare of the inhabitants of the province.

The decree also provided for the election of delegates from each province who would constitute the Revolutionary Congress. These delegates were to be elected by the chiefs of the towns. The proportion of delegates to the Congress was made as follows: for the City of Manila and the province of Cavite, three delegates each; for the province of the first class, two delegates each; for the rest of the provinces, one delegate each. The main function of the Revolutionary Congress was, according to the decree, "to propose... measures concerning the preservation of internal order and external security of these islands...."

In order to secure maximum efficiency in the implementation of the rules regarding the holding of elections, the decree provided for the appointment of a commissioner of the Central Government for each province. The military commanders who liberated any town from the Spaniards became automatically commissioners "by virtue of their office."

Administration of Justice

The administration of justice was outlined in a supplementary decree of June 20, 1898, because of the complex problems connected with the establishment of courts. The decree provided that the Spanish Penal Code, when not contrary to the decree of the government, was to remain in force for the time being. The town chief was automatically the judge of the town. In criminal cases, the judge was enjoined, after the conclusion of his investigation of a certain case, to send the accused and the pertinent papers to the Provincial Council, which in turn appointed a judge to examine the proceedings. Then the Provincial Council was to order the accused to appear in public for his trial. The decision of the Provincial Council may be appealed to the Commission of Justice of the Revolutionary Congress. In civil cases, the decisions were made by the Popular Assembly. These decisions could be appealed to the Provincial Council. The decision in each case was considered temporary and may be amended by courts of competent jurisdiction after the proclamation of the Republic and when the "administration of justice shall have been duly organized."

The Revolutionary Government

The Dictatorial Government lasted for only a month, from May 24 to June 23, 1898. At the instance of Mabini, Aguinaldo delivered on June 23 a message, penned by Mabini, giving his reasons for changing the form of government to a revolutionary one. On the same day, Aguinaldo issued a decree setting up the Revolutionary Government. It changed the title of the chief of state from Dictator to President and defined the object of the government as the "struggle for the independence of the Philippines until all nations, including the Spanish, shall expressly recognize it, and to prepare the country so that the true republic may be established." To help the President in his duties, four departments were created, namely, the Department of Foreign Affairs, Navy and Commerce, the Department of War and Public Works, the Department of Police and Internal Order, Justice, Education and Hygiene, and the Department of Finance, Agriculture and Manufacturing Industry. The department secretaries were not responsible for the decrees of the President, but they were to sign them "with the President to give them authority." The President appointed the department secretaries and the personnel of each department.

The decree also provided for the creation of Congress. As has been seen, the decree of June 18 provided for the election of delegates from each province to represent it in Congress. The degree of June 23 provided that in those provinces which had not been pacified, that is to say, provinces which had not been taken from the Spaniards, the delegates for said provinces were to be appointed by the President. The powers of Congress were defined as: To watch over the general interest of the Philippine people, and the carrying out of the revolutionary laws; to discuss and vote upon said laws; to discuss and approve, prior to their ratification, treaties and loans; to examine and approve the accounts presented annually by the Secretary of Finance, as well as extra- ordinary and other taxes which may be hereafter imposed.

On July 15, 1898, Aguinaldo made his first cabinet appointments: Baldomero Aguinaldo, Secretary of War and Public Works; Leandro Ibarra, Secretary of the Interior; and Mariano Trías, Secretary of Finance. Cayetano Arellano was offered the secretaryship of foreign affairs, but he declined, feigning illness, although actually he was in sympathy with the Americans and would not, therefore, give his services to the Filipino government. Later, Mabini accepted the position and thereby became a member of the President's official family. On September 28, Aguinaldo increased the number of departments to six, namely, foreign affairs, war, interior, welfare, justice, and treasury.

The Malolos Congress

In accordance with the decrees of June 18 and 23, Aguinaldo convoked the Revolutionary Congress at Barasoain, Malolos. Peace and order conditions in some provinces were such that Aguinaldo was compelled to appoint their delegates to Congress. Consequently, on September 4, he appointed fifty delegates to the Congress. This number was increased by ten on September 10. The number of delegates to the Congress fluctuated from time to time.

In the morning of September 15, the basilica of Barasoain was filled with delegates and spectators. Outside, the Banda Pasig played the National Anthem. When

Aguinaldo and his officers arrived, the delegates, the cream of the Filipino intelligence, spread out to give way to the President. With the President seated, the secretary read the names of the delegates, after which Aguinaldo was introduced. Cries of "Viva!" reverberated and Aguinaldo acknowledged the applause of the throng. Then he stood up and read his message, first, in Tagalog, and then in Spanish. A round of applause followed Aguinaldo's speech, which Felipe Buencamino wrote. Aguinaldo then announced that the ceremonies were over and that Congress was to convene after electing its officers.

In the afternoon, the Congress proceeded to elect its officers, namely, Pedro A. Paterno, President; Benito Legarda, Vice- President; Gregorio Araneta, first Secretary; and Pablo Ocampo, second Secretary.

On September 17, in the Congress meeting the delegates created the Permanent Commission of Justice as provided for in the decree of June 23. In the afternoon, eight committees of Congress were constituted: the committee on felicitation, the committee on message, the committee on internal regulations, the reception committee, the budget committee, the committee on festivities, the committee on style, and the committee for drafting the constitution. The first significant act of the Congress was the ratification, on September 29, of the independence proclaimed at Kawit on June 12. Aguinaldo, whose office and official residence were located at the convent of Malolos Church, arrived at Barasoain, where Congress was holding its sessions, amidst the "vociferous acclamations of the people and the strains of music."

The Malolos Constitution

In preparing the decree of June 18, and that of June 23, Mabini envisioned the Congress to be an advisory body of the President. He believed that in such period as the country was passing through it was necessary to have a strong Executive. But his idea was contradicted by Congress when it proposed to draft a constitution. Congress advanced the opinion that a modern constitution answering to the needs of the times was imperative in order to secure the recognition of Philippine independence by foreign powers. Mabini, on the other hand, argued that such a delicate task as the framing of the constitution should be done in a peaceful and quiet mood in order to give the framers sufficient time to deliberate on the proposed provisions. At such a period as they were undergoing, it was not proper to frame a constitution. Moreover, Mabini added that Congress was convoked not to frame a constitution, but to advise the President and to give him popular support. Mabini was, however, in the minority, and although his arguments were unassailable he was defeated by the majority under the leadership of Paterno. Nevertheless, Mabini submitted his Constitutional Plan of the Philippine Republic, but Congress, for the second time, overruled him.

A committee to draft the constitution was created, with Felipe G. Calderon as its most prominent member. Having set Mabini's Constitutional Program aside, the committee, under the influence of Calderon, also set aside, but in a subtle manner, Paterno's constitutional plan, which smelled strongly of the Spanish Constitution of 1869. With the advice of Cayetano Arellano, a brilliant but unreconstructed mestizo, Calderon

drew up his plans for a constitution, deriving inspiration from the constitutions of Mexico, Belgium, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Brazil, and France. In the session of October 8, Calderon presented the draft of his constitution. Printed copies of it were made on October 21, and discussions began on October 25. The most tumultuous discussions occurred when the provision making Catholicism the religion of the State came up for consideration. After much heated debates on the subject, the Congress voted on it. The result was a tie. The second voting resulted in the victory of the separation of the Church and State. The partisans of separation won by only one vote that of Pablo Tecson. Thus the Calderon project of making Catholicism the State religion was defeated. The provision on the subject of state religion was then amended to read:

Article 5. The State recognizes the freedom and equality of all religions, as well as the separation of the Church and State.

A few other amendments were inserted in the draft constitution before it was sent to Aguinaldo for approval. On January 21, 1899, Aguinaldo promulgated what is now known as the Malolos Constitution.

The protracted discussions that characterized the Congress sessions on the subject of whether or not Church and State should be united showed, first, that the Filipinos as a people, though up in arms against Catholic Spain, were not anti-Catholic but merely anti-clerical, and second, that many of the delegates learned from the bitter lesson of Philippine history in voting against the union of Church and State which, under Spain, was the fundamental basis of Spanish colonial system. It became the cornerstone of Philippine democracy and showed not only the nationalism and democratic orientation of those who voted for the separation of Church and State, but also their keen sense of history.

The Constitution

The Malolos Constitution is the first important Filipino document ever produced by the people's representatives. It is anchored in democratic traditions that ultimately had their roots on American soil. It created a Filipino State whose government was "popular, representative and responsible" with three distinct branches - the executive, the legislative, and the judicial. The constitution specifically provided for safeguards against abuses and enumerated the national and individual rights not only of the Filipinos, but also of the aliens.

The legislative powers were exercised by the Assembly of Representatives composed of delegates elected according to law. To make the function of Congress continuous, the document provided for a Permanent Commission which would sit as a law-making body when Congress was not in session. The Assembly elected the President of the Republic. The Cabinet, composed of the Secretaries of the different Departments of the government, was responsible not to the President, but to the Assembly. The administration of justice was vested in the Supreme Court and in inferior courts to be established according to law. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court was to be elected by the Assembly with the concurrence of the President and the Cabinet.

The Malolos Consitution is unique for three reasons: first, because of the provisions making the Assembly or the legislative branch superior to either the executive or the judicial branch; second, because it provided for a Permanent Commission to sit as a legislative body when the Assembly was not in session; and third, because it established a unicameral legislature. The Constitution as a whole is a monument to the capacity of the Filipinos to chart their own course along democratic lines. In a period of storm and stress, it symbolized the ideals of a people who had emerged from the Dark Ages into the light of Reason.

The Philippine Republic

On January 23, 1899, the Philippine Republic was inaugurated at Malolos in colorful ceremonies. Aguinaldo took his oath of office after having been informed that he had been pro- claimed President of the Republic. The Malolos Constitution was read article by article, and the army took its oath of loyalty before the President. A review of troops and procession followed. To make the event more memorable, Aguinaldo issued a decree granting pardon to all Spanish prisoners of war who were not members of the Spanish regular army and, at the same time, granting to Spaniards and other aliens the right to engage in business within the limits of the Republic.

Owing to the objections of Mabini to some provisions of the constitution, Aguinaldo did not immediately promulgate it. The Congress leaders compromised with Mabini by agreeing to insert amendments to satisfy the President's closest adviser. On January 21, 1899, Aguinaldo finally promulgated the Constitution. Earlier, on January 2, he formed his Cabinet as follows:

Apolinario Mabini as President of the Cabinet and Secretary of Foreign Affairs

Teodoro Sandico as Secretary of the Interior

Baldomero Aguinaldo as Secretary of War

Mariano Trias as Secretary of Finance

Gracio Gonzaga as Secretary of War Secretary of Welfare, including Public Instruction, Public Works, Communications, Agriculture, Industry and Commerce

The Council of Government, or the Cabinet, according to Mabini, "belongs to no party, nor does it desire to form one; it stands for nothing save the interests of the fatherland."

Revolutionary Periodicals

As a struggling nation, the Philippines had to make its ideals and aspirations known to all the world so that the foreign Powers would respect and recognize its independence. There was need for propaganda media to broadcast these ideals and aspirations. Consequently, the Revolutionary Government founded its official organ El Heraldo de la Revolución, whose first number came out on September 29, 1898. Its name was subsequently changed to Heraldo Filipino, then to Indice Oficial, and finally, to Graceta de Filipinas, whose last number came out on October 14, 1899. These news-

papers published the official texts of the decrees of the government and, of course, some news items and Tagalog poems, all nationalistic in content.

The revolutionary propaganda was not limited to the official publications of the government, however. Privately-owned newspapers took up the cause of the Filipinos and urged the people to unite and to exert more efforts in the struggle for national emancipation. Most famous of these periodicals was *La Independencia*, edited and partly owned by General Antonio Luna. Its first number came out on September 3, 1898. On the staff of the newspaper were the great Filipino writers in Spanish, whose patriotic pieces were written under pen names: Cecilio Apostol (Catullo), Jose Palma, Rafael Palma (Dapit Hapon), Fernando Ma. Guerrero (Fulvio Gil), Epifanio de los Santos (G. Solon), Jose G. Abreu (Kaibigan), Mariano V. del Rosario (Tito-Tato), Salvador V. del Rosario (Juan Tagalo), Rosa Sevilla, and Florentina Arellano. So nationalistic was the periodical that the American authorities tried to suppress it, but did not succeed.

Other nationalistic newspapers were *La República Filipina*, founded in Mandaluyong by Pedro A. Paterno, whose first number came out on September 15, 1898; *La Libertad*, which came out on June 20, 1898 under the editorship of Clemente Jose Zu-lueta; *Ang Kaibigan nang Bayan* (The People's Friend), Malolos, 1898; *Columnas Volantes* (Fly Sheets), Lipa, Batangas, 1899; *La Federación*, Kabatuan, Iloilo, 1899; *La Revolución*, Jaro, Iloilo, 1898; *Patria*, Jaro, Iloilo, 1899; *La Oportunidad*, Tagbilaran, Bohol, 1899; and a few others. These newspapers, most of which were short-lived, were unanimous in their policy of fighting for the independence of the country. They may have been ephemeral, but their effects on the people were impressive, for they kept alive the sparks of revolutionary character which gave the Philippines its most significant and colorful epoch.

Education

The educational problem merited the attention of the Filipino leaders. Owing to the destruction of many schools and to the peace and order condition, all the schools were closed for the time being. The Revolutionary Government took steps to open classes as soon as circumstances permitted. On August 29, 1898, the Secretary of the Interior ordered the provincial governors to reestablish the schools that had been abandoned before. To continue giving instruction to the people, Aguinaldo included in the budget for 1899 an item for public instruction amounting to P35,000. On October 24, a decree was issued outlining the curriculum of the Burgos Institute. The curriculum included Latin grammar, universal geography and history, Spanish literature, mathematics, French, English, physics, chemistry, philosophy, and natural laws. Higher education was provided for when, in a decree of October 19, 1898, Aguinaldo created the Literary University of the Philippines. Professors of civil and criminal law, medicine and surgery, pharmacy, and notariat were appointed. Dr. Joaquin Gonzalez was appointed first president of the University. He was succeeded by Dr. Leon Ma. Guerrero, who delivered the commencement address on September 29, 1899. The University did not live long, for the conflict with the Americans led its faculty and students to disperse.

Diplomatic Activities

In order to persuade the foreign Powers to recognize Philippine independence, Aguinaldo created diplomatic positions abroad. The first step taken was the promulgation of decrees creating committees abroad for the purpose of carrying on propaganda activities for the Revolutionary Government. On June 24 and August 10, 1898, Aguinaldo issued two decrees providing for the establishment of the Hongkong Junta whose members were to represent the Philippines in different countries. Subsequently, the diplomatic agents were appointed: Felipe Agoncillo, for the United States; Mariano Ponce and Faustino Lichauco, for Japan; Antonio Regidor, for England; Juan Luna and Pedro Roxas, for France; and Eriberto Zarcas, for Australia. In France, the Paris Committee was established by the prominent Filipino residents of the city, and in Spain, the Madrid Committee was founded with aims similar to those of the Paris Committee, namely, to work for the recognition of Philippine independence by the foreign Powers.

Agoncillo, accompanied by his secretary Sixto Lopez, went to the United States to work for American recognition of Philippine independence, but his attempts to secure an official audience with President McKinley failed. He sailed to Europe to appeal to the American Peace Commissioners to give the Filipinos a chance to be heard on a question that deeply affected their future, but in this, too, he failed. He returned to Washington to fight the ratification of the Treaty of Paris by the Senate, but the Filipino-American hostilities forced him to flee for his life. He returned to Paris and there continued his patriotic, if futile, activities.

The Treaty of Paris

In accordance with the Protocol of Peace signed on August 12, 1898, five American and five Spanish commissioners were appointed to meet in Paris to discuss the final peace terms between Spain and the United States. American commissioners were Cushman Davis, William P. Frye, Whitelaw Reid, George Gray, and William R. Day, who resigned as Secretary of State to become Chairman of the American Peace Commission. The Spanish commissioners were Eugenio Montero Ríos, Chairman, and Buenaventura Abarzuza, Jose de Garnica, Wenceslao Ramirez de Villa-Urrutia, and General Rafael Cerero, members.

The Peace Commission met in Paris from October to December, 1898. Long discussions on legal points took place in which both sides refused to give in. Finally, the American commissioners served an ultimatum on the Spanish commissioners who believed that the Americans should be gracious and gallant in their hour of victory. But the American commissioners, having been instructed to demand the cession of the entire Philippines to the United States, were not in a mood to humor their Spanish counterparts and insisted on their main demand, that is, the cession of the Philippines to the United States. Helpless, the Spanish commissioners finally agreed. On December 10, 1898, the Treaty of Paris was signed. It provided that Spain would cede the Philippines to the United States in return for which she would receive \$20,000,000 from the United States.

as payment for improvements made in the colony. Further, the United States agreed to give the Spaniards the right to ship commodities to the Philippines for a period of ten years on the same terms as those of the United States.

The Treaty of Paris did not go into effect until after the American Senate had ratified it. The proponents of ratification did not command a majority in the Senate, for many senators believed that the treaty was unfair to the Filipinos. The unfortunate rupture of Filipino-American hostilities on February 4, 1899 led many opponents of ratification to vote affirmatively. The vote was taken on February 6 and the treaty was ratified by two-thirds majority. American propaganda made it appear that the Filipinos fired the first shots that led to the Filipino-American hostilities. Consequently, the American senators who were at first against the treaty now voted for it in the belief that the Filipinos caused the rupture of Filipino-American relations. The American propaganda, directed mainly by the instruments of imperialists, won and thereafter the Philippines became a territory of the United States.

Reference: The History of the Filipino people by Teodoro Agoncillo