

LETTER OF EMILIO AGUINALDO.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

IN RESPONSE TO.

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE OF MARCH 16, 1900, DIRECTING
THE SECRETARY OF WAR TO COMMUNICATE TO THE SENATE
A LETTER OF EMILIO AGUINALDO, DATED AT BACOR, JULY
15, 1898, ADDRESSED TO THE AMERICAN COMMANDER.

MARCH 26, 1900.—Referred to the Committee on the Philippines and ordered to
be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, March 24, 1900.

To the Senate:

In response to the following resolution of the Senate of March 16,
1900:

That the Secretary of War be directed to communicate to the Senate a letter of Emilio Aguinaldo, dated at Bacor, July 15, 1898, addressed to the American commander and forwarded to General Merritt July 27, 1898, as an inclosure to L. S. No. 45, being the same of which a brief is given in Senate Document, Fifty-sixth Congress, first session, No. 208, page 6,

I have the honor to report that the letter of Emilio Aguinaldo therein mentioned is not in the possession of the War Department.

The only knowledge that the Department has of the said letter is contained in the inclosures accompanying the letter of the commanding general Department of the Pacific and Eighth Army Corps, transmitting "copies of all correspondence by and between the United States military authorities and General Aguinaldo, commanding the insurgent forces of the Philippines, which are of record," and dated Manila, Philippine Islands, September 12, 1898, said letter of transmittal and the inclosures thereto being published in the report of the Major-General Commanding the Army, for 1899 (vol. 2, pp. 334 to 354), and the reference to the letter in question therein being identical with the reference that is made to the said letter in Senate Document, Fifty-sixth Congress, first session, No. 208, page 6.

The Department has made diligent search and careful inquiry for the papers and documents referred to, but not inclosed in said communication, as shown by the copies of correspondence appended hereto.

Very respectfully,

ELIHU ROOT, *Secretary of War.*

The Adjutant-General to General Otis.

WASHINGTON, January 17, 1900.

To whom do you refer in reporting correspondence with Aguinaldo September 12, 1898, mentioning impression certain notes passing between the parties of which no record made? Secretary of War desires fullest possible records for Congress.

CORBIN.

General Otis to the Adjutant-General.

MANILA, January 19, 1900.

See twenty-ninth line, page 6, annual report. Correspondence referred to presume taken by General Merritt for use in preparing annual report; originals in part subsequently found Anderson's headquarters, Cavite, consisting letters and telegrams, Anderson to Aguinaldo, July 4, 6, 14, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, August 10; Aguinaldo to Anderson, August 10, 13, 14, 14; Merritt to Aguinaldo, August 21, 25. Presume Anderson, Merritt, or Babcock have this original correspondence with them in United States.

The Adjutant-General to Generals Merritt, Anderson, and Babcock.

WASHINGTON, January 19, 1900.

The following just received by cable from General Otis:

See twenty-ninth line, page 6, annual report. Correspondence referred to presume taken by General Merritt for use in preparing annual report; originals in part subsequently found Anderson's headquarters, Cavite, consisting letters and telegrams, Anderson to Aguinaldo, July 4, 6, 14, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, August 10; Aguinaldo to Anderson, August 10, 13, 14, 14; Merritt to Aguinaldo, August 20, 24, 25, Aguinaldo to Merritt, August 21, 25. Presume Anderson, Merritt, or Babcock have this original correspondence with them in United States.

The Secretary of War desires that you send by early mail any information you may have in the premises, along with original or official copies of such papers in your possession, or of which you have official knowledge.

Maj. Gen. Wesley Merritt to the Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST,
Governor's Island, New York City, January 20, 1900.

SIR: Referring to the telegram of the Department dated the 19th instant, concerning certain correspondence between General Anderson and myself and the Filipino general, Aguinaldo, I have the honor to state that the originals of those not emanating from myself have never been in my possession. The correspondence referred to was undoubtedly included in the documents prepared by my direction for the

use of the Peace Commission in Paris, but the copies furnished the commission were made from copies certified in the offices of Generals Anderson and Babcock. General Anderson's adjutant, Lieutenant McCain, may be able to throw some light on the letters desired, as may also General Babcock. It is my impression that the certified copies used by me in connection with the Peace Commission were finally turned over to the War Department on my arrival in the United States, a year ago last December.

I have never seen the original letters from Aguinaldo. They were always in Spanish, and translated first before coming to me for action.

Gen. Thomas M. Anderson to the Adjutant-General.

CHICAGO, ILL., January 20, 1900.

Turned over all correspondence with Filipino authorities to General Merritt at once on his arrival; correspondence published in exhibits to Paris treaty. Kept records of all correspondence as brigade commander United States expeditionary forces prior to Merritt's arrival, and turned these records over to MacArthur on organization of a division. Have no original papers in my possession.

Gen. J. B. Babcock to the Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA,
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
San Francisco, Cal., January 19, 1900.

SIR: In reply to your telegram of this date, I have the honor to inform you that there is no copy of the annual report of General Otis on file at these headquarters, and I am therefore unable to refer to the twenty-ninth line, page 6; but, assuming that it is the correspondence with Aguinaldo which is intended, I respectfully report that no portion of that correspondence has been in my possession since I left headquarters Department of the Pacific, in Manila.

In leaving Manila, to report to the commission in Paris, General Merritt took with him a full record of the correspondence with Aguinaldo. I am unable to state positively that none of the originals were in the package given to General Merritt, but, to the best of my recollection, copies were made, and it was the copies that were taken. It is my impression that the originals of the Anderson-Aguinaldo correspondence were not sent to department headquarters, but that General Anderson furnished copies of the papers.

[Indorsement.]

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, February 2, 1900.

Respectfully referred to Gen. Wesley Merritt, Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D. C., for remark.

By order of the Secretary of War:

H. C. CORBIN,
Adjutant-General.

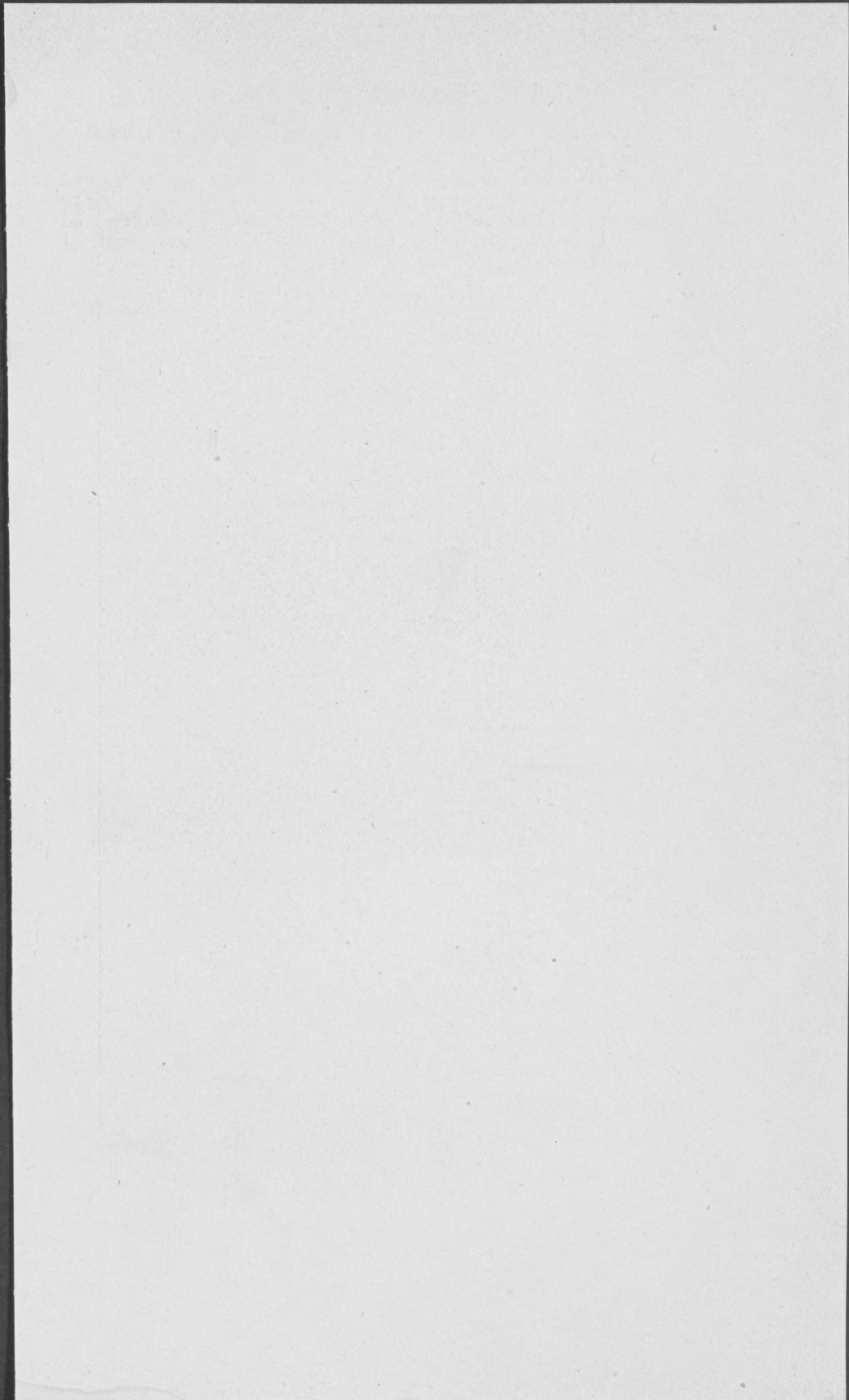
WASHINGTON, *February 3, 1900.*

Respectfully returned.

If General Babcock can furnish no information in regard to these papers I do not know who can. All the papers that I had relating to the Philippines were turned over to the Paris Peace Commission, and I think very probably they will be found in the State Department. I know nothing beyond this.

W. MERRITT,
Major-General, U. S. A.

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PROSPECTING FOR GOLD.