

FILIPINO ANNIVERSARY

Tomorrow will mark the seventh anniversary of the creation of the Philippine Commonwealth. In accordance with the Independence Act of 1934 a democratic constitution had been written and had been accepted by the Filipino people and the new polity went into effect. It was another step, a temporary state of transition toward the independent Philippine Republic to be established on July 4, 1946. The war, which has robbed the Filipinos of their rights and the possession of their country, has but enlarged their passion for independence and self-government.

The gallantry of the Filipino soldiers, the larger part of General MacArthur's army in the long memorable fight against the Japanese in Luzon and Bataan, has left a strong impression on Americans. The citizens of the Filipino Commonwealth are our firm friends and allies. The Commonwealth is one of the United Nations. It is represented by its President in the Pacific War Council. American hopes and good wishes go to our Filipino friends and fellow-fighters. They are still fighting in regular ranks or as guerrillas. May the day of their conquest and oppression be short and their Commonwealth take its place again among the free nations.
