

Manila, March 13, 1948



Excellency:

I have the honor to bring to your knowledge that application for international trader visas have been filed with our consulates in the United States by American nationals who desire to come to the Philippines for the purpose of carrying on trade between the Philippines and the United States in accordance with the provisions of Section 9 (d) of the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940.

One of the conditions provided for in said section before a visa as international trader may be issued to an alien seeking entry into the Philippines under that status is that citizens of the Philippines under similar conditions are accorded like privileges in the foreign state of which such person is a national. In view of this requirement of the Philippine Immigration Act, it would be appreciated if this Government could be informed as to whether Philippine citizens under similar conditions are accorded like privileges under the immigration laws of the United States. In the event that the immigration laws of the United States do not permit the granting of international trader visas to Filipinos desiring to proceed to the United States to carry on trade between said country and the Philippines, my Government wishes to avail of this opportunity to inquire from Your Excellency if it is possible for the two governments to enter into a modus vivendi regarding this matter along the lines established in Article 1, paragraph 4 of the Draft Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation between the Philippines and the United States of America, pending the conclusion of this Treaty, with a view to facilitating action by this Government on the pending applications of American nationals for international visas, in accordance with the above-mentioned provisions of the Philippine Immigration Act.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

ELPIDIO QUIRINO
Vice-President and concurrently
Secretary of Foreign Affairs

His Excellency
Emmet O'Neal
American Ambassador
Manila

JMA/gc

A handwritten signature consisting of the initials "JMA" and the letters "gc" written vertically.