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RE PHILIPPINE POLITICAL SITUATION

FILE

From WWK's notes January 22, Philippines:

I had an interview with Mr. Madrigal yesterday and he passed on some interesting observations. I asked him about the military situation and he said it will be a long-time war and is getting worse. He said that no pastors have been killed yet but three lay preachers have been in Davao and the Sarangani areas. 51 churches so far have been destroyed and 12 churches are in areas presently controlled by the rebels and the relief committee is continuing to help as much as they can. They give money to the districts upon their request and the district relief committee decides whether to buy food, clothes, or tools for the people.

From Jerry Otis letter 2/25/75:

The Committee felt quite strongly about evacuating the Abrams. There has been a number of near misses by mortar on their home. They will return to Cotabato City to pack. Hopefully we can relocate them in Kidapawan or environs where they could still have a Maguindanao ministry. Fire recently destroyed Mr. Abrams' office in the Harvardian College. He maintained his office primarily for Moslem student contact. His total loss is estimated to be about ₱4,000 pesos. As far as we know, the fire was accidental. About one half of the school was destroyed.

From Jerry Otis ltr. of 2/6/75 to Bresslers:

Mindanao, Sulu, and Basilan still are hotspots; in fact becoming hotter. The press has started printing more news these days. Cotabato City (and the Abrams) have been under mortar fire for a number of weeks. However, a good spirit prevails and CAMACOP and mission are launching "Target 400 '79" a program to plant 400 new churches by 1979 with 40,000 new baptized members. Many areas are ripe for the Gospel.