



City Councilor Tiongco: Lone dissenter.

● DAVAO City is in the midst of a real estate scandal similar to the notorious Tambobong-Buenavista deal, although on a much smaller scale. Center of the scandal is a lot in Barrio Obrero which the city council, to the amazement of the public, wants to buy for P150,000 despite the fact that the city has the legal right to buy it for P12,000.

Two or three years before the war, the city government purchased from a Chinese partnership, Kwong Tai Long & Co., the area of about 48 hectares now known as Barrio Obrero. The purpose of the purchase was to subdivide the area for resale on a no-profit basis to laborers in the Sta. Ana

and Piapi districts. Due to lack of funds and the outbreak of the war, the city was unable to pay for one lot consisting of 103,358 square meters. Hence the title to this lot, No. 508-A, never passed to the city. On June 17, 1948, Kwong Tai Long

& Co. sold two lots in this area to Dr. Santiago P. Dacudao, one of Davao's wealthiest men. Readers may remember that Dr. Dacudao figured prominently in an article by Leon O. Ty on the squatter problems of Davao after the war (see FP, Jan. 18, 1947). The larger of the two lots in this transaction was Lot No. 508-B consisting of 357,657 square meters which was sold to Dr. Dacudao at 25 centavos a square meter. Included in the transaction was Lot No. 508-A at a price of 12 centavos a square meter.

The contract of sale states that the reason Lot No. 508-A was included was to permit the dissolution of the partnership Kwong Tai Long & Co. So that there would be no misunderstanding about that particular lot the deed of sale specifically provided: "That... the herein Vendee (Dr. Santiago P. Dacudao) compromises to sell to the City Government of Davao the said Lot No. 508-A in the amount the City of Davao might fix to pay to the said Dr. Santiago P. Dacudao if and where the City should desire to buy

# DAVAO CITY'S LAND SCANDAL

## Lone Councilor, Supported By The Fiscal, Treasurer, And Auditor, Opposes a Strange Deal

by ARTEMIO AL. LOYOLA

COLLEGE LIBRARY  
ATENEO DE DAVAO



FISCAL GOROSPE



TREASURER OLIVER

All three support Tiongco.



AUDITOR PACLIBAR

tion would be called the next day, Dec. 4. At that session the council would approve a resolution purchasing Lot No. 508-A from Dr. Dacudao, not at 12 centavos a square meter but at P1.50 a square meter. In other words Davao City would pay Dr. Dacudao the sum of P155,037 for the lot instead of P12,402.96. And with Councilor Tiongco the only oppositionist, that resolution was passed.

The scene seemingly had been well rehearsed. Atty. Donato Endriga, who is the husband of the private secretary of Mayor Rodolfo Sarenas, presented the offer in behalf of Dr. Dacudao. He produced a letter to the council, dated Oct. 26, 1952, in which it was stated that Dr. Dacudao had changed his mind about the sale and referred to the increase in the value of real estate in the 15 years that had passed since Barrio Obrero was established. He argued that land was now selling in that area at P4 to P5 per square meter and, therefore, Dr. Dacudao's proposal was a great concession to the city. First Asst. City Fiscal Honorato Bautista declared, however, that the city's right to purchase the lot at 12 centavos remained clear and unchanged and that Dr. Dacudao could be compelled to sell it at that price.

Without even making a counter offer or referring the offer as is usual to the committee on appraisal, all the members of the council, with the exception of Councilor Tiongco who vigorously objected, passed Resolution No. 710 approving Dr. Dacudao's proposition. Supporting Tiongco, City

Fiscal Benjamin K. Gorospe strongly advised the city council against the deal. But his advice as well as the arguments of Councilor Tiongco were quickly brushed aside.

Also supporting Councilor Tiongco in his fight against this strange deal are City Auditor Santiago Paclibar and City Treasurer Cornelio R. Oliver. Both have declared they would approve the purchase only at 12 centavos a meter.

### A GOOD WORD

Maria, described in Miss Monica Bunag's true story, "Modesty Has a High Prize" (FP, Jan. 3), deserves a good word for her high sense of virtue. That she would rather die than expose her body to a stranger, even though a doctor, denotes that, like Mary the Mother of Jesus Christ, she valued purity over and above everything else.—MANUEL R. SUAREZ, Janiuary, Iloilo.

### A RELIEF

It was a relief to read in your paper that National Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay had nothing to do with the dirty Basa Air Base election in 1951. We know that it was impossible for him to be involved in a case like that. Congratulations to him!—(Miss) ROSARIO NARBAJA, Calolbon, Catanduanes.

the said lot."

This deed of sale, Document No. 292, series of 1948, was registered in the office of the Register of Deeds for Davao.

In April, 1951, City Treasurer Cornelio R. Oliver and then 1st Asst. City Fiscal Pascual Monfort, representing the city council, and Dr. Dacudao agreed for Lot 508-A to be transferred to the city of Davao at the price Dr. Dacudao paid for it—12 centavos a square meter, or P12,402.96. This was confirmed unanimously by the city council's Resolution No. 122, dated April 25, 1951.

### Warning

Now comes the "believe it or not" development in this case. On Dec. 3, 1952, the city council met in special session to act on the emergency caused by the disastrous fire of Dec. 1. Two resolutions were quickly passed. That afternoon Councilor Gaudioso M. Tiongco received a telephone call from ex-Councilor Carlos Compesaw warning him that another special ses-