

Dec. 22, 1941 - Monday.

Attended Cabinet Meeting at 8 am.  
at Mariguina as Chief of Staff.

Attended office afterwards.

Anxiously waiting for news from the front. The enemy is pushing on. Our forces are outnumbered and outweaponed. The bombing and strafing by planes is damaging our troops.

8 pm. The President called me by phone and asked me to go to Mariguina. I rushed to Mariguina. He told me that he was going to appoint me Secretary of National Defense in addition to being Chief of Staff. He asked me if I was

willing to leave my family. I answered that I was a soldier and as such I was ready to go wherever sent. He asked me to keep it confidentially.

Dec. 23, 1941 Tuesday

At 8 a.m. I attended the meeting of the Cabinet at Mariguina. At 9:30 am. went to the office. At 10 a.m. The President told me that he had consulted his plan with Gen. MacArthur and that I was being appointed today. Shortly after Sec. Vargas called me to congratulate me. At 4 p.m. I attended

the meeting of the Cabinet and took my Oath of Office as Secretary of National Defense. Returned to the office now being arranged at the Eastern University.

Returned home 7:30 pm.

Dec. 24, 1941.

At 8 a.m. I attended the meeting of the Cabinet at Mariguina. It was discussed that the situation was becoming serious. The enemy had landed at Atimonan and Mauban. The President advised us that Gen. MacArthur had told him to prepare to leave for C- at 2 hours' notice.

At 9 a.m. I left for my office. At 10 am. Gen. de Jesus and I were called rush to USHFFE Headquarters for an urgent conference. Gen. Sutherland told me that I was to be at 1 p.m. at Malacañan, ready to leave with President. At 1 p.m. sharp I was at Malacañan. There was an air raid. When the "all-clear" signal was sounded, we left Malacañan for the Presidential landing, boarded the launch Baler, and boarded the S.S. Mayon which was anchored off the coast of Malabon. At 2:30 p.m. another raid alarm was sounded. The departure