

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: WHORM Subject Files
**Folder Title: CO 125 (Philippines) 575000-
583999**
Box: 153

To see more digitized collections
visit: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:
<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT
(WHORM): SUBJECT FILE

Withdrawer

DLB 8/6/2010

File Folder CO125 (PHILIPPINES) (5750000-583999)

FOIA

S10-306

Box Number 152

SYSTEMATIC

936

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
95577	REPORT	SITUATION ROOM NOTE, RE: US SERVICEMEN KILLED IN PHILIPPINES	1	10/28/1987	B1

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PS

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

575054
3638

CO125
F600611
F600612

FILE

May 16, 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR RONALD K. PETERSON

FROM: PAUL SCHOTT STEVENS *PS*

SUBJECT: Defense Draft Report on Appropriations Language
Regarding the "Buy Philippines" Program

The NSC concurs in subject draft report.

NSC #8803638

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

May 16, 1988

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR PAUL SCHOTT STEVENS

FROM: RICHARD CHILDRESS

SUBJECT: "Buy Philippines" Program

DOD has been exploring ways to further expand our "Buy Philippines" program in order to help support the Philippines economy. DOD is proposing a letter (Tab II) to the House recommending legislative changes that would permit an expansion.

This is in consonance with our policy which emanates from our NSSD effort.

R. Childress
Cockell, Danzansky, Fortier, J. Kelly concur.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum at Tab I to Peterson.

Approve *R. Childress*

Disapprove _____

Attachments

Tab I Stevens/Peterson Memorandum
Tab II OMB Incoming Correspondence

cc: Cockell
Danzansky
Fortier
J. Kelly



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

URGENT

May 13, 1988

LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Liaison Officer -

United States Trade Representative (Parker 3432)	23
Department of State (Bachrach 647-4463)	25
Department of Commerce (Levitt 377-3151)	04
Department of the Treasury (Carro 566-8523)	28
National Security Council	

SUBJECT: Defense draft report on appropriations language regarding the "Buy Philippines" program.

The Office of Management and Budget requests the views of your agency on the above subject before advising on its relationship to the program of the President, in accordance with OMB Circular A-19.

A response to this request for your views is needed no later than C.O.B., MONDAY, MAY 16, 1988.

Questions should be referred to **Lisa Kaplan** (395-4604).

RONALD K. PETERSON FOR
Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference

Enclosures

cc: N. Moore
B. Coleman
D. Gessaman



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-2400

INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

The Honorable Bill Chappell, Jr.
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6018

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to enlist your support for modifying DoD appropriations legislation to permit certain purchases from the Philippines. This modest change would add significantly to our efforts to promote economic progress in the Philippines and build support for a continued US military presence there.

DoD has increased purchases of local goods and services for use at Clark Air Base and Subic Bay through its "Buy Philippines" program. Under the program, local purchases rose 130 percent in FY 1987, to \$218 million. However, this initiative is severely limited by US purchase preferences such as the so-called Berry Amendment, a provision in DoD appropriations legislation which restricts foreign purchases of food, clothing, textiles, and other items.

For the continued success and expansion of the "Buy Philippines" program, we propose a waiver of this restriction for the Philippines. The waiver could still be effective even if applied narrowly, to cover only purchases of food, clothing, and textiles for overseas use in the Pacific Commander's (CINCPAC) area of responsibility. (Possible drafting language is attached.) Our Embassy in Manila estimates making this change could result in increased DoD purchases of Philippine goods worth \$21 million.

The waiver would be an important gesture of support for the Philippines at a time when US foreign assistance resources are extremely limited. It will aid Philippine private enterprise and economic progress, which is critical to maintaining and promoting democratic stability. The waiver will also reduce DoD operating costs and simplify procurement in the Philippines. Finally, this measure will increase support among Filipinos for a successful outcome in the current review of our Military Bases Agreement.

For these reasons, I urge you to enact this measure in FY 1989 appropriations for DoD. Thank you for your consideration and continued support for US policy in the Philippines.

Sincerely,

Enclosure

In addition to the foregoing, agencies of the Department of Defense may accept real property, services, and commodities from foreign countries for the use of the United States in accordance with mutual defense agreements or occupational arrangements and such agencies may use the same for the support of the United States forces in such areas, without specific appropriations therefor: Provided, That except as provided in 10 U.S.C. 2690, the foregoing authority shall not be available for the conversion of heating plants from coal to oil or coal to natural gas at defense facilities in Europe: Provided further, That within thirty days after the end of each quarter the Secretary of Defense shall render to Congress and to the Office of Management and Budget a full report of such property, supplies, and commodities received during such quarter.

SEC. 8011. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act, except for small purchases in amounts not exceeding \$10,000 shall be available for the procurement of any article or item of food, clothing, tents, tarpaulins, covers, cotton and other natural fiber products, woven silk or woven silk blends, spun silk yarn for cartridge cloth, synthetic fabric or coated synthetic fabric, canvas products, or wool (whether in the form of fiber or yarn or contained in fabrics, materials, or manufactured articles), or any item of individual equipment manufactured from or containing such fibers, yarns, fabrics, or materials, or specialty metals including stainless steel flatware, or hand or measuring tools, not grown, reprocessed, reused, or produced in the United States or its possessions, except to the extent that the Secretary of the Department concerned shall determine that satisfactory quality and sufficient quantity of any articles or items of food, individual equipment, tents, tarpaulins, covers, or clothing or any form of cotton or other natural fiber products, woven silk and woven silk blends, spun silk yarn for cartridge cloth, synthetic fabric or coated synthetic fabric, canvas products, wool, or specialty metals including stainless steel flatware, grown, reprocessed, reused, or produced in the United States or its possessions cannot be procured as and when needed at United States market prices and except procurements outside the United States in support of combat operations, procurements by vessels in foreign waters, and emergency procurements or procurements of perishable foods by establishments located outside the United States for the personnel attached thereto: Provided, That nothing herein shall preclude the procurement of specialty metals or chemical warfare protective clothing produced outside the United States or its possessions when such procurement is necessary to comply with agreements with foreign governments requiring the United States to purchase supplies from foreign sources for the purposes of offsetting sales made by the United States Government or United States firms under approved programs serving defense requirements or where such procurement is necessary in furtherance of the standardization and interoperability of equipment requirements within NATO so long as such agreements with foreign governments comply, where applicable, with the requirements of section 36 of the Arms Export Control Act and with section 2457 of title 10, United States Code: Provided further, That nothing herein shall preclude the procurement of foods manufactured or processed in the United States or its possessions: Provided further, That no funds herein appropriated shall be used for the

payment of a price differential on contracts hereafter made for the purpose of relieving economic dislocations: Provided further, That none of the funds appropriated in this Act shall be used except that, so far as practicable, all contracts shall be awarded on a formally advertised competitive bid basis to the lowest responsible bidder.

SEC. 8012. During the current fiscal year, appropriations available to the Department of Defense for pay of civilian employees shall be available for uniforms, or allowances therefor, as authorized by section 5901 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 8013. Funds provided in this Act for legislative liaison activities of the Department of the Army, the Department of the Navy, the Department of the Air Force, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense shall not exceed \$14,362,000 for the current fiscal year: Provided, That this amount shall be available for apportionment to the Department of the Army, the Department of the Navy, the Department of the Air Force, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense as determined by the Secretary of Defense: Provided further, That costs for military retired pay accrual shall be included within this limitation.

SEC. 8014. Of the funds made available by this Act for the services of the Military Airlift Command, \$100,000,000 shall be available only for procurement of commercial transportation service from carriers participating in the civil reserve air fleet program; and the Secretary of Defense shall utilize the services of such carriers which qualify as small businesses to the fullest extent found practicable: Provided, That the Secretary of Defense shall specify in such procurement, performance characteristics for aircraft to be used based upon modern aircraft operated by the civil reserve air fleet.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8015. Upon determination by the Secretary of Defense that such action is necessary in the national interest, he may, with the approval of the Office of Management and Budget, transfer not to exceed \$1,500,000,000 of working capital funds of the Department of Defense or funds made available in this Act to the Department of Defense for military functions (except military construction) between such appropriations or funds or any subdivision thereof, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation or fund to which transferred: Provided, That such authority to transfer may not be used unless for higher priority items, based on unforeseen military requirements, than those for which originally appropriated and in no case where the item for which funds are requested has been denied by Congress: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense shall notify the Congress promptly of all transfers made pursuant to this authority.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8016. During the current fiscal year, cash balance in working capital funds of the Department of Defense established pursuant to section 2208 of title 10, United States Code, may be maintained in only such amounts as are necessary at any time for cash disbursements to be made from such funds: Provided, That transfers may be made between such funds in such amounts as may be determined by

the Secretary of Defense and Budget, count and an independent Secretary of Defense. Except in amounting capital funds in working capital funds unless the Secretary has any such obligation.

SEC. 8017. Except available to the Department of Defense for heating and defense facilities in.

SEC. 8018. Funds to appropriate a special account in advance to the Committee of the Senate and House.

SEC. 8019. No part of the funds shall be used to prepare or present a report or reprogramming of funds for unforeseen military requirements appropriated and in amounting is requested has.

SEC. 8020. None of the funds shall be used for the Civilian Health and Medical Services Act of 1954, or other authorized services in the same amount as determined for part of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 8021. No part of the funds shall be used to pay for the cost of part of the military retired pay accrual shall.

SEC. 8022. None of the funds shall be used for the planning amounts credited to the Department of Defense pursuant to the provision of the Control Act representing the amounts specified in section 3302(b) of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 8023. No part of the funds shall be used to fund any cost of unit—except to comply with the Science and Technology Act of 1954—which in the four preceding years has rolled less than (a) one hundred percent of the students who are described in a four-year or (b) twelve students who

Provided further, that nothing herein shall preclude the Secretary of Defense from procuring any article or item, except specialty metals, stainless steel flatware and hand or measuring tools, that are grown, reprocessed, reused, or produced in the Philippines, but only if such articles or items are purchased in the Commander-in-Chief, US Pacific Command (CINCPAC) area of responsibility, other than Alaska, Hawaii or US possessions, and are purchased for use in these areas.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT STAFFING DOCUMENT

TIME STAMP

URGENT

SYSTEM LOG NUMBER: 3638

88 MAY 13 P 4: 09

ACTION OFFICER: CHILDRESS

DUE: 3:00 pm. 16 May

- Prepare Memo For President
- Prepare Memo For Powell/Negropte
- Prepare Memo _____ to _____
- Prepare Memo Stevens to Peterson / _____
- Appropriate Action

CONCURRENCES/COMMENTS*

PHONE* to action officer at ext. _____

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| FYI | FYI | FYI |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Andricos | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grimes | <input type="checkbox"/> Popadiuk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Batjer | <input type="checkbox"/> Heiser | <input type="checkbox"/> Porter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brooks | <input type="checkbox"/> Henhoeffer | <input type="checkbox"/> Reger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burns | <input type="checkbox"/> Herbst | <input type="checkbox"/> Rodman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childress | <input type="checkbox"/> Jameson | <input type="checkbox"/> Rosenberg |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cobb | <input type="checkbox"/> Kelly, B. | <input type="checkbox"/> Ross |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cockell | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelly, J. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rostow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cohen | <input type="checkbox"/> Kimberling | <input type="checkbox"/> Saunders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collins | <input type="checkbox"/> Ledsky | <input type="checkbox"/> Scharfen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Curtin | <input type="checkbox"/> Levin | <input type="checkbox"/> Seiber |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Danzansky | <input type="checkbox"/> Lewis | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Snider |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dean | <input type="checkbox"/> Linhard | <input type="checkbox"/> Sorzano |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dekok | <input type="checkbox"/> Mahley | <input type="checkbox"/> Steiner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donley | <input type="checkbox"/> McCue | <input type="checkbox"/> Tahir-Kheli |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Douglass | <input type="checkbox"/> McNamara | <input type="checkbox"/> Tice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ermarth | <input type="checkbox"/> Melby | <input type="checkbox"/> Tillman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farrar | <input type="checkbox"/> Miskel | <input type="checkbox"/> Tobey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flower | <input type="checkbox"/> Oakley | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leach |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fortier | <input type="checkbox"/> Paal | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frazier | <input type="checkbox"/> Perina | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

- INFORMATION Stevens Perito Secretariat
 Powell (advance) Negropte (advance) _____

COMMENTS

Logged By CDM

Return to Secretariat

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

5/16/88

Cathy Gillison,

Per our telecon

Janet Jeffers

Please hold ~~with~~ file.
This page shows
original sigt for
concurrency.

W/My Letterhead
3638
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 16, 1988

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR PAUL SCHOTT STEVENS

FROM: RICHARD CHILDRESS *R*
SUBJECT: "Buy Philippines" Program

DOD has been exploring ways to further expand our "Buy Philippines" program in order to help support the Philippines economy. DOD is proposing a letter (Tab II) to the House recommending legislative changes that would permit an expansion.

This is in consonance with our policy which emanates from our NSSD effort.

R Cockell, Danzansky, *BRE* Fortier, J. *M* Kelly concur.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum at Tab A to Peterson.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

Attachments

Tab I Stevens/Peterson Memorandum
Tab II OMB Incoming Correspondence

cc: Cockell
Danzansky
Fortier
J. Kelly

**National Security Council
The White House**

re

System # _____
 Package # 3638
 DOCLOG AC AIO

88 MAY 16 A 9: 24

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Perito	<u>1</u>	<u>Perito</u>	<u>A</u>
Marybel Batjer	_____	_____	_____
Paul Stevens	<u>2</u>	<u>✓</u>	_____
John Negroponte	_____	_____	_____
Colin Powell	_____	_____	_____
Paul Stevens	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>3</u>	<u>CP 5/16</u>	<u>D</u>
NSC Secretariat	<u>4</u>	_____	<u>N</u>

I = Information A = Action R = Retain D = Dispatch ✓ N = No further Action

cc: VP Baker Other PSS

COMMENTS

Should be seen by: _____

(Date/Time)



**National Security Council
The White House**

AC

System # _____
 Package # 3638
 DOCLOG AC AIO

88 MAY 16 A 9: 24

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Perito	<u>1</u>	<u>Per</u>	<u>A</u>
Marybel Batjer	_____	_____	_____
Paul Stevens	<u>2</u>	<u>✓</u>	_____
John Negroponte	_____	_____	_____
Colin Powell	_____	_____	_____
Paul Stevens	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>3</u>	<u>VP 5/16</u>	<u>D</u>
NSC Secretariat	<u>4</u>	_____	<u>N</u>

I = Information **A = Action** R = Retain D = Dispatch ✓ N = No further Action

cc: VP Baker Other PSS

COMMENTS

Should be seen by: _____
 (Date/Time)



UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 8803638
RECEIVED: 13 MAY 88 16

TO: PETERSON, R

FROM: STEVENS

DOC DATE: 16 MAY 88
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: PHILIPPINES
INTL TRADE
LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL

ECONOMICS
DEFENSE POLICY

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: DOD DRAFT RPT ON APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE RE BUY PHILIPPINES PROGRAM

ACTION: PERITO SGD MEMO

DUE DATE: 16 MAY 88

STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: CHILDRESS

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCIF:

CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO
CHILDRESS

COMMENTS:

DISPATCHED BY cel DATE _____ W/ATTCH: YES NO

OPENED BY: NSCTF CLOSED BY: NSSRF DOC 3 OF 3

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 8803638

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 CHILDRRESS
002 STEVENS
003

Z 88051316 MEMO STEVENS TO PETERSON
Z 88051611 FOR SIGNATURE
X 88051620 PERITO SGD MEMO

BB

575339
CO125
FO005-03
FE011
FE006-12

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

s/s 8800954

Date January 14, 1988

FOR: Mr. Paul Schott Stevens
Executive Secretary
National Security Council
The White House



REFERENCE:

To: President Reagan
From: Fookien Times Philippines Yearbook - Betty Go Belmonte
Date: November 10, 1987
Subject: Letter and Deluxe Edition of Philippines Yearbook

WH Referral Dated: NA
NSC ID# (if any): NA

The attached item was sent directly to the Department of State.

ACTION TAKEN:

- A draft reply is attached.
- A draft reply will be forwarded.
- A translation is attached.
- An information copy of a direct reply is attached.
- We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below.
- The Department of State has no objection to the proposed travel.
- Other (see remarks).

REMARKS:

NSC#8802345

Richard J. Dodge
Director
Secretariat Staff



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

January 14, 1988

Ms. Betty Go Belmonte
Editor, Philippines Yearbook
Corner 13th and Railroad Streets
Port Area
P. O. Box 747
Manila, Philippines

Dear Ms. Belmonte:

I am writing on behalf of President Reagan to thank you for forwarding a copy of the 1986-87 edition of the Philippines Yearbook. The Yearbook is a valuable resource for those who have followed Philippine affairs during the historic period covered by this latest edition. True to its claim to being a "Chronicler of Philippine Progress," the Yearbook covers a broad range of national life, reporting on key issues of national and international significance. I commend you and your colleagues on the Yearbook staff for an excellent publication which has already become an important contribution to our Philippine library.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles B. Salmon, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Charles B. Salmon, Jr.
Director, Office of Philippine Affairs
Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs

November 10, 1987

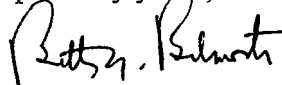
His Excellency
Ronald Reagan
President, United States of America

Your Excellency:

We are happy to present you with a de luxe edition of the
1986-87 PHILIPPINES YEARBOOK of the Fookien Times.

Should you find time to comment on our publication, we
would deeply appreciate hearing from you.

Respectfully yours,



BETTY GO BELMONTE
E d i t o r

RECEIVED 15 JAN 88 15

TO PRESIDENT

FROM SALMON, CHARLES B
LEVITSKY, M

DOCDATE 10 NOV 87
14 JAN 88

KEYWORDS: PHILIPPINES

MP

SUBJECT: FOOKIEN TIMES PHILIPPINES YEARBOOK- BETTY GO BELMONTE

ACTION: FOR RECORD PURPOSES

DUE: 15 JAN 88 STATUS C FILES WH

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

NONE

COMMENTS

REF# 8800954 LOG NSCIFID (RB RB)

ACTION OFFICER (S)	ASSIGNED	ACTION REQUIRED	DUE	COPIES TO

DISPATCH _____ W/ATTCH FILE _____ (C)

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

575472

Collection Name

WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT
(WHORM): SUBJECT FILE

Withdrawer

DLB 8/6/2010

File Folder

CO125 (PHILIPPINES) (5750000-583999)

FOIA

S10-306
SYSTEMATIC

Box Number

152

936

<i>ID</i>	<i>Document Type</i> <i>Document Description</i>	<i>No of</i> <i>pages</i>	<i>Doc Date</i>	<i>Restric-</i> <i>tions</i>
95577	REPORT SITUATION ROOM NOTE, RE: US SERVICEMEN KILLED IN PHILIPPINES	1	10/28/1987	B1

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing
Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

376097
IE# 476884

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

C0125

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 20, 1988

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE JOSE A. RONO

SUBJECT: APPEAL TO PERMIT THE RETURN OF PRESIDENT
FERDINAND MARCOS TO THE PHILIPPINES AS AN
ELDER STATESMAN WHO WOULD CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS
THE COUNTRY'S DEMOCRATIC SURVIVAL

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
COLIN POWELL	ORG	88/05/20	C	88/05/26
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE: ✓ Dos	R	88/05/27	A	88/06/01
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 73 MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES:

MI MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

- *****
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| *ACTION CODES: | *DISPOSITION | *OUTGOING | * |
| * | * | *CORRESPONDENCE: | * |
| *A-APPROPRIATE ACTION | *A-ANSWERED | *TYPE RESP=INITIALS | * |
| *C-COMMENT/RECOM | *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL | * OF SIGNER | * |
| *D-DRAFT RESPONSE | *C-COMPLETED | * CODE = A | * |
| *F-FURNISH FACT SHEET | *S-SUSPENDED | *COMPLETED = DATE OF | * |
| *I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC* | | * OUTGOING | * |
| *R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * | | | * |
| *S-FOR-SIGNATURE | | | * |
| *X-INTERIM REPLY | | | * |
- *****

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75,OEOb) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 8816966

Date June 2, 1988

FOR: Mr. Paul Schott Stevens
Executive Secretary
National Security Council
The White House

REFERENCE:

To: President Reagan

From: The Honorable Jose A. Ono

Date: May 18, 1988

Subject: Appeal to permit the return of President Marcos

WH Referral Dated: 5/27/88
NSC ID# (if any): ~~476664~~ 576049

 The attached item was sent directly to the
Department of State.

ACTION TAKEN:

- A draft reply is attached.
 A draft reply will be forwarded.
 A translation is attached.
 x An information copy of a direct reply is attached.
 We believe no response is necessary for the reason
cited below.
 The Department of State has no objection to the
proposed travel.
 Other (see remarks).

REMARKS:


Director
Secretariat Staff



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

June 1, 1988

Mr. M. L. Castro
1613 Cypress St., Corner Lumbang St.
Dasmaringas Village
Makati, Philippines

Dear Mr. Castro:

I am responding on behalf of President Reagan to a letter, dated May 18, which you forwarded from a number of Philippine Congressmen and other civic leaders. I would appreciate your sharing this response with them.

The U.S. Government unequivocally supports the Government of President Aquino and its ambitious agenda of political, economic, and social reform. As noted in your letter, the Philippines faces daunting problems. We are confident, however, that new democratic institutions of government provide the framework within which such challenges can be constructively addressed. As a longstanding friend and ally of the Philippines, the United States remains committed to doing all it can to help defend democracy and foster economic growth.

For more than two years, the U.S. Government has expressed its view that terms for Mr. Marcos' return to the Philippines and prospects for his reconciliation with your country's leadership are internal Philippine political issues in which it would be inappropriate for us to intervene. President Reagan's personal invitation for Mr. Marcos to come to the United States was motivated by the U.S. Government's desire to ease the transition to democratic government and help avert major bloodshed. He is welcome to remain here until the Philippine Government gives him permission to return.

I hope that I have responded to your concern.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. Scott Butcher".

W. Scott Butcher
Acting Director
Office of Philippine Affairs
Bureau for East Asian and Pacific
Affairs

8816966

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

MAY 27, 1988

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 476664

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED MAY 18, 1988

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: THE HONORABLE JOSE A. RONO
CONGRESSMAN
DISTRICT I - SAMAR
CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES

PHILIPPINES

SUBJECT: APPEAL TO PERMIT THE RETURN OF PRESIDENT
FERDINAND MARCOS TO THE PHILIPPINES AS AN
ELDER STATESMAN WHO WOULD CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS
THE COUNTRY'S DEMOCRATIC SURVIVAL

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

~~476664~~
576049

Manila, Philippines
May 18, 1988

HIS EXCELLENCY
President Ronald Reagan
White House, Washington D.C.
United States of America

8816966

Excellency:

It has been more than two years now since the forced exile of President Ferdinand E. Marcos to Hawaii. We thank you, Mr. President, and the American people, for extending to him and his family a kind, if vigilant, hospitality, the reasons for which we are well aware. But the past is not anything to dwell on, except, in a historical sense, to profit by it.

The same period of time has lapsed since Mrs. Corazon Cojuangco Aquino assumed the presidency of the country. It is fair to say that despite her best efforts, high hopes, and apparent pride in having survived five (5) attempted coups, Mrs. Aquino, while still popular, has not inspired much confidence in the future of the Philippine Republic in relation to the twin threats of Communist insurgency and Muslim secession.

These twin threats have also placed in jeopardy the continuance of the United States' military bases in our country, should it be your government's intention to retain them beyond 1991, on the basis that they are important to American strategic objectives in the Pacific.

We believe that Mrs. Aquino's rise to the Presidency has unleashed hitherto dormant political forces in the Philippines. The irony about the restored democracy is that while democratic institutions have yet to be nurtured and strengthened, so many forces are clamoring for the termination of the bases as a prelude to national disaster.

The insurgency has worsened despite the assurance that the exile of President Marcos would diminish it. The secessionist Moslem National Liberation Front (MNLF) was revived, in spite of the fact that during the term of President Marcos, it was but a shadow. The Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) has continuously conveyed thinly-veiled threats to the Philippine government. It is clear that the Aquino administration is threatened with a war on two fronts which would be difficult to win.

This situation is aggravated by the undeniable fragmentation of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The recent escape of Col. "Gringo" Honasan is dramatic proof that the grievances which fueled the frustrated coups are still alive. And then there are the general officers whose loyalties are not with the present administration, one of whom, General Zumel, is still field and commanding a following.

In some areas of the Philippines, military forces are either demoralized or running amok, if we are to believe findings by Amnesty International and the Local Task Force Detainees organization. In sum, while the government stands accused of human rights violations, it is also perceived to be ineffective in the campaign, if any, against insurgency. The recent capture of outstanding leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) speaks well of the intelligence capability of the military establishment, but as emphasized by observers, this will only make the new leaders more careful yet aggressive, without any assurance that the insurgency will abate.

It is unfortunate that the "democratic space" afforded by the Aquino government was misused by the rebellious forces in the Philippines. Initially, the "space" was welcome development, since, after all, democracy is about political competition. Nevertheless, "democratic space" must be matched by vigorous, clear-minded leadership if democratic institutions are to have a chance to survive and thrive. In this regard, the leadership left much to be desired.

Perceptive Filipinos look to the legislative branch, especially the Senate, for political direction in lieu of the President's "hands off" executive style, as they put it. They have been disappointed. The Senate has a formidable bloc hostile to the U. S. Bases. The House of Representatives poses a dangerous resistance to the administration's comprehensive agrarian reform program (CARP) which is being pursued by influential members of the Catholic Church, the peasantry and the labor unions, technocrats and intellectuals. In this highly charged environment, it is obvious that executive leadership must work for a consensus. What worries is that if it should be exercised at all, it might be too weak and too late.

This perception is shared by knowledgeable American observers, scholars as well as journalists, many of whom have strongly supported Mrs. Aquino on the past. This goes for many concerned Filipinos as well. It isn't that they expected too much of her -- no one did. What they expect was

the sincerity and determination to confront problems that after all was the promise of her campaign. But she betrayed her coalition, and destroyed her alliances, by a seeming inability to grasp and grapple with the simple implications of her words and actions.

It has been said that she has been ill-advised from the beginning. What is disquieting is that the unwanted advisers have merely been hidden from the public eye but continue to exercise the same influence which led to the late Minister Jimmy Ongpin's suicide and the continuous heckling of excellent officials like Central Bank Governor Jose B. Fernandez. The politicians, who profess to be loyal to Mrs. Aquino are not of any help, since their antics prevent any serious address of our foreign debt and other economic problems.

This is not all. The Aquino economists themselves are in open disagreement about many fundamental issues. The President has not taken any step to resolve the disagreement, which naturally, has retarded economic recovery.

In the light of all these, we are impelled to consider seriously the return of President Marcos to the Philippines -- not as another challenger to President Aquino but as a senior citizen of some prominence who is ready to contribute towards forging a consensus for democratic survival. We are aware that the first question is whether his return would add, rather than reduce, the problems plaguing the Aquino administration. The Filipino people do not wish her harm. We all want her to succeed for the sake of our children and children's children.

Mrs. Aquino understandably mistrusts President Marcos, otherwise, she would have filed formal charges against him so that he could return earlier to answer them in court. This mistrust is compounded by the fact that President Marcos still commands a considerable following among our countrymen. This being the case, reason dictates that the most politic thing for the country is to reconcile the Marcos followers with the supporters of the Aquino government.

We believe that President Marcos can appeal and will still be followed by his well-wishers and followers in the civilian and military sectors. All Mrs. Aquino has to do is to likewise appeal to her own people. For what is essential and critical now is for all those who have a desire for democracy

to survive in the Philippines to form a common front against insurgency and secession. Needless to say, this requires a common agreement on the security and economic advantages that the U. S. military bases afford us consistent with our national interest.

To be sure, the unification of forces will raise many questions about the Aquino government. It must be acknowledged that the overly harsh statements against President Marcos in the past, present more problems to the Aquino group than to President Marcos. The problems, however, ought not to be insurmountable.

It is possible, in fact, desirable to formulate a statement that stresses the need for national unity above personal and partisan sentiments, interests and motivations. It has been observed repeatedly that national unity has always eluded us, but, perhaps, only because the need for it has not been as urgent as it is now. The disarray in Mrs. Aquino's once formidable alliance, the factionalism in the armed forces, the anxiety in the business community, the growth of insurgency in the provinces, are no longer merely the "noises of a democracy"; they are the not-too-distant rumblings of social upheaval. They make us rumble.

These are perceptions, Mr. President, which are shared by many of our countrymen. But if there is any doubt, a quiet and discreet survey of Filipinos, conducted with sophistication by a U. S. team, should confirm these disquieting thoughts.

Of recent occurrence now is the sudden demise of President Marcos' mother, Josefa Edralin-Marcos only two weeks ago, which threatens to sunder further this elusive unity we, as a people, are searching for and striving so hard to attain.

For deeply rooted in our culture and ingrained in our being as Filipinos, Mr. President, are our deep, abiding love and respect for kith and kin and the passing of one's relation -- especially when that relation is one's mother -- which can never be minimized. To do so would be the gravest sin that one can commit to his/her fellowmen.

We, Filipinos will even traverse the highest peaks and cross the most turbulent of waters, on all fours, if need be, Mr. President, just to be able to reach the deathbed of a loved one.

Mr. Marcos had never seen his ailing mother since he was forced into exile more than two years ago. His mother kept on asking for him when she was still alive.

When she was rushed to the hospital last May 1st in partial coma, the faint whispers that repeatedly issued from her lips were her eldest son, Ferdinand's name. She was able to send her final plea to Mrs. Corazon C. Aquino, begging that Mrs. Aquino grant the dying lady's wish. Past noon of May 4th, the ailing lady passed away without seeing her eldest son.

Mrs. Marcos' appeal was joined by the brother, Pacifico, and the sister, Fortuna, of President Marcos....both of which were perfunctorily set aside by Mrs. Corazon C. Aquino, pleading "considerations of national welfare which are above individual interest", thereby conveniently denying the requests of a dying mother, and grieving brother and sister.


Majority of us, Filipinos, are simple folk, Mr. President but we are proud and jealous of our filial piety and devotion. Denying these for whatever reason is something we can never fathom nor countenance. On the other hand, we shun high-sounding ideas, especially rhetorics we cannot flesh and generalities we cannot visualize. So we feel, and fearfully so, Mr. President, that Mrs. Aquino's denial of Mr. Marcos' familial duty to his dying mother will direly affect the feelings of our simple folk who, so many times before, have regarded Mr. Marcos with similar, if not greater, love and devotion as they did to Mrs. Aquino once recently. To this day, we are certain many still carry, deep in their hearts, the residue of that love and goodwill for President Marcos, as demonstrated by their unabated clamor for his return. Even her own Vice-President, Salvador P. Laurel, expressed the thought that "wishes of a dying mother should be granted."


We submit that Mrs. Corazon C. Aquino should stop thinking of the Presidency as a narrow fight between her and President Marcos, but as a crucial contest for the Filipino people's allegiance to democracy on one side, and the communists and secessionists, on the other. Neither of our side may be fully satisfied with the outcome in so far as personal ambitions are concerned, but the country will undoubtedly benefit and the Republic will come out stronger if we succeed in uniting our people, starting with their leaders.

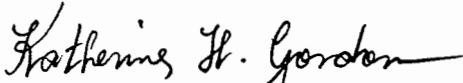
We earnestly appeal to you, then to permit the return of President Marcos to the country of his birth so he can play the role of an elder statesman and help the country survive the threats to its present existence. The risks could be all of President Marcos. But we assure you that the country risks nothing by his return. It can turn the country around to real peace and progress.

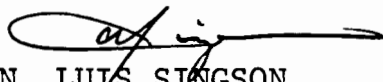
With assurances of our highest esteem, we remain,


Sincerely yours,

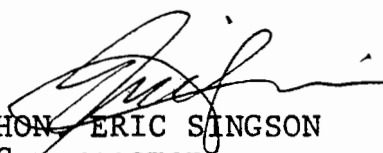

HON. JOSE A. RONO
Congressman
District I - Samar
Congress of the Philippines



HON. LUZ BAKUNAWA
Congresswoman
District II - Masbate
Congress of the Philippines

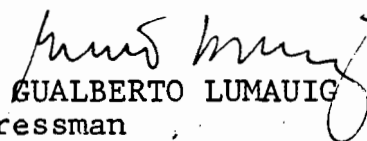

HON. KATHERINE GORDON
Congresswoman
Olongapo City
Congress of the Philippines

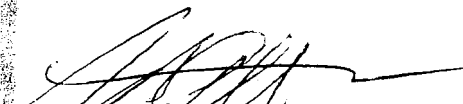

HON. LUIS SINGSON
Congressman
District I - Ilocos Sur
Congress of the Philippines


HON. ISMAEL MATHAY
Congressman
District IV - Quezon City
Congress of the Philippines

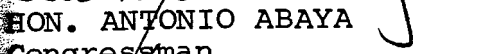

HON. ERIC SINGSON
Congressman
District II - Ilocos Sur
Congress of the Philippines


HON. ROMUALDO ZAMORA
Congressman
Lone District - San Juan-Mand.
Congress of the Philippines

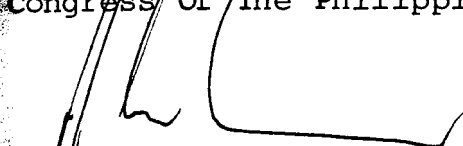

HON. GUALBERTO LUMAIG
Congressman
Lone District, Ifugao
Congress of the Philippines



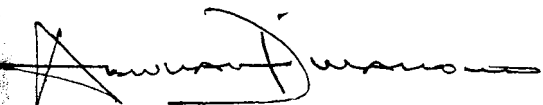
HON. RODOLFO ALBANO
Congressman
District I - Isabela
Congress Of The Philippines




HON. ANTONIO ABAYA
Congressman
District IV - Isabela
Congress Of The Philippines




HON. ANTONIO CERILLES
Congressman
District II - Zamboanga Del Sur
Congress Of The Philippines



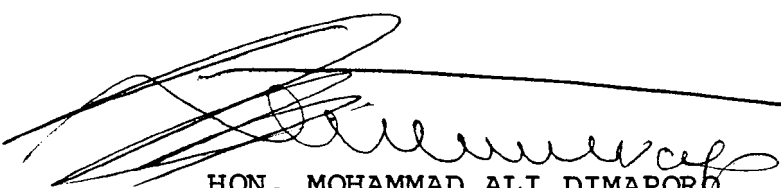
HON. ABDULLAH DIMAPORO
Congressman
District II - Lanao Del Norte
Congress Of The Philippines



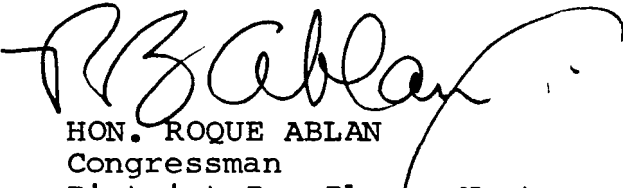
HON. MARIANO NALUPTA JR.
Congressman
District II - Ilocos Norte
Congress Of The Philippines




HON. VICTOR ORTEGA
Congressman
District I - La Union
Congress Of The Philippines



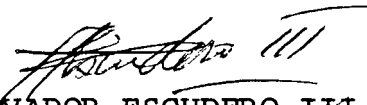
HON. MOHAMMAD ALI DIMAPORO
Congressman
District II - Lanao Del Sur
Congress Of The Philippines




HON. ROQUE ABLAN
Congressman
District I - Ilocos Norte
Congress Of The Philippines



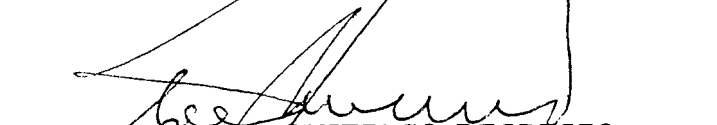
HON. SIMPLICIO DOMINGO, JR.
Congressman
District II - Isabela
Congress Of The Philippines



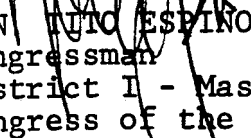
HON. SALVADOR ESCUDERO III
Congressman
District I - Sorsogon
Congress Of The Philippines




HON. CONSTANTINO NAVARRO
Congressman
District II - Surigao Del Norte
Congress Of The Philippines





HON. SANTIAGO RESPICIO
Congressman
District III - Isabela
Congress Of The Philippines

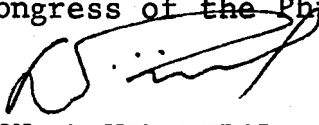

HON. TITO ESPINOSA
Congressman
District I - Masbate
Congress of the Philippines

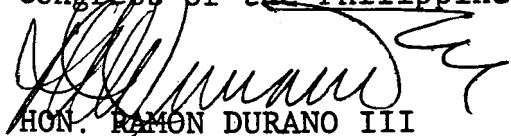

HON. MOISES ESPINOSA
Congressman
District III - Masbate
Congress of the Philippines

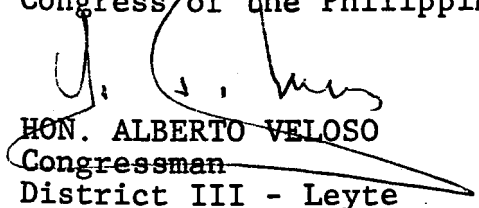
HON. RAMON LEGASPI
Congressman
Lone District - Aklan
Congress of the Philippines



HON. NARCISO MONFORT
Congressman
District IV - Iloilo
Congress of the Philippines



HON. MARIANO YULO
Congressman
District V - Negros Occ.
Congress of the Philippines

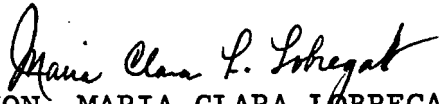

HON. DAVID TIROL
Congressman
District II - Bohol
Congress of the Philippines

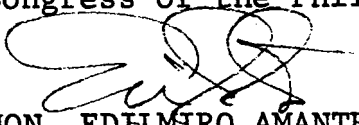

HON. RAMON DURANO III
Congressman
District V - Cebu
Congress of the Philippines



HON. ALBERTO VELOSO
Congressman
District III - Leyte
Congress of the Philippines

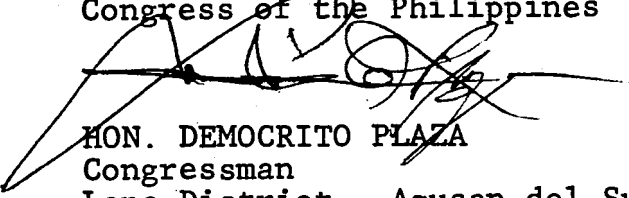

HON. ERIBERTO LORETO
Congressman
District V - Leyte
Congress of the Philippines



HON. ALAWADIN BANDON
Congressman
Lone District - Tawi-tawi
Congress of the Philippines



HON. MARIA CLARA LOBREGAT
Congresswoman
Zamboanga City
Congress of the Philippines

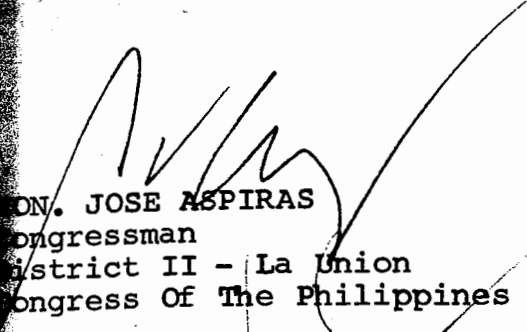

HON. EDILMIRO AMANTE
Congressman
District II - Agusan del Norte
Congress of the Philippines

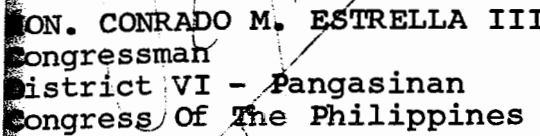

HON. JOSE ZUBIRI JR.
Congressman
District III - Bukidnon
Congress of the Philippines

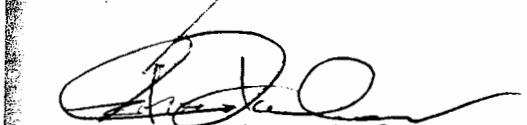

HON. DEMOCRITO PLAZA
Congressman
Lone District - Agusan del Sur
Congress of the Philippines


HON. CHARITO PLAZA
Congresswoman
District I - Agusan del Norte
Congress of the Philippines



HON. BENJAMIN BAUTISTA
Congressman
District II - Davao del Sur
Congress of the Philippines

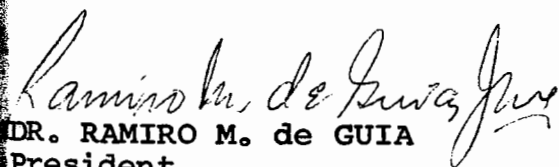

HON. JOSE ASPIRAS
Congressman
District II - La Union
Congress Of The Philippines


HON. CONRADO M. ESTRELLA III
Congressman
District VI - Pangasinan
Congress Of The Philippines

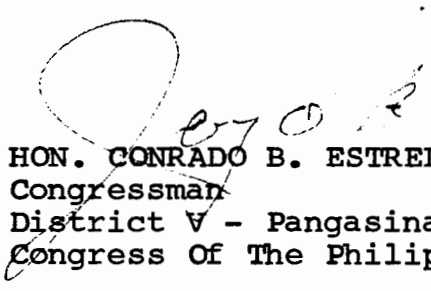

HON. PATRICIO DURLAO
Governor
Province Of Nueva Vizcaya

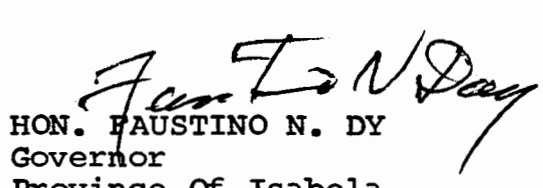
HON. ROMMEL CORRO
Chairman
Association Of Commentators
& Radio Announcers Of The
Philippines


HON. ZABEDIN ASIS
Chairman
Council Of Leaders Of The
Big Water Royale
Balindong, Lanao Del Sur

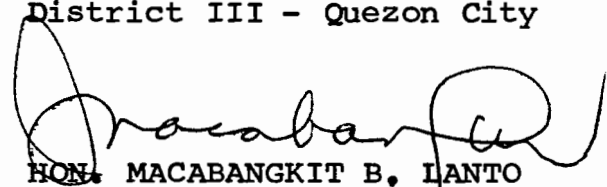

DR. RAMIRO M. de GUIA
President
ASEAN Federation Of
Cardiology


Former President
Philippine Heart
Association

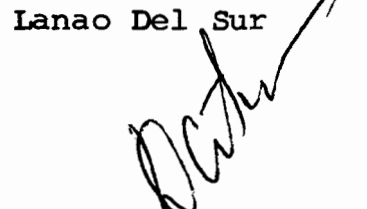

HON. CONRADO B. ESTRELLA
Congressman
District V - Pangasinan
Congress Of The Philippines

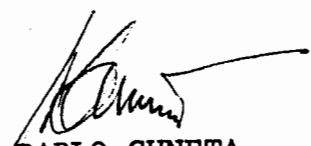

HON. FAUSTINO N. DY
Governor
Province Of Isabela

HON. JOSE L. PACULDO
Councilor
District III - Quezon City



HON. MACABANGKIT B. LANTO
Former Assemblyman & Speaker
Regional Legislative
Assembly Of Autonomous
Region 12


HON. ABDUL A. MAROHUMBAR
Former Regional Assemblyman
Former Vice-Governor
Lanao Del Sur

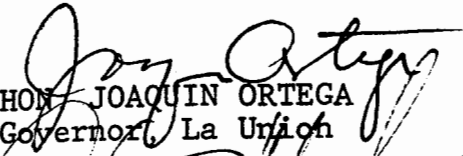

HON. DOMINGO TUZON
Congressman
District I - Cagayan
Congress of the Philippines



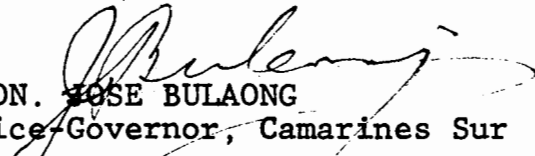
HON. PABLO CUNETA
Mayor, Pasay City




HON. MACARIO ASISTIO
Mayor, Caloocan City




HON. JOAQUIN ORTEGA
Governor, La Union




HON. JOSE BULAONG
Vice-Governor, Camarines Sur




HON. ANTONIO SERAPIO
Congressman
Lone District - Valenzuela
Congress of the Philippines



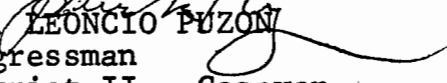
HON. JORGE NUNEZ
Congressman
District III - Cavite
Congress of the Philippines



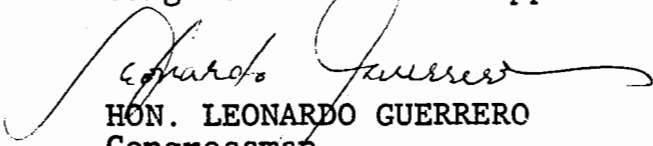
HON. SAMUEL DANGWA
Congressman
District II - Benguet
Congress of the Philippines



HON. RENATO DRAGON
Congressman
District II - Cavite
Congress of the Philippines

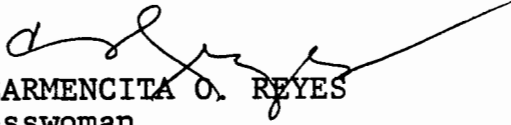


HON. LEONCIO PUZON
Congressman
District II - Cagayan
Congress of the Philippines




HON. LEONARDO GUERRERO
Congressman
District I - Cavite
Congress of the Philippines

HON. TITO DUPAYA
Congressman
District III - Cagayan
Congress of the Philippines




HON. CARMENCITA O. REYES
Congresswoman
Lone District - Marinduque
Congress of the Philippines

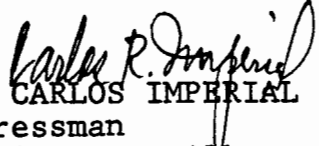
HON. CARLOS PADILLA
Congressman
Lone District - Nueva Vizcaya
Congress of the Philippines



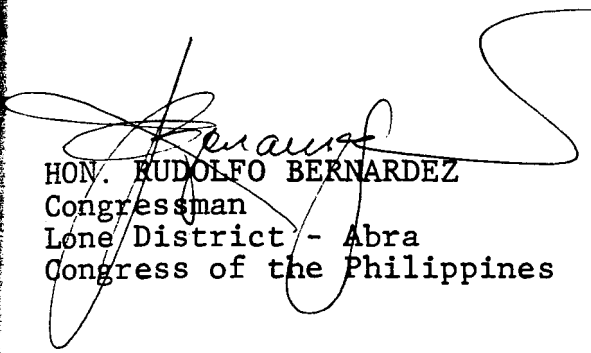
HON. MARIO GENE MENDIOLA
Congressman
Lone District - Mindoro Occ.
Congress of the Philippines



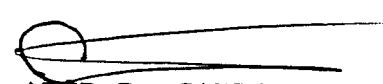
HON. HERMOGENES CONCEPCION JR.
Congressman
District III - Nueva Ecija
Congress of the Philippines



HON. CARLOS IMPERIAL
Congressman
District II - Albay
Congress of the Philippines




HON. RUDOLFO BERNARDEZ
Congressman
Lone District - Abra
Congress of the Philippines

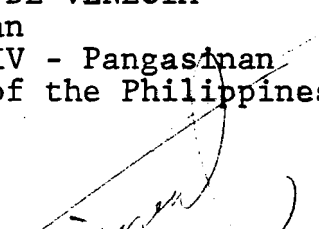


HON. ABER P. CANLAS
Former Assemblyman
Pampanga
Batasang Pambansa

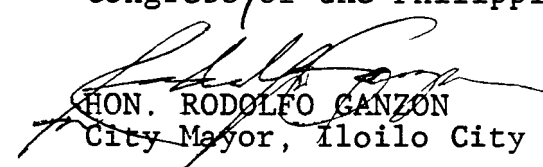
HON. JOSE DE VENECIA
Congressman
District IV - Pangasinan
Congress of the Philippines



HON. RUFINO S. JAVIER
Congressman
Lone District - Pasig
Congress of the Philippines




HON. CORNELIO VILLAREAL SR.
Congressman
District II - Capiz
Congress of the Philippines

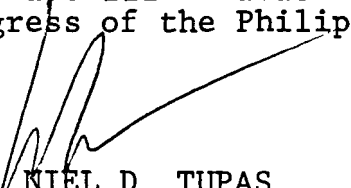


HON. RODOLFO GANZON
City Mayor, Iloilo City

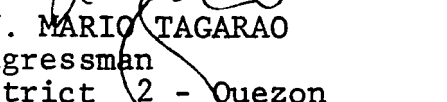
HON. RODOLFO DEL ROSARIO
Congressman
District III - Davao del Norte
Congress of the Philippines



HON. JUNE LABO
City Mayor, Baguio City



HON. NIEL D. TUPAS
Congressman
District 5 - Iloilo
Congress of the Philippines



HON. MARIO TAGARAO
Congressman
District 2 - Quezon
Congress of the Philippines

~~476664~~
576049

Manila, Philippines
May 18, 1988

HIS EXCELLENCY
President Ronald Reagan
White House, Washington D.C.
United States of America

8816966

Excellency:

It has been more than two years now since the forced exile of President Ferdinand E. Marcos to Hawaii. We thank you, Mr. President, and the American people, for extending to him and his family a kind, if vigilant, hospitality, the reasons for which we are well aware. But the past is not anything to dwell on, except, in a historical sense, to profit by it.

The same period of time has lapsed since Mrs. Corazon Cojuangco Aquino assumed the presidency of the country. It is fair to say that despite her best efforts, high hopes, and apparent pride in having survived five (5) attempted coups, Mrs. Aquino, while still popular, has not inspired much confidence in the future of the Philippine Republic in relation to the twin threats of Communist insurgency and Muslim secession.

These twin threats have also placed in jeopardy the continuance of the United States' military bases in our country, should it be your government's intention to retain them beyond 1991, on the basis that they are important to American strategic objectives in the Pacific.

We believe that Mrs. Aquino's rise to the Presidency has unleashed hitherto dormant political forces in the Philippines. The irony about the restored democracy is that while democratic institutions have yet to be nurtured and strengthened, so many forces are clamoring for the termination of the bases as a prelude to national disaster.

The insurgency has worsened despite the assurance that the exile of President Marcos would diminish it. The secessionist Moslem National Liberation Front (MNLF) was revived, in spite of the fact that during the term of President Marcos, it was but a shadow. The Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) has continuously conveyed thinly-veiled threats to the Philippine government. It is clear that the Aquino administration is threatened with a war on two fronts which would be difficult to win.

This situation is aggravated by the undeniable fragmentation of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The recent escape of Col. "Gringo" Honasan is dramatic proof that the grievances which fueled the frustrated coups are still alive. And then there are the general officers whose loyalties are not with the present administration, one of whom, General Zumel, is still field and commanding a following.

In some areas of the Philippines, military forces are either demoralized or running amok, if we are to believe findings by Amnesty International and the Local Task Force Detainees organization. In sum, while the government stands accused of human rights violations, it is also perceived to be ineffective in the campaign, if any, against insurgency. The recent capture of outstanding leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) speaks well of the intelligence capability of the military establishment, but as emphasized by observers, this will only make the new leaders more careful yet aggressive, without any assurance that the insurgency will abate.

It is unfortunate that the "democratic space" afforded by the Aquino government was misused by the rebellious forces in the Philippines. Initially, the "space" was welcome development, since, after all, democracy is about political competition. Nevertheless, "democratic space" must be matched by vigorous, clear-minded leadership if democratic institutions are to have a chance to survive and thrive. In this regard, the leadership left much to be desired.

Perceptive Filipinos look to the legislative branch, especially the Senate, for political direction in lieu of the President's "hands off" executive style, as they put it. They have been disappointed. The Senate has a formidable bloc hostile to the U. S. Bases. The House of Representatives poses a dangerous resistance to the administration's comprehensive agrarian reform program (CARP) which is being pursued by influential members of the Catholic Church, the peasantry and the labor unions, technocrats and intellectuals. In this highly charged environment, it is obvious that executive leadership must work for a consensus. What worries is that if it should be exercised at all, it might be too weak and too late.

This perception is shared by knowledgeable American observers, scholars as well as journalists, many of whom have strongly supported Mrs. Aquino on the past. This goes for many concerned Filipinos as well. It isn't that they expected too much of her -- no one did. What they expect was

the sincerity and determination to confront problems that after all was the promise of her campaign. But she betrayed her coalition, and destroyed her alliances, by a seeming inability to grasp and grapple with the simple implications of her words and actions.

It has been said that she has been ill-advised from the beginning. What is disquieting is that the unwanted advisers have merely been hidden from the public eye but continue to exercise the same influence which led to the late Minister Jimmy Ongpin's suicide and the continuous heckling of excellent officials like Central Bank Governor Jose B. Fernandez. The politicians, who profess to be loyal to Mrs. Aquino are not of any help, since their antics prevent any serious address of our foreign debt and other economic problems.

This is not all. The Aquino economists themselves are in open disagreement about many fundamental issues. The President has not taken any step to resolve the disagreement, which naturally, has retarded economic recovery.

In the light of all these, we are impelled to consider seriously the return of President Marcos to the Philippines -- not as another challenger to President Aquino but as a senior citizen of some prominence who is ready to contribute towards forging a consensus for democratic survival. We are aware that the first question is whether his return would add, rather than reduce, the problems plaguing the Aquino administration. The Filipino people do not wish her harm. We all want her to succeed for the sake of our children and children's children.

Mrs. Aquino understandably mistrusts President Marcos, otherwise, she would have filed formal charges against him so that he could return earlier to answer them in court. This mistrust is compounded by the fact that President Marcos still commands a considerable following among our countrymen. This being the case, reason dictates that the most politic thing for the country is to reconcile the Marcos followers with the supporters of the Aquino government.

We believe that President Marcos can appeal and will still be followed by his well-wishers and followers in the civilian and military sectors. All Mrs. Aquino has to do is to likewise appeal to her own people. For what is essential and critical now is for all those who have a desire for democracy

to survive in the Philippines to form a common front against insurgency and secession. Needless to say, this requires a common agreement on the security and economic advantages that the U. S. military bases afford us consistent with our national interest.

To be sure, the unification of forces will raise many questions about the Aquino government. It must be acknowledged that the overly harsh statements against President Marcos in the past, present more problems to the Aquino group than to President Marcos. The problems, however, ought not to be insurmountable.

It is possible, in fact, desirable to formulate a statement that stresses the need for national unity above personal and partisan sentiments, interests and motivations. It has been observed repeatedly that national unity has always eluded us, but, perhaps, only because the need for it has not been as urgent as it is now. The disarray in Mrs. Aquino's once formidable alliance, the factionalism in the armed forces, the anxiety in the business community, the growth of insurgency in the provinces, are no longer merely the "noises of a democracy"; they are the not-too-distant rumblings of social upheaval. They make us rumble.

These are perceptions, Mr. President, which are shared by many of our countrymen. But if there is any doubt, a quiet and discreet survey of Filipinos, conducted with sophistication by a U. S. team, should confirm these disquieting thoughts.

Of recent occurrence now is the sudden demise of President Marcos' mother, Josefa Edralin-Marcos only two weeks ago, which threatens to sunder further this elusive unity we, as a people, are searching for and striving so hard to attain.

For deeply rooted in our culture and ingrained in our being as Filipinos, Mr. President, are our deep, abiding love and respect for kith and kin and the passing of one's relation -- especially when that relation is one's mother -- which can never be minimized. To do so would be the gravest sin that one can commit to his/her fellowmen.

We, Filipinos will even traverse the highest peaks and cross the most turbulent of waters, on all fours, if need be, Mr. President, just to be able to reach the deathbed of a loved one.

Mr. Marcos had never seen his ailing mother since he was forced into exile more than two years ago. His mother kept on asking for him when she was still alive.

When she was rushed to the hospital last May 1st in partial coma, the faint whispers that repeatedly issued from her lips were her eldest son, Ferdinand's name. She was able to send her final plea to Mrs. Corazon C. Aquino, begging that Mrs. Aquino grant the dying lady's wish. Past noon of May 4th, the ailing lady passed away without seeing her eldest son.

Mrs. Marcos' appeal was joined by the brother, Pacifico, and the sister, Fortuna, of President Marcos....both of which were perfunctorily set aside by Mrs. Corazon C. Aquino, pleading "considerations of national welfare which are above individual interest", thereby conveniently denying the requests of a dying mother, and grieving brother and sister.


Majority of us, Filipinos, are simple folk, Mr. President but we are proud and jealous of our filial piety and devotion. Denying these for whatever reason is something we can never fathom nor countenance. On the other hand, we shun high-sounding ideas, especially rhetorics we cannot flesh and generalities we cannot visualize. So we feel, and fearfully so, Mr. President, that Mrs. Aquino's denial of Mr. Marcos' familial duty to his dying mother will direly affect the feelings of our simple folk who, so many times before, have regarded Mr. Marcos with similar, if not greater, love and devotion as they did to Mrs. Aquino once recently. To this day, we are certain many still carry, deep in their hearts, the residue of that love and goodwill for President Marcos, as demonstrated by their unabated clamor for his return. Even her own Vice-President, Salvador P. Laurel, expressed the thought that "wishes of a dying mother should be granted."


We submit that Mrs. Corazon C. Aquino should stop thinking of the Presidency as a narrow fight between her and President Marcos, but as a crucial contest for the Filipino people's allegiance to democracy on one side, and the communists and secessionists, on the other. Neither of our side may be fully satisfied with the outcome in so far as personal ambitions are concerned, but the country will undoubtedly benefit and the Republic will come out stronger if we succeed in uniting our people, starting with their leaders.

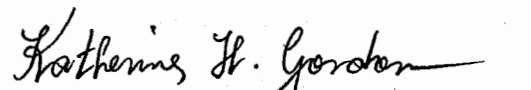
We earnestly appeal to you, then to permit the return of President Marcos to the country of his birth so he can play the role of an elder statesman and help the country survive the threats to its present existence. The risks could be all of President Marcos. But we assure you that the country risks nothing by his return. It can turn the country around to real peace and progress.

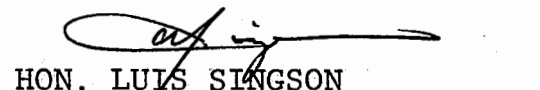
With assurances of our highest esteem, we remain,

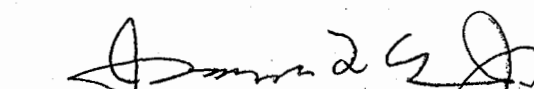
Sincerely yours,



HON. JOSE A. RONO
Congressman
District I - Samar
Congress of the Philippines

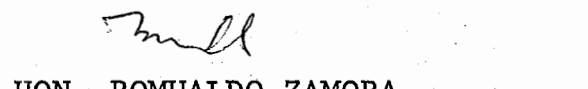

HON. LUZ BAKUNAWA
Congresswoman
District II - Masbate
Congress of the Philippines

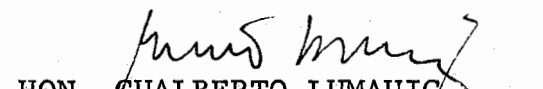

HON. KATHERINE GORDON
Congresswoman
Olongapo City
Congress of the Philippines



HON. LUIS SINGSON
Congressman
District I - Ilocos Sur
Congress of the Philippines


HON. ISMAEL MATHAY
Congressman
District IV - Quezon City
Congress of the Philippines

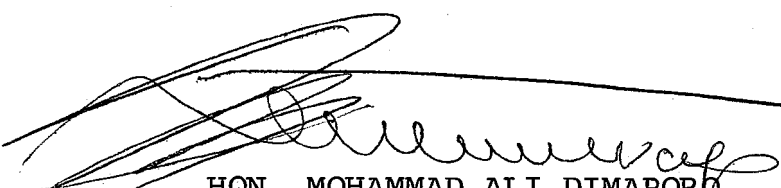

HON. ERIC SINGSON
Congressman
District II - Ilocos Sur
Congress of the Philippines


HON. ROMUALDO ZAMORA
Congressman
Lone District - San Juan-Mand.
Congress of the Philippines

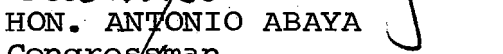

HON. GUALBERTO LUMAIG
Congressman
Lone District, Ifugao
Congress of the Philippines




HON. RODOLFO ALBANO
Congressman
District I - Isabela
Congress Of The Philippines



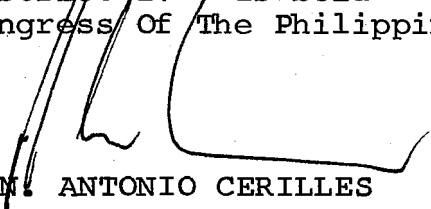
HON. MOHAMMAD ALI DIMAPORO
Congressman
District II - Lanao Del Sur
Congress Of The Philippines




HON. ANTONIO ABAYA
Congressman
District IV - Isabela
Congress Of The Philippines



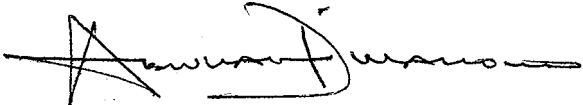
HON. ROQUE ABLAN
Congressman
District I - Ilocos Norte
Congress Of The Philippines



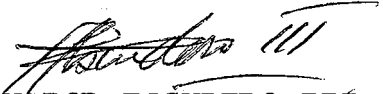
HON. ANTONIO CERILLES
Congressman
District II - Zamboanga Del Sur
Congress Of The Philippines




HON. SIMPLICIO DOMINGO, JR.
Congressman
District II - Isabela
Congress Of The Philippines




HON. ABDULLAH DIMAPORO
Congressman
District II - Lanao Del Norte
Congress Of The Philippines



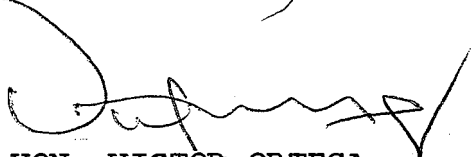
HON. SALVADOR ESCUDERO III
Congressman
District I - Sorsogon
Congress Of The Philippines



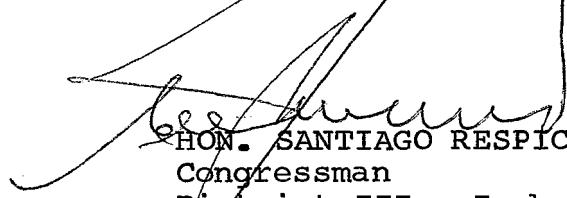
HON. MARIANO NALUPTA JR.
Congressman
District II - Ilocos Norte
Congress Of The Philippines



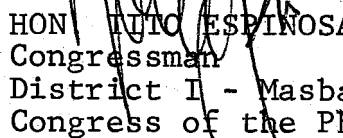
HON. CONSTANTINO NAVARRO
Congressman
District II - Surigao Del Norte
Congress Of The Philippines

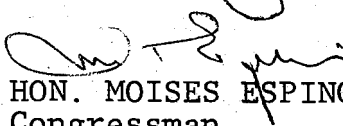


HON. VICTOR ORTEGA
Congressman
District I - La Union
Congress Of The Philippines

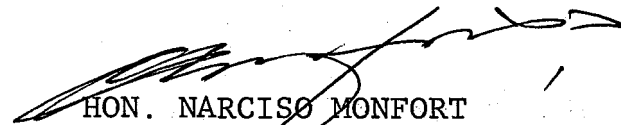


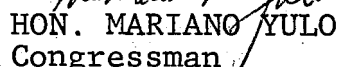
HON. SANTIAGO RESPICIO
Congressman
District III - Isabela
Congress Of The Philippines


HON. TITO ESPINOSA
Congressman
District I - Masbate
Congress of the Philippines

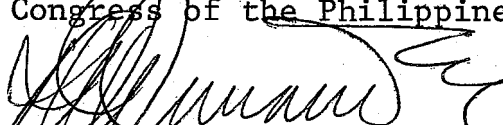

HON. MOISES ESPINOSA
Congressman
District III - Masbate
Congress of the Philippines


HON. RAMON LEGASPI
Congressman
Lone District - Aklan
Congress of the Philippines



HON. NARCISO MONFORT
Congressman
District IV - Iloilo
Congress of the Philippines

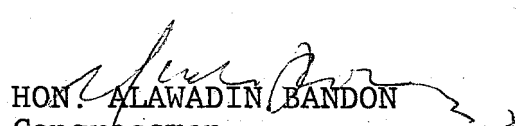

HON. MARIANO YULO
Congressman
District V - Negros Occ.
Congress of the Philippines

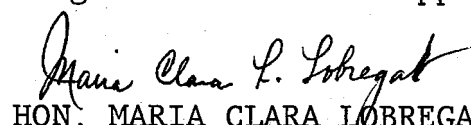
HON. DAVID TIROL
Congressman
District II - Bohol
Congress of the Philippines

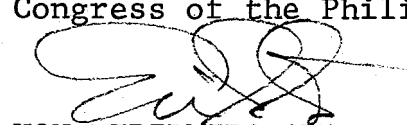

HON. RAMON DURANO III
Congressman
District V - Cebu
Congress of the Philippines

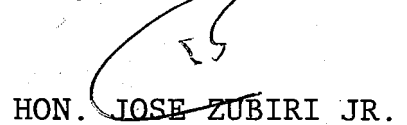

HON. ALBERTO VELOSO
Congressman
District III - Leyte
Congress of the Philippines

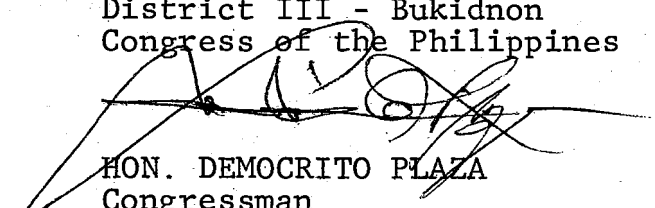

HON. ERIBERTO LORETO
Congressman
District V - Leyte
Congress of the Philippines

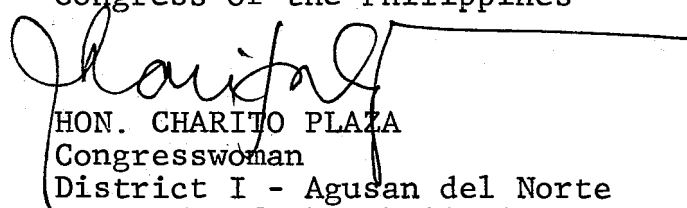

HON. ALAWADIN BANDON
Congressman
Lone District - Tawi-tawi
Congress of the Philippines

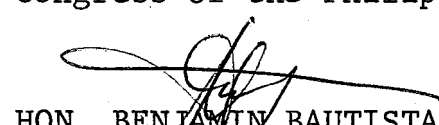

HON. MARIA CLARA LOBREGAT
Congresswoman
Zamboanga City
Congress of the Philippines

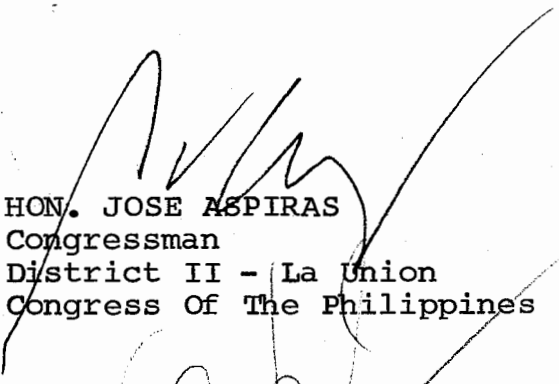

HON. EDELMIRO AMANTE
Congressman
District II - Agusan del Norte
Congress of the Philippines


HON. JOSE ZUBIRI JR.
Congressman
District III - Bukidnon
Congress of the Philippines

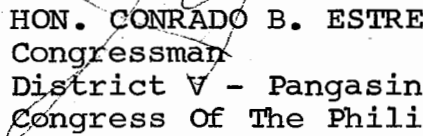

HON. DEMOCRITO PLAZA
Congressman
Lone District - Agusan del Sur
Congress of the Philippines


HON. CHARITO PLAZA
Congresswoman
District I - Agusan del Norte
Congress of the Philippines

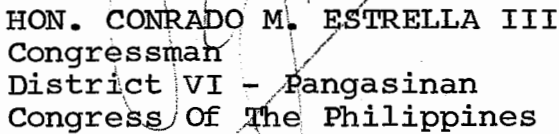

HON. BENJAMIN BAUTISTA
Congressman
District II - Davao del Sur
Congress of the Philippines



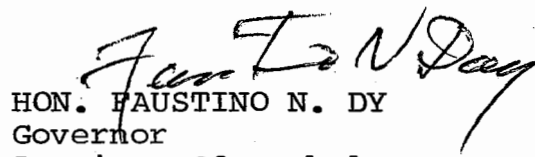
HON. JOSE ASPIRAS
Congressman
District II - La Union
Congress Of The Philippines




HON. CONRADO B. ESTRELLA
Congressman
District V - Pangasinan
Congress Of The Philippines



HON. CONRADO M. ESTRELLA III
Congressman
District VI - Pangasinan
Congress Of The Philippines



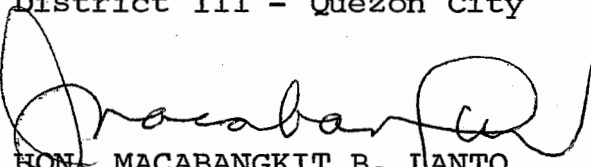
HON. FAUSTINO N. DY
Governor
Province Of Isabela




HON. PATRICIO DURLAO
Governor
Province Of Nueva Vizcaya

HON. JOSE L. PACULDO
Councilor
District III - Quezon City


HON. ROMMEL CORRO
Chairman
Association Of Commentators
& Radio Announcers Of The
Philippines



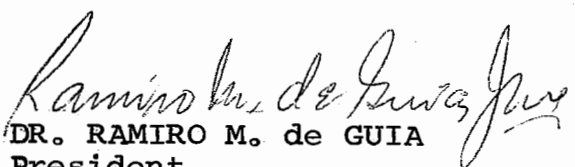
HON. MACABANGKIT B. IANTO
Former Assemblyman & Speaker
Regional Legislative
Assembly Of Autonomous
Region 12



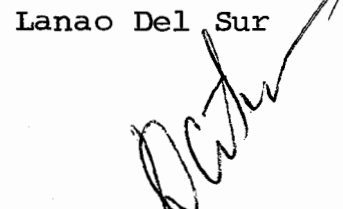
HON. ZABEDIN ASIS
Chairman
Council Of Leaders Of The
Big Water Royale
Balindong, Lanao Del Sur



HON. ABDUL A. MAROHUMBAR
Former Regional Assemblyman
Former Vice-Governor
Lanao Del Sur

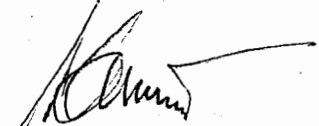


DR. RAMIRO M. de GUIA
President
ASEAN Federation Of
Cardiology




HON. DOMINGO TUZON
Congressman
District I - Cagayan
Congress of the Philippines

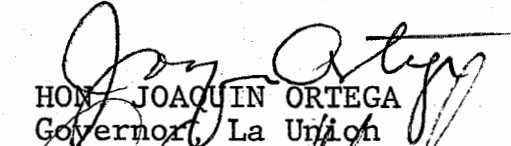
Former President
Philippine Heart
Association



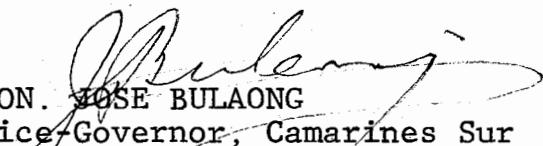
HON. PABLO CUNETA
Mayor, Pasay City




HON. MACARIO ASISTIO
Mayor, Caloocan City




HON. JOAQUIN ORTEGA
Governor, La Union



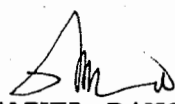
HON. JOSE BULAONG
Vice-Governor, Camarines Sur




HON. ANTONIO SERAPIO
Congressman
Lone District - Valenzuela
Congress of the Philippines



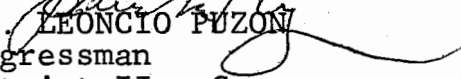
HON. JORGE NUNEZ
Congressman
District III - Cavite
Congress of the Philippines



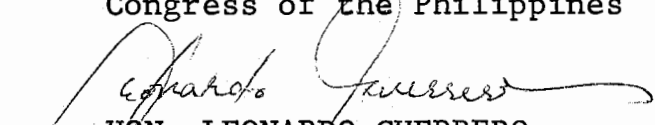
HON. SAMUEL DANGWA
Congressman
District II - Benguet
Congress of the Philippines



HON. RENATO DRAGON
Congressman
District II - Cavite
Congress of the Philippines

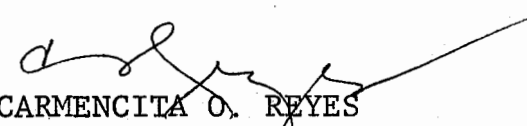


HON. LEONCIO PUZON
Congressman
District II - Cagayan
Congress of the Philippines



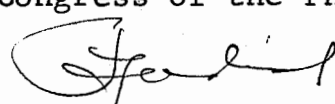
HON. LEONARDO GUERRERO
Congressman
District I - Cavite
Congress of the Philippines

HON. TITO DUPAYA
Congressman
District III - Cagayan
Congress of the Philippines

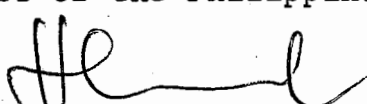


HON. CARMENCITA O. REYES
Congresswoman
Lone District - Marinduque
Congress of the Philippines

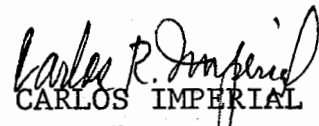
HON. CARLOS PADILLA
Congressman
Lone District - Nueva Vizcaya
Congress of the Philippines



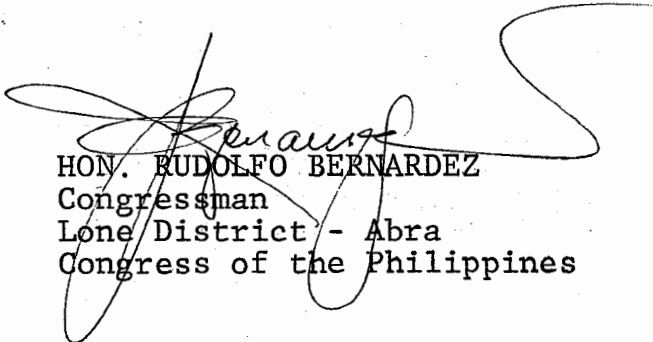
HON. MARIO GENE MENDIOLA
Congressman
Lone District - Mindoro Occ.
Congress of the Philippines



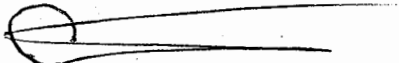
HON. HERMOGENES CONCEPCION JR.
Congressman
District III - Nueva Ecija
Congress of the Philippines



HON. CARLOS IMPERIAL
Congressman
District II - Albay
Congress of the Philippines

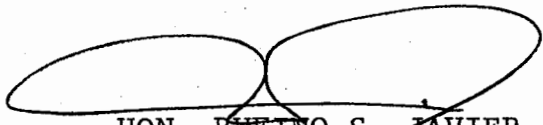


HON. RUDOLFO BERNARDEZ
Congressman
Lone District - Abra
Congress of the Philippines




HON. ABER P. CANLAS
Former Assemblyman
Pampanga
Batasang Pambansa

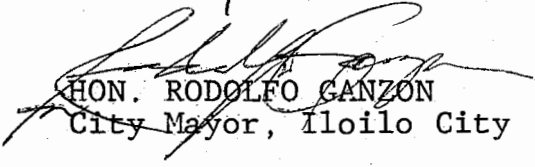
HON. JOSE DE VENECIA
Congressman
District IV - Pangasinan
Congress of the Philippines



HON. RUFINO S. JAVIER
Congressman
Lone District - Pasig
Congress of the Philippines




HON. CORNELIO VILLAREAL SR.
Congressman
District II - Capiz
Congress of the Philippines

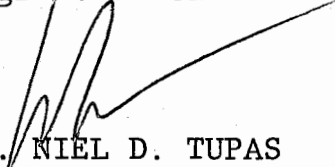


HON. RODOLFO GANZON
City Mayor, Iloilo City


HON. RODOLFO DEL ROSARIO
Congressman
District III - Davao del Norte
Congress of the Philippines



HON. JUNE LABO
City Mayor, Baguio City



HON. NIEL D. TUPAS
Congressman
District 5 - Iloilo
Congress of the Philippines



HON. MARIO TAGARAO
Congressman
District 2 - Quezon
Congress of the Philippines

