

[PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 657, February 19, 1975]

AMENDING SECTION FIVE (J) OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NUMBERED TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY THREE, CREATING THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION AND PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS.

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree No. 223 took effect on June 22, 1973;

WHEREAS, one of the primary functions of the Commission is to have general supervision over foreign nationals who are authorized by existing laws or granted special permits to practice their profession temporarily in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, existing laws invariably require that reciprocity in the practice of the profession between the alien country and the Philippines shall be established before such special permit is granted, which in many wise deprive the Philippines of the services of outstanding experts from foreign countries;

WHEREAS, such requirement of reciprocity serves as a restriction which needs to be corrected in order not to hinder the social and economic development of the Philippines.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution, do hereby decree and order the amendment of Presidential Decree No. 223, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 5 (j) is hereby amended, so as to read as follows:

"SEC. 5. Powers of the Commission.— The powers of the Commission are as follows:

a. * * * * *

j. The Commission may, upon recommendation of the Board concerned, approve the registration of and authorize the issuance of a certificate of registration with or without examination to a foreigner who is registered under the laws of his country: *Provided*, That the requirements for the registration or licensing in said foreign state or country be substantially the same as those required and contemplated by the laws of the Philippines and that the laws of such foreign state or country allow the citizens of the Philippines to practice the profession on the same basis and grant the same privileges as the subjects or citizens of such foreign state or country: *Provided, further*, That the applicant shall submit competent and conclusive documentary evidence, confirmed by the Department of Foreign Affairs, showing that his country's existing laws permit citizens of the Philippines to practice the profession under the rules and regulations governing citizens thereof: *Provided, finally*, That the Commission may, upon recommendation of the Board concerned, and approval of the President authorize the issuance of a certificate, of registration without examination or a temporary special permit to practice the profession in any foreigner