

[PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 124[*], February 02, 1973]

GRANTING AMNESTY TO PERSONS FOR VIOLATION OF SECTION FOUR OF REPUBLIC ACT 1700

WHEREAS, Proclamation No. 1081, dated September 21, 1972, declaring a state of martial law throughout the land was issued because of widespread lawlessness and anarchy, chaos and disorder, and wanton destruction of lives and property prevailing throughout the country, perpetrated, among others, by die-hard leaders and some members of activist groups, subversive associations, and Communist-front organizations;

WHEREAS, surveys and assessments made by the military authorities as well as reports from law-abiding and peace-loving sectors of our society indicate that a number of the members, followers, and sympathizers, of said activist groups, subversive associations and Communist-front organizations, are not die-hard members or ideological believers in Communism but had been drawn into these organizations, because of their association with, and/or as a result of subtle indoctrination by hard-core activist leaders and false propagandists;

WHEREAS, it is not unlikely that, in many instances, members or followers of said groups have unwittingly allowed themselves to be identified with said groups, associations or organizations;

WHEREAS, it has been the policy of the Government to deal and treat the foregoing type of persons with compassion so that they may be led back to the folds of the law, and may thereby become our co-workers in the New Society; and

WHEREAS, to better realize the objectives of Proclamation No. 1081, general orders, decrees and instructions issued pursuant thereto, and to hasten the restoration of the tranquility and stability of the nation, and secure the people from violence, injuries and loss of lives in the quickest possible manner and time, it is necessary that certain members of said activist groups, subversive associations and Communist-front organizations especially the youth be allowed to lead normal lives under the control and supervision of their parents, guardians, or benevolent citizens of their respective communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, in my capacity as Commander-in-Chief of all the Armed Forces of the Philippines and pursuant to Proclamation No. 1081, dated September 21, 1972, do hereby declare and decree an amnesty in favor of all persons who may have violated the following provisions of Section 4 of Republic Act No. 1700, to wit:

" . . . whoever knowingly, wilfully, and by overt acts affiliates himself with, becomes or remains a member of the Communist Party of the Philippines and/or its successors or of any subversive association as defined in Section 2 hereof. . . "

I do hereby further declare and decree an amnesty in favor of all such affiliates/members who may have committed any other offense penalized under any law in furtherance of their political beliefs: *Provided, however*, That this amnesty shall not apply to the following: (a) such affiliate/member who has committed