

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1566, June 16, 1956 ]**

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES FOR THE USE OF DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR ESTABLISHMENTS AND OTHER AGENCIES OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT AND FOR THE SALE OR LEASE IN THE GOVERNMENT INTEREST OF SUCH BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS AND LIKE PROPERTIES.**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. The Secretary of Foreign Affairs, upon recommendation of a special committee hereby created for the purpose of this Act, to be hereinafter referred to as the special committee, to be composed of the Auditor-General as chairman, and the Governor of the Central Bank, the Commissioner of the Budget, a representative of the Department of Public Works and Communications and a representative of the Department of Foreign Affairs as members, is empowered to acquire by purchase or construction within the limits of appropriations made for the purpose, or by exchange, in whole or in part, under such terms and conditions as in his judgment may best protect the interests of the Republic of the Philippines, of any building or grounds of the Republic of the Philippines in foreign countries and under the jurisdiction and control of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, sites and buildings in foreign capitals and in other foreign cities, and to alter, repair, and furnish such buildings for the use of the diplomatic and consular establishments of the Republic of the Philippines, or for the purpose of consolidating, to the extent deemed advisable by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, within one or more buildings, the embassies, legations, consulates and other agencies of the Philippine Government there maintained, in which buildings the said Secretary shall assign quarters to such embassies, legations, consulates, and agencies.

SEC. 2. Buildings and grounds acquired under this Act or acquired or leased for the use of the diplomatic and consular establishments in foreign countries prior to the approval of this Act may be used as Government offices or residence of diplomatic and consular officers and employees and of other officers and employees of the Government of the Philippines assigned for duty abroad or as such offices and residence. Said officers and employees residing in such buildings shall be furnished, without cost to them, with living quarters, heat, light and household equipment in said buildings and, accordingly, they shall not be entitled to any living quarters allowance. Except in clearly justified cases, the buildings and grounds acquired or leased as hereinabove provided shall be the offices and residence of the respective diplomatic and consular establishments of the Republic of the Philippines and its diplomatic and consular officials.

SEC. 3. The contracts for all work of construction, alteration, and repair of buildings and grounds mentioned in sections one and two are authorized to be negotiated, the