

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 394, May 08, 1998]

**IMPOSING THE PENALTY OF REPRIMAND ON AMBASSADOR
FORTUNATO D. OBLENA OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS**

This refers to the administrative complaint filed motu proprio by the Department of Foreign Affairs against Ambassador Fortunato D. Oblena for falsification of public documents, misrepresentation, and conduct unbecoming of an Ambassador in connection with the invalid adoption by Amb. Oblena of his son, Brigido Oblena, age 6.

To ascertain the veracity of the allegations against Amb. Oblena and to correct any violations of law which may have been committed by Amb. Oblena and other concerned individuals, the Department of Foreign Affairs requested the Office of the President for a Presidential Authority to investigate the aforementioned allegations against Amb. Oblena pursuant to the provisions of Section 51 of R.A. 7157 (Foreign Service Act of 1991);

Upon the grant of the Presidential Authority to investigate, the Department constituted a Fact-finding Mission to determine whether or not a prima facie case exists against Amb. Oblena in connection with the aforementioned allegations;

The Fact-finding Mission headed by Undersecretary Leonides T. Caday with Mr. Generoso Calonge, Career Minister, and Mr. Henry Bensurto, FSO II, as members, proceeded to the Middle East to examine the allegations against Amb. Oblena and to secure pertinent documents relating the allegations;

The Fact-finding Team reported to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs that "based on its examination of the persons involved in or have knowledge of the case as well as the pertinent documents on the matter, there is reasonable ground to believe that Amb. Oblena has committed the offenses of falsification of public documents, misrepresentation, and conduct unbecoming of an Ambassador under Section 46, Chapter 7, Title I, Book V of E.O. 292 (Revised Administrative Code of 1987) in connection with his alleged adoption of his supposed adopted son, Brigido."

The Department of Foreign Affairs lodged formal administrative charges against Ambassador Fortunato D. Oblena, dated 23 January 1998, for falsification of public documents, misrepresentation, and conduct unbecoming of an Ambassador stemming from the alleged invalid adoption of Amb. Oblena of a child named Brigido and the Ambassador's false declarations concerning Brigido's paternity;

In his answer to the Formal Charges dated 11 February 1998, Amb. Oblena admitted to the irregularity in the adoption of his ward, Brigido, and manifested that such was due not to any malicious intent on his part to falsify documents or to commit any acts of misrepresentation, but mainly to his desire to provide the proper