

**[ EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 235, April 27, 2000 ]**

**CREATING AN INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT A FACT FINDING INVESTIGATION OF THE CRASH OF AIR PHILIPPINES FLIGHT 541**

**WHEREAS**, the recent air tragedy involving Air Philippines Flight 541 is a matter of utmost concern not only because of the loss of lives and property but also because it involved national interest;

**WHEREAS**, air safety is primordial concern of government and the general public and urgent measures should accordingly be taken to promote and ensure air safety in order to effectuate and enhance the economic and political stability of the country;

**WHEREAS**, the Air Transportation Office is mandated to conduct investigation of air mishaps, including the crash of Air Philippines Flight 541, pursuant to Republic Act No. 776 as amended by Presidential Decree No. 844, Presidential Decree No. 1274, Presidential Decree No. 1462 and Executive Order No. 546, series of 1979; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to address the plea raised by the families of the victims of the crash of Air Philippines Flight 541 and the general public to have an objective and independent fact finding body to look into the said air tragedy.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA**, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

**SECTION 1. Creation of an Independent Investigation Committee.** There is hereby established an Investigation Committee composed of the following:

Gen. William K. Hotchkiss (Ret.)	Chairman
Assistant Executive Secretary Gaudencio A. Mendoza	Member
Gen. Rodolfo A. Ecarma (Ret.)	Member
Mr. Constancio Navarro	Member
Mr. Amado Soliman	Member

**SECTION 2. Functions.** The Committee shall have the following functions:

- a. Investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding the recent crash of Air Philippines Flight 541;
- b. Determine the cause of the incident as well as the person(s)/entity(ies) responsible for the same;
- c. Recommend appropriate measures to address the findings of the fact finding investigation; and