

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 132, February 27, 1987]

REORGANIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

WHEREAS, under Article II, Section 1, of the Provisional Constitution, as adopted in Proclamation No. 3 dated March 25, 1986, the President shall give priority to measures to achieve the mandate of the people to completely reorganize the government;

WHEREAS, Article XVIII, Section 16, of the 1987 Constitution recognizes that the reorganization of the government shall be continued even after the ratification of the Constitution;

WHEREAS, under Article XVIII, Section 6, of the 1987 Constitution, the President shall continue to exercise legislative powers until the First Congress is convened;

WHEREAS, the reorganization of the Department of Foreign Affairs must be undertaken in the context and furtherance of a unified government approach to foreign affairs, characterized by institutionalized, regular, and systematic coordination among all the departments involved, as well as by coherent planning and efficient implementation of the nation's foreign policy objectives:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CORAZON C. AQUINO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Title. This Executive Order shall otherwise be known as the Reorganization Act of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

SEC. 2. Reorganization. The Department of Foreign Affairs, hereinafter referred to as Department, is hereby reorganized, structurally and functionally, in accordance with the provisions of this Executive Order.

SEC. 3. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to pursue an independent foreign policy in order to more resolutely design and harness its foreign relations in the active pursuit of rapid national recovery and sustained long-term growth and development, within the framework of national sovereignty, security, territorial integrity, national interest, right to self-determination and commitment to international peace.

SEC. 4. Mandate. The Department shall advise and assist the President in planning, organizing, directing, coordinating, integrating and evaluating the total national effort in the field of foreign relations.

SEC. 5. Powers and Functions. To carry out its mandate and accomplish its mission, the Department shall undertake the following functions:

- (a) Conduct the country's foreign relations in accordance with the policies laid down by the President;
- (b) Maintain and develop the country's representation with foreign governments;
- (c) Conduct Philippine representation in the United Nations, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and other international and regional organizations;
- (d) Serve as the channel for matters involving foreign relations, including official communications to and from the Republic of the Philippines;
- (e) Negotiate treaties and other agreements pursuant to instructions of the President, and in coordination, when necessary, with other government agencies;
- (f) In cooperation with other government agencies and the private sector, promote trade, investments, tourism, and other economic relations with other countries;
- (g) Foster cultural relations with other countries and protect and enhance the Philippines image abroad;
- (h) In cooperation with other government agencies, undertake efforts to inform the international community about the Philippines;
- (i) Protect and assist the Philippine nationals abroad;
- (j) Carry out legal documentation functions as provided for by laws and regulations;
- (k) Monitor and analyze events in other countries and report them, as appropriate, to the President and other government agencies;
- (l) In cooperation with other government agencies, initiate, formulate, integrate, and submit to the President short-, medium-, and long-range foreign policy plans and programs;
- (m) Supervise and direct all officials and employees assigned by the Department and other government agencies to Foreign Service establishments abroad in accordance with the pertinent laws, rules and inter-agency agreements;
- (n) Recruit, maintain and develop a professional career foreign service based on merit.

SEC. 6. Secretary of Foreign Affairs. The authority and responsibility of the Department for the discharge of its powers and functions shall be vested in the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, hereinafter referred to as Secretary, who shall be appointed by the President and shall have supervision and control over the

Department and the Foreign Service.

The Secretary may designate as Special Advisers such Chiefs of Mission on home assignment on specific areas of their expertise as may be required by the exigencies of the service. The Secretary may also create such advisory boards and committees as he may deem necessary to assist and provide him with advice in the formulation of substantive policies, and such other bodies required by existing laws, rules and regulations.

SEC. 7. Functions of Secretary. The Secretary shall have the following functions:

- (a) Act as the primary and principal adviser of the President in the field of foreign relations;
- (b) Advise the President on the promulgation of executive orders, rules and regulations, proclamation and other issuances relative to matters under the jurisdiction of the Departments;
- (c) Establish policies and standards for the efficient and effective operation of the Department in accordance with the programs and projects;
- (d) Promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the Department's objectives, policies, plans, programs and projects;
- (e) Exercise supervision and control over all functions and activities of the Department;
- (f) Supervise all attached agencies and corporations in accordance with law;
- (g) Delegate authority for the performance of any function to officers and employees of the Department;
- (h) Perform other functions as may be provided by law or appropriately assigned by the President.

SEC. 8. Organizational Structure. The Department shall have the following organizational units:

(a) Department Proper:

- (1) Office of the Secretary, including his immediate staff, the Office of the Legal Adviser, the Office of Coordination, Inspection and Policy Planning, the Office of Data Banking and Communication, the Office of Protocol, State and Official Visits, the Office of Intelligence and Security, and the Office of International Economic Relations. In addition the following shall be directly under the supervision of the Secretary.
 - (i) Foreign Service Institute
 - (ii) UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines

(iii) Technical Assistance Council

(2) Offices of the Undersecretaries, including their respective immediate staff;

(3) Offices of the Assistant Secretaries, including their respective immediate staffs;

(b) General Support Staff:

(1) Cultural Affairs and Public Information Service;

(2) Administrative Service;

(c) Home Offices:

(1) Office of Asian and Pacific Affairs;

(2) Office of Middle East and African Affairs;

(3) Office of American Affairs;

(4) Office of European Affairs;

(5) Office of ASEAN Affairs;

(6) Office of United Nations and International Organizations;

(d) Operations and Foreign Service Units:

(1) Secretariat on Foreign Policy Implementation;

(2) Office of Consular Affairs;

(3) Philippine Embassies, Consulates, Legations and Permanent Missions.

SEC. 9. Undersecretaries. The Secretary may be assisted by three (3) Undersecretaries, who shall be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the Secretary. The Secretary shall determine and assign the functional area of responsibility of each Undersecretary.

SEC. 10. Functions of Undersecretary. Within his area of responsibility, an Undersecretary shall have the following functions:

(a) Advise the Secretary on the promulgation of Department orders, administrative orders and other issuances;

(b) Exercise supervision and control over the units and personnel under his responsibilities;

(c) Promulgate rules and regulations, consistent with Department policies, that will effectively implement the

activities of units and personnel under his responsibility;

- (d) Coordinate the functions and activities of units and personnel under his responsibility with those of units and personnel under the responsibility of the other Undersecretaries;
- (e) Exercise delegated authority on substantive and administrative matters related to the functions and activities on units and personnel under his responsibility, to the extent granted by the Secretary through administrative issuances;
- (f) Perform other functions as may be provided by law or appropriately assigned by the Secretary.

SEC. 11. Assistant Secretaries. The Secretary shall also be assisted by six (6) Assistant Secretaries who shall be appointed by the President upon recommendation of the Secretary. The Secretary shall delineate the respective area of responsibility of each Assistant Secretary.

SEC. 12. Office of the Legal Adviser. There is hereby created an Office of Legal Adviser. It shall be headed by a Legal Adviser who shall provide legal advice and services to the Department, including legal counseling services in the negotiation of treaties and international agreements.

SEC. 13. Office of Coordination, Inspection and Policy Planning. The Office of Coordination, Inspection and Policy Planning is hereby created and shall provide staff support to the Secretary and assist the Department in establishing a specialized competence on foreign policy planning and review and treaty development and evaluation. It shall, in connection therewith, assemble or assist in assembling the necessary inter-agency bodies, and in all instances, coordinate its activities with the relevant government agencies. For such purposes, it shall have the following functions:

- (a) Assist the Secretary on all matters regarding foreign policy planning and studies;
- (b) Provide, or participate in, the secretariat functions for Cabinet and Department level Committees dealing on foreign policies;
- (c) Lead or participate in inter-agency sub-committees dealing on foreign policy matters;
- (d) Undertake Department-wide integration, rationalization, and evaluation of political, diplomatic, and security plans and programs including current and prospective Department-initiated foreign treaties and agreements;
- (e) Initiate and maintain, or assist in maintaining, the integration and rationalization of economic, trade, finance, scientific, and tourism plans and programs including current and prospective treaties and agreements, with political, diplomatic, legal, and security plans and programs;