

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 559, September 12, 1979]

DIRECTING STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE VITAL RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE OFFICIAL TRAVEL ABROAD OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES, BOTH NATIONAL AND LOCAL, INCLUDING THOSE IN GOVERNMENT OWNED OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS.

WHEREAS, it has been the policy of the Government to observe proper and reasonable restraint in the utilization of its overall assets and resources and as much as possible to reduce or limit its expenditures to such activities as are essential to the needs of a sound, efficient and progressive public service and to the attainment of the country's development goals;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the aforesaid policy, it is deemed necessary and desirable to re-emphasize the vital rules and regulations governing the official travel abroad of government officials and employees, both national and local, including those in government-owned or controlled corporations, which regulatory measures are basically designed to conserve the country's foreign exchange resources and to derive from such travel maximum and positively beneficial results for the Government and the nation as a whole, the better to secure faithful compliance with such rules and regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby direct all officials and employees in the government, both national and local, including government-owned or controlled corporations, to render strict compliance with the existing rules and regulations governing the official travel abroad of government personnel, particularly with respect to the following areas of concern:

1. Official travel abroad of government personnel shall be limited to those which are urgent and necessary. In accordance with this policy, no official travel abroad of government officials and employees shall be allowed except where the trip (a) will not involve the expenditure of government funds; (b) is for the purpose of complying with an international commitment of the Philippine Government; (c) would directly redound to the financial benefit of the country; and (d) is in connection with a scholarship, fellowship, or training or study grant. It must be clearly understood that even in the exceptional cases herein enumerated, the approval of the request for authority to travel abroad does not necessarily follow from the fact that a proposed trip abroad falls under any of the aforesaid exceptions.

Any request for authority to travel abroad may or may not be approved by the Office of the President depending on the various factors and circumstances, involved, including the number of government personnel in the proposed trip, the expenditure