

April 03, 1995

DECLARATION ON POLITICAL COOPERATION

The Republic of the Philippines and the Kingdom of Spain, bound by historical and cultural ties and cognizant of the new thrust in their relations resulting from the visit of Their Excellencies President and Mrs. Fidel V. Ramos to Spain in 1994 and the present visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain to the Philippines;

Encouraged by a mutual desire to further strengthen and expand the bilateral political relations based on close bonds of friendship, common history and mutual understanding;

Convinced that mutual understanding will serve the common interests and objectives for the progress of their nations, contributing in a concrete manner to their mutual security and prosperity;

Determined to consolidate and diversify their cooperation with the aim of adequately responding to the challenges that a more interdependent and complex world pose to their societies;

Respectful of the principles of International Law, the Charter of the United Nations, and the treaties and conventions in force between both states;

Aware of the political and economic importance of regional cooperation in which the Republic of the Philippines and the Kingdom of Spain both participate;

Have decided to subscribe to the present Declaration:

1. The Republic of the Philippines and the Kingdom of Spain shall seek the future conclusion of a new Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation that shall reflect the qualitative change in Filipino-Hispanic relations, and manifest unequivocally the political will of both Governments to consolidate mutual cooperation and economic and social development, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Towards this end, the two countries shall institutionalize permanent dialogue through high level meetings that shall be held every two years alternately in Manila and in Madrid. Accordingly, a Joint Commission, presided by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Spain, shall be established to ensure continued political dialogue, to assess the implementation of the existing treaties and agreements, and to propose to the respective Governments, when necessary, revisions of the same.

2. Likewise, and to effect greater mutual understanding, both Governments shall promote meetings between their respective legislatures and local governments.

3. Having in mind the significant developments in their respective regions, the two Governments agree to expand their political and economic cooperation, and to interpret each other's interests in the European Union and in the ASEAN.

The Republic of the Philippines and the Kingdom of Spain agree to support initiatives to promote contacts and relations with Europe and with Asia, particularly with member-countries of the European Union and ASEAN.