

**HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)**

ARTICLE 1

STATUS OF THE DELEGATION

1. The ICRC and its Delegation shall enjoy juridical personality in the territory of the Philippines and shall enjoy a status equivalent to that accorded to missions of international and intergovernmental organizations.
2. The ICRC and its Delegation shall enjoy the privileges and immunities accorded to it by this Agreement.
3. The ICRC Delegation and its property shall be immune from legal or administrative jurisdiction, except insofar as in any particular case the ICRC Delegation has waived this immunity.
4. The offices of the ICRC Delegation, the warehouses and other premises, and the vehicles of the ICRC Delegation as well as its records, documents, correspondence, property, assets and funds shall be inviolable. Except with the consent of the ICRC, they shall be immune from search, requisition, confiscation, expropriation, and any other form of interference, whether by executive, administrative, judicial or legislative action.

ARTICLE 2

PROPERTY AND FUNDS

1. The ICRC Delegation shall be exempt from all regional, municipal, provincial or national dues and taxes. The ICRC Delegation shall not, however, claim exemption from fees which are levied for public utility services.
2. The ICRC Delegation shall be exempt from taxes and customs duties and free from all restrictions and prohibitions in respect of the import and export of all items necessary for its activities, subject to the provisions of pertinent Philippine laws, rules and regulations. It is understood that the duty on such items will become payable in the event of the sale or disposal, within three years of importation, to a person not entitled to this exemption.
3. The ICRC Delegation may freely hold funds and accounts in any currency and transfer them from place to place within the Philippines and between the Philippines and any other State, subject to the provisions of pertinent Philippine laws, rules and regulations.
4. The ICRC Delegation may change its funds into any currency without limit, subject to the provisions of pertinent Philippine laws, rules and regulations.

5. The ICRC Delegation shall be exempted from all taxes and customs duties in respect of the importation of a motor vehicle for the official use of the Delegation. The importation of additional motor vehicles shall be subject to prior consultation and approval of the Government. All of the Delegation's motor vehicles may not be resold without the prior approval of the Government. However, the motor vehicles may be re-exported subject to existing laws and regulations of the Philippine Government.

ARTICLE 3

RELIEF SUPPLIES

1. The ICRC Delegation shall be exempt from taxes and customs duties and free of all restrictions or prohibitions in respect of import, export and trans-shipment of relief supplies for ICRC assistance programmes or for delivery to the local Red Cross or to other humanitarian institutions.

2. The ICRC Delegation shall conform to the national legislative provisions concerning hygiene, safety and commercial practice in the matter of relief supplies.

3. The ICRC Delegation shall not sell within the country the goods imported duty free, except with the Government's approval and under conditions stipulated by the Government.

4. The ICRC Delegation, upon prior coordination with the Government, may avail itself of vacant warehouses in order to store goods to be distributed during relief action, provided such goods are identified as belonging to the Red Cross, with the relevant supporting documents.

ARTICLE 4

COMMUNICATIONS

1. The ICRC Delegation shall, for its official communications, enjoy treatment not less favourable than that accorded to any foreign mission in respect of priorities, rates and taxes on mail, cables, telegrams, radiograms, telephone and other communications and rates for information messages to press and radio.

2. No censorship shall be applied to the official correspondence and communications of the ICRC Delegation. This immunity shall also apply to official ICRC publications, photographic or cinematographic film, photographs and audiovisual recordings dispatched to or from the ICRC and to material for exhibitions organized by it.

3. The ICRC may, whenever a need of using such means should occur, transmit uncoded messages by radio between the Geneva Headquarters and the Delegation in the Philippines or between the Delegation in the Philippines and a Delegation or Delegations situated in other countries or between the Delegation in the Philippines and its field units operating within the national territory, provided that no classified matter should be transmitted in these uncoded messages.