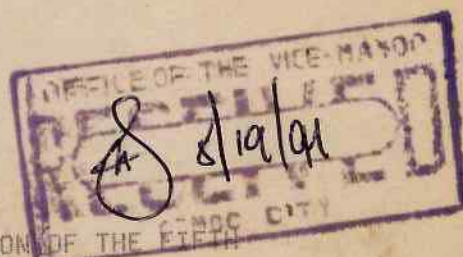




REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS  
SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD  
LUNGSOD NG ORMOC



EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE FIFTH  
SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD NG ORMOC HELD AT THE HONORABLE  
PLACIDO ENECIO SESSION HALL, SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD  
BUILDING ON AUGUST 15, 1991

PRESENT:

Hon. Nepomuceno P. Aparis I,	Vice-Mayor & Presiding Officer
Hon. Gregorio A. Yrastorza, Jr.,	Kagawad, Floor Leader
Hon. Celso P. Adolfo,	Kagawad
Hon. Sixto T. Pongos,	Kagawad
Hon. Jose B. Conejos,	Kagawad
Hon. Rodolfo L. Rivilla, Jr.,	Kagawad
Hon. Benjamin F. Tugonon,	Kagawad
Hon. Antero T. Fiel,	Kagawad
Hon. Celso P. Porcadilla,	Kagawad
Hon. Edgar Z. Palugod,	ABC President,
Hon. Nelson DL Geneston,	Industrial Labor Sector, Rep.,

ABSENT:

Hon. Eufrocino C. Codilla, Jr.,	(On Leave)	Kagawad
Hon. Arnulfo C. Salazar,	(On Leave)	Kagawad

RESOLUTION NO. 98

A RESOLUTION EARNESTLY URGING THE DISTINGUISHED SENATORS OF CONGRESS  
OF THE PHILIPPINES TO RATIFY THE NEW R.P.-U.S. BASES AGREEMENT.

WHEREAS, in relation to existing RP-US bases agreement which is soon to expire on September 16, 1991, both the Philippines and U.S. foreign diplomats were tirelessly busy during the past month or so, hammering out provisions for a subsequent bases agreement and ultimately having come out with one - wherein U.S. will abandon Clark Air Base next year and keep Subic Naval Base for ten (10) years, paying the Philippines \$323 million in 1992 and \$203 million in the next nine (9) years;

WHEREAS, as more groups have openly - either opposed or supported the bases stay in the country, in an apparent bid to influence the Senate, which the Constitution requires a two-thirds vote to ratify the proposed treaty;

WHEREAS, as official representatives of the body-politics or constituents in Ormoc City, the Honorable MEMBERS of the SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD ng ORMOC, in SESSION, has thoroughly deliberated and has ultimately come up with official stand for the retention of the U.S. bases in the Philippines on the following reasons:

- (a) The proposed treaty should be ratified as a matter of economic reality. Otherwise, a sure economic dislocation could happen to our countrymen (some 250,000 families and dependents) whose livelihood depends on the operation of the U.S. military facilities. Already, the people in the immediate vicinity of the bases are reeling in the wake of natural calamities, (the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo,



for one), that visited upon our country. Rejection of the Treaty would inflict further sufferings upon them, even as we pursue with our search for what may be illusory options to economic deliverance.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines is the Number ONE to be adversely hit when there is an abrupt closure of all U.S. installations in the country. As one high ranking military official has said: "The country cannot as yet modernize the Armed Forces without the help from the U.S. government. The AFP will get \$1.5 billion in U.S. direct military aid for ten (10) years." The ratification of the Treaty, therefore, could offer the AFP with funds for military equipment and facilities which otherwise are not available in the national budget. Should this huge amount of American military assistance be denied or lost, in effect could breed discontent even among the combat troops fighting on communist insurgency. The Generals won't mind it, but what happens when a common soldier fighting in the mountains stop receiving the boots and uniforms which are partly subsidized by U.S. military assistance?

In addition, U.S. military assistance has enhanced our defense capability and allow us to devote our scarce resources to equally pressing social needs. The forced withdrawal of the American military facilities may drive a wedge between our two countries and thus alter the nature and magnitude of that assistance. In the absence of that aid - going by the classic economic tradeoff - we would have to spend more on guns and less on butter.

- (b) According to our Foreign Affairs Office, it is on records that many neighboring countries of the Philippines have openly suggested the stay of U.S. bases in the Philippines. The "perception" of other Asian countries is important to our domestic economy. The sentiments of our friends in the region is that the U.S. maintain some kind of military presence. And, a Senate rejection of the Treaty may be perceived by U.S. and other countries as "distancing ourselves" from the international community.

The implications of rejecting the Treaty, therefore, go beyond foregoing the package of compensation and other benefits attached to it. For one, the abrupt closure of all U.S. military installations in the country will heighten the perception of political instability, which is the most important reason why foreign investors have chosen to bypass the Philippines in favor of our Southeast Asian neighbors. Without new capital to



build factories and create jobs, we cannot hope to bring a better life for the greater bulk of our population.

- (c) We believe that one need not be Anti-American to be nationalistic. In fact, it is our interest to maintain friendly or amicable relations with the world's largest market. The United States is the only major country which buys more than it sells to us. It imports 98% of our sugar, 36% of our coconut oil and 64% of our garment exports; its 38% share of our total exports is twice as large as that of Japan, the second largest buyer of Philippine products. Until a few years ago, the U.S. accounted for the largest share of all foreign investment into the country.

WHEREAS, in view of the foregoing contentions, we most sincerely call upon our distinguished twenty three (23) Senators, in whose hands lie the fate of over 60-million Filipinos, to view the Treaty in the context of our national interest, and, in these critical times, nothing serves our national interest more than the creation of jobs and the improvement in the living conditions of our countrymen;

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion of Kagawad Gregorio A. Yrastorza, Jr., Majority Floor Leader, jointly seconded by mga Kagawad Celso P. Adolfo and Rodolfo L. Rivilla, Jr., be it

RESOLVED, to pass a resolution EARNESTLY URGING THE DISTINGUISHED SENATORS OF CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES TO RATIFY THE NEW R.P.-U.S. BASES AGREEMENT;

ENACTED, August 15, 1991.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, to furnish copies of this resolution one each to Honorable Senate President Jovito R. Salonga and all other distinguished Senators of the Republic of the Philippines, with special copy to Her Excellency, President Corazon C. Aquino, Malacanang, Manila; Honorable Carmelo J. Locsin, Congressman, 4th District - Leyte, and Honorable Ma. Victoria L. Locsin, City Mayor, Ormoc City; and to all mga Sangguniang Panlungsod urging them to pass similar resolutions and for support.

CARRIED - Nine (9) affirmative votes, with one (1) objection registered by Kagawad Jose B. Conejos.

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing resolution.

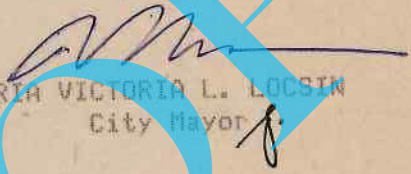
  
NEPOMUCENO A. APARIS  
Vice-Mayor  
& Presiding Officer

Res. No. 98

ATTESTED:

  
OSCAR P. LASAN  
City Secretary

APPROVED:

  
MARIA VICTORIA L. LOCSIN  
City Mayor

ATTESTED AS APPROVED:

  
OSCAR P. LASAN  
City Secretary

/magch91  
/dsk:R91-1