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MINISTRI NG EDUKASYON AT KULTURA
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MEC M E M O R A N D U M
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RECORD OF THE FILIPINO WINNER IN THE INTERNATIONAL
UNESCO POETRY CONTEST AVAILABLE

To: Bureau Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Superintendents
Presidents of State Colleges and Universities
Heads of Private Schools, Colleges and Universities

1. Almost one million children under the age of 14 from 57 countries participated in the world competition of children's poetry, sponsored in 1980 by the UNESCO and Radio Corporation of America (RCA).
2. An international jury composed of poets, writers and musicians had the difficult task of selecting the best 20 poems from the entries submitted by national organizers of the contest.
3. The first prize was awarded to Odina E. Batnag, a 13 year old Filipino high school girl of E. Esguerra High School, Malabon, Metro Manila for her poem "I Am But A Small Voice" which has been set to music and recorded by internationally known singer Roger Whittaker, "because it summed up and contained the essence of what all the children were trying to say."
4. In this connection, we are pleased to announce that a limited number of the said record of Odina E. Batnag's poem set to music and a UNESCO publication of the selected 20 Best Poems from the worldwide contest are available on a first come first served basis at the National Federation of Unesco Clubs and Associated Schools, National Research and Development Centre for Teacher Education, Ministry of Education and Culture, Manila, costing ₱12.00. Interested parties may order direct from the above address and those from the province may add ₱2.40 for postage cost.

5. Members of the Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associated Schools in the Philippines are encouraged to take the leadership in buying or selling the records. Proceeds from the records will be donated to projects of UNESCO, Paris for the education of handicapped children in consonance with the observance of the Year of Disabled Persons.
6. It is urged that the message of the 20 Best Poems published by UNESCO be studied in depth in Social Studies, Filipino, English and Music classes.
7. Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

(SGD.) ONOFRE D. CORPUZ
Minister of Education and Culture

Reference:

N o n e

Allotment: 1-2-3-4--(D.O. 1-76)

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under the following subjects:

SCHOOLS ✓
SOCIETY or ASSOCIATIONS ✓
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