

Republika ng Pilipinas  
(Republic of the Philippines)  
MINISTRI NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS  
(MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS)  
Maynila

August 25, 1982

MECS M E M O R A N D U M  
No. 213, s. 1982

1982 OBSERVANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS WEEK

To: Bureau Directors  
Regional Directors  
Chiefs of Services and Heads of Units  
Schools Superintendents  
Presidents, State Colleges and Universities  
Heads of Private Schools, Colleges and Universities  
Vocational School Superintendents/Administrators

1. The United Nations Association of the Philippines in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports, United Nations Information Centre, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chamber of International Trade will coordinate the United Nations Week activities this year which will be observed from October 18 to 24.
2. The Office of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) has suggested any of the following topics which may be considered as theme in accordance with the needs of each locality:
  - a. "International Year of Mobilization for Sanctions Against South Africa (Apartheid)"
  - b. "Water Decade from 1981 to 1990: First Year Review"
  - c. "The New International Economic Order"
  - d. "Disarmament Week from October 24 to 31"
  - e. "World Assembly on Aging Held in Vienna, 26 July-6 August 1982"
3. Conceptual theme and brief literature for each topic are appended as inclosure to this Memorandum. For further particulars the UNIC should be consulted. The following references on UN Week celebration may be availed of: Department Memorandums Nos. 209, s. 1976 and 183, s. 1977 and MEC Memorandums Nos. 243, s. 1978, 208, s. 1979, 167, s. 1980 and 155, s. 1981.
4. Relatedly, every institution is given the freedom to plan and decide an appropriate theme as well as relevant activities adapted to the needs of the school and community.

5. It is desired that all Board Members of the National Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associated Schools in the Philippines (NFUCASP) from each region take the leadership in initiating meaningful activities during the UN Week celebration in their area of concern.

6. Class or school programs, convocations, essay, oratorical and declamation contests, debates, seminars, round table conferences, pageants and classroom discussion may be organized in cooperation with civic organizations in the locality.

7. Culminating activities for the UN Week may be supplemented by utilizing various approaches such as community school assemblies, parades, poster making and painting contests, cultural dances and plays, special programs for resource speakers, exhibits, quiz programmes, panel discussions and extemporaneous talks.

8. Reports on special activities observed during the celebration, accompanied by photographs should reach this Office through the NFUCASP National Coordinator for consolidation on or before December 31, 1982, to be reported to the UN Headquarters, New York and UNESCO, Paris.

9. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum is urged to insure its success.

(SGD.) ABRAHAM I. FELIPE  
Acting Minister

Incl.:

As stated

References:

As cited above

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

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index  
under the following subjects:

- / CELEBRATIONS & FESTIVALS
- / BUREAUS & OFFICES
- / REPORT
- / SCHOOLS
- / SOCIETY or ASSOCIATIONS

SUGGESTED CONCEPTUAL THEMES FOR UN WEEK

A. Theme: "International Year of Mobilization for Sanctions Against South Africa (IYMSASA)"

1. The UN General Assembly proclaimed 1982 as International Year of Mobilization for Sanctions Against South Africa.
2. The Committee cited "the grave situation in South Africa caused by the Apartheid regime as well as the escalation of acts of terrorism, subversion and aggression against neighboring countries and the urgent need for international action to eradicate apartheid which is a grave threat to international peace and security."
3. Purpose of the (IYMSASA):
  - a. to promote world opinion in support of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa;
  - b. to promote all appropriate steps to facilitate the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa by the Security Council under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter;
  - c. to encourage action by States, individually and collectively; and
  - c. to encourage action by local authorities, the mass media trade unions, religious bodies, co-operatives and other non-governmental organizations, as well as men and women of conscience.
4. Observance of the year should promote an end to all forms of collaboration with the apartheid regime and wide public action against apartheid through boycotts of material products, cultural and academic activities, consumer of sports and divestment from transnational corporations and financial institutions operating in South Africa.
5. Local authorities, trade unions, churches and other government and non-government organizations are encouraged to demonstrate in all appropriate ways, their solidarities with the struggle for liberation in South Africa and intensify their campaign against apartheid.

B. Theme: "Water Decade: First Year Review (1981-1990)"

1. The International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade has entered its second year. The Philippines has just embarked upon a 20-year integrated water supply programme which aims to provide clean water for an estimated 83 million people at the end of the century.

2. While the 7,000 islands have abundant water resources with an average precipitation of 2,260 mm a year and ground reserves covering 50,000 km<sup>2</sup> development has been slow and only 21.4 million (43%) of the population is served by public water supply.
  3. A concerted national water supply effort financed partly by multinational agencies, development banks and bilateral agreements is expected to result in an improved economy in rural areas and a reduction in water related diseases.
  4. Establishment of Rural Water Works Development Corporation in 1990 aims at self-supporting ventures designed to develop water systems in areas covered by electrical cooperatives and install electrically driven water pumps.
  5. The Ministry of Public Works (MPW) undertakes drilling wells, development of springs, construction of commercial faucet systems with the assistance of the World Bank.
- C. Theme: "The New International Economic Order: Towards a World Economy that Works"
1. Poverty, hunger and inequality among people breed conflict. When such differences exist among nations they cause war. To prevent war the UN included in its charter a provision that directed in supporting economic and social development to bridge the gap between the rich and poor nations.
  2. Is there such as the world economy that works? Yes, there is because no country today is self-sufficient and all must participate in international trade. Poor and rich countries, capitalists or socialists alike exist in a global economic web.
  3. The starting point of the NIEO is the interdependence of countries of the world and the need for equitable participation of all countries on development in economic, social and cultural manifestation.
  4. The NIEO calls for structural change in the world economy adopted at the UN General Assembly in 1974 and enunciates the principle covering a wide range of issues including commodities, natural resources, tariffs and monetary reform.
  5. Presently, the world economy is not working well because the institutions, rules and systems which manage the world economy are increasingly inadequate. Currency values are unstable; trade growth rates have slowed down, unemployment is increasing because countries have not been able to agree on a fair system of managing the world's economy, thus the need for the new international economic order is vital.

D. Theme: "Disarmament: The Arms Race or the Human Race  
(A Choice for Mankind)"

1. It is essential that not only Governments but also the peoples of the world recognize and understand the changes in the present situation by removing the threat of a nuclear war.
2. Mankind is confronted with a choice. We must halt the arms race and proceed to disarmament or face annihilation. Never before had the peoples of the world faced the real possibility of self-destruction.
3. Nuclear weapons now number in the tens of thousands - a total explosive power of 1 million Hiroshima bombs ... enough to destroy the world many times over.
4. Apart from the ultimate danger to the world, the cost of the arms race is colossal as illustrated by the following:
  - a. The arms race has devoured more than \$6,000 billion since the Second World War - a staggering \$500 billion in 1980 alone, or almost \$1 million every minute.
  - b. Many of the world's poorer countries have entered the arms race. Some now spend as much on the military as they do on agriculture - while food production per person declines and people starve.
  - c. More money is now spent on military activities world-wide than on education, medicine or any other field of social endeavor.
5. The world's perverted priorities can be seen from the following examples:
  - a. Public health expenditures (not including privately financed medical care) only amount to about 60 per cent of military expenditure.
  - b. Resources devoted to medical research are only one fifth of those that go to military research and development.
  - c. The World Health Organization (WHO) spent \$83 million over 10 years to wipe out smallpox in the world - an amount that would not buy even one modern strategic bomber.
  - d. WHO's plan to eradicate malaria - a major killer in the third world - has been slowed down by lack of funds. The cost involved - \$450 million - is less than half what the world spends daily for military purposes.

- e. Of the world's total spending on research and development since 1945, an estimated 40 per cent has been directed to military-related objectives.
6. Many of the major problems facing the nations of the world today - development, economic, disparities, inflation, pollution, energy and raw materials, trade relations and technology - are aggravated by the arms race and the progress in such areas as health, education, and housing is slowed by the diversion of resources for military purposes. Only 5 per cent of the \$500 billion spent annually for arms would suffice to reach the target for official development assistance set in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (1981-1990).
  7. The existence of these overstocked arsenals exaggerates international tensions, sharpens local conflicts, handicaps the process of detente, aggravates differences between opposing military alliances, and heightens the sense of insecurity among all States, including those which do not possess nuclear weapons. Above all, the arms race increases the risk of nuclear war.
  8. Genuine security can only be found now in abandoning the use of force in international relations and proceeding to disarmament, a gradual process beginning with a reduction in the present level of armaments.

E. Theme: "World Population Aging Faster Than Ever"

1. More people are living to old age than ever before. The age of aging is set for a unique population explosion. As fewer babies are born and people live longer we are beginning to witness the worldwide emergence of a new generation - the over sixties.
2. By the year 2025 up to one-third of the voting population in industrialized countries will be aged over 60 and most developing countries will have an ever increasing proportion of elderly people that would number 800 million. The UN predicts that the population of the world will increase to 5 billion by the year 2025 and the over 80s will increase to seven times their present number.
3. The large number of old people in 2025 will be the survivors of the population aged between 15 and 65 today due to improvements of health, hygiene and nutrition. Because women generally, live longer than men, older women would outnumber older men with an approximate ratio of 48 men to 100 women.
4. Migration of younger family members to urban areas in search for employment leaves older people in the countryside. By 2000 majority of aging people in developing nations will be living in urban areas.

5. People are growing old faster than children are being born to support them in their old age. By 2025 there are expected to be 40 over 60s and only 35 children for every 100 active adults.
6. The aging of nations is a consequence of development. Development brings higher standard of living, better nutrition and improved health care. Fewer children die in infancy and more people survive into old age. Decreased mortality and decreased fertility due to scientific family planning are direct consequences of development.

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