

Republika ng Pilipinas  
(Republic of the Philippines)  
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON AT KULTURA  
(DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE)  
Maynila

March 8, 1977

DEPARTMENT ORDER  
No. 11, s. 1977

COMMUNICATIONS ADDRESSED TO UN BODIES, INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS OR FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, TO BE COURSED  
THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

To: Bureau Directors  
Regional Directors  
Chiefs of Services and Heads of Units  
Coordinator, State Colleges and Universities  
Schools Superintendents

1. Inclosed, for the information and guidance of the field, is a copy of Foreign Service Circular No. 12-17, dated January 4, 1977, of the Department of Foreign Affairs, which enjoins all offices to course all communications addressed to UN Bodies, International Organizations or Foreign Governments, through the Department of Foreign Affairs.
2. This matter should be brought to the attention of all officials concerned. Strict observance of this directive is desired.

(SGD.) JUAN L. MANUEL  
Secretary of Education and Culture

Incl.:  
As stated

Reference:

N o n e

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

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

BUREAUS & OFFICES  
CORRESPONDENCE  
OFFICIALS  
POLICY  
RULES & REGULATIONS  
SOCIETY or ASSOCIATIONS







(Inclosure to Department Order No. 11, s. 1977)

Republic of the Philippines  
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FOREIGN SERVICE CIRCULAR NO. 12-77

SUBJECT: The Department of Foreign Affairs as the  
channel of all communications to and from  
foreign governments and international  
organizations

An increasing number of complaints is being received from various quarters concerning the deplorable practice of some Department Secretaries and other officials of the Philippine Government who communicate directly with foreign governments and international organizations without coursing said communications through the Department of Foreign Affairs, as required under existing laws, regulations and presidential instructions.

For instance, Executive Order No. 216-70 reiterates the mandate that the Department of Foreign Affairs shall be the main channel through which government agencies shall transmit their communications to the United Nations, its specialized agencies and subsidiary bodies and to all other international organizations. Likewise, Memorandum Circular No. 819-75 notes that there have been occasions where certain Philippine Government agencies and instrumentalities have acted unilaterally on questions of foreign policy and protocol in the meetings of bodies within the United Nations system and other international conferences ... since such actions involve foreign relations and protocol, it is obvious and necessary that they be coordinated with the Department of Foreign Affairs.

This instruction was again the subject of a directive from the President during the cabinet meeting of 2 June 1975. Referring to the practice by some Department Secretaries and other officials who communicate or otherwise deal directly with foreign governments and entities, the President said that "this is not only illegal but also against the administration's policy to integrate office transactions with foreign agencies." Accordingly, the Department of Foreign Affairs issued identical letters to all Department Secretaries on 6 June 1975, calling their attention to the need of ensuring effective compliance with the President's directive. Unfortunately, however, the practice still persists, with some of our foreign service establishments unknowingly extending aid or support to the irregularity.

Effective immediately, therefore, all Philippine Embassies and Consulates are hereby directed to ensure effective compliance of the mandate extended to the Department of Foreign Affairs by law, regulations and presidential instructions to be the main channel through which all Philippine Government agencies shall deal or otherwise communicate with foreign governments and international organizations.









Communications emanating from other Departments which have not been previously coursed through the Department of Foreign Affairs and which are otherwise directly sent to foreign governments and international organizations through your Embassy or Consulate should be returned or rerouted immediately to the Department of Foreign Affairs, Manila, for the appropriate endorsement or transmittal communication.

Furthermore, all Heads of Philippine foreign service establishments are hereby instructed not to communicate directly with other Departments or Offices of the Philippine Government even if such communications are in their judgment, within the competence of those Departments or Offices. The Department of Foreign Affairs remains and continues to be the focal point or coordinating center for all communications emanating from all Philippine foreign service establishments and foreign governments and intergovernmental institutions.

Violation of these instructions shall be administratively dealt with accordingly.

(SGD.) CARLOS P. ROMULO  
Secretary of Foreign Affairs

Manila, 4 January 1977

TO ALL PHILIPPINE FOREIGN SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS

A true copy



1912

1913

1914

1915

1916

