

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

February 24, 1981

MEC O R D E R
No. 12, s. 1981

COURSING OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE
PHILIPPINES AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS
THRU THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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

1. For the information and guidance of all concerned, inclosed are copies of Letter of Instructions No. 207 and Executive Order No. 84 prescribing that all correspondence between the Philippines and foreign governments be coursed through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a means of coordinating public functions and activities affecting foreign relations.
2. Compliance is strictly enjoined.

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

Incls.: As stated
Reference: Department Order: No. 11, s. 1977
Allotment: 1-2-3-4--(D.O. 1-76)
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

BUREAUS & OFFICES
CORRESPONDENCE
LEGISLATION
RULES & REGULATIONS

(Inclosure No. 1 to MEC Order No. 12, s. 1981)

MALACANANG
Manila

LETTER OF INSTRUCTIONS NO. 207

To: Heads of all Government Offices, Agencies
and Instrumentalities

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 84, series of 1946, prescribes that all correspondence between the Philippine Government and foreign government should be coursed through the Department of Foreign Affairs as a means of coordinating public functions and activities affecting foreign relations;

WHEREAS, it has been observed that there have been violations of this Order, to the detriment of national interest;

WHEREAS, strict compliance of this Order should be adhered to as a means to protect our widening diplomatic and trade relations and increased volume, extent, variety, complexity and sophistication of present-day international activities; to enhance intra-agency coordination; and to protect national security and interest;

WHEREFORE, the provisions of Executive Order No. 84 dated January 2, 1946, requiring all communications and correspondence on matters affecting the relations of the Government of the Philippines with foreign countries from Government offices, agencies or instrumentalities to be coursed through the Department of Foreign Affairs are hereby reiterated, and strict compliance therewith enjoined, except in the urgent cases mentioned therein, and in such other cases as the Secretary of Foreign Affairs may authorize with my approval.

Request of foreign government representatives to meet with Philippine Government officials, or vice-versa, and reports of such meetings, shall be coursed through the Department of Foreign Affairs.

"Foreign Governments" shall include the UN or any of its specialized agencies.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 9th day of August, in the year of Our Lord, nineteen hundred and seventy-four.

(SGD.) FERDINAND E. MARCOS
President of the Philippines

A true copy

(Inclosure No. 2 to MEC Order No. 12, s. 1981)

MALACANAN PALACE
Manila

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 84

PRESCRIBING THE PROCEDURE FOR COURSING CORRESPONDENCE
TO AND FROM THE UNITED STATES AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

WHEREAS, Section 5 and Section 7 of Commonwealth Act
No. 683 provides as follows:

"Section 5. The Office of Foreign Relations shall take charge of all matters affecting the relations of the Government of the Philippines with the United States and foreign nations, and such other matters relating to international relations which the President of the Philippines may consider proper to be placed under its charge."

"Section 7. Upon the declaration of the independence of the Philippines, the powers and functions of this office shall automatically be taken over by the Department in charge of foreign affairs of the Philippines with a Department Secretary at its head."

WHEREAS, in creating the Office of Foreign Relations it was the intention to provide the means of coordinating the functions and activities of the Government pertaining to the relations of the Government of the Philippines with the United States and other countries and establish the nucleus of the department of foreign affairs to be created after independence has been declared; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that all matters affecting the relations of the Government of the Philippines with the United States and foreign countries be conducted through the Office of Foreign Relations to enable it to carry out properly its functions as provided in Commonwealth Act No. 683 and Executive Order No. 76 issued on December 3, 1945;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by law, I, SERGIO OSMEÑA, President of the Philippines, do hereby order that hereafter:

1. All official communications and correspondence on matters affecting the relations of the Government of the Philippines with the United States and foreign countries from all departments, bureaus, offices, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Commonwealth Government, or of any provincial, municipal, or city government, to the Office of the United States High Commissioner; to local offices or officers of the military and naval forces of the United States in the Philippines; to foreign consular officers or agents in the Philippines; and to persons, corporations, offices, bureaus, or departments in the United States or in foreign countries, be sent to the Office of Foreign Relations for transmittal to their destination through proper channels: Provided, however, that in urgent cases where it is imperative to catch an outgoing mail steamer or air mail the communication may be mailed direct and a copy thereof simultaneously sent to the Office of Foreign Relations with a statement of such mailing and the date thereof.

2. All official communications and correspondence on matters affecting the relations of the Government of the Philippines with the United States and foreign countries coming from the Office of the United States High Commissioner; from local offices or officers of the military and naval forces of the United States in the Philippines; from foreign consular officers or agents in the Philippines; from persons, corporations, offices, bureaus, or departments in the United States or in foreign countries and from the Office of the Resident Commissioner to the United States heretofore received and handled by the Office of the President shall hereafter be forwarded to the Office of Foreign Relations.

Executive Order numbered one hundred four, dated June fourteenth, nineteen hundred and thirty-seven, and all other executive orders which may be inconsistent with the provisions of this executive order are hereby repealed.

This Executive Order shall take effect as of January 1, 1946.

Done at the City of Manila, Philippines, this 2nd day of January, in the year of Our Lord, nineteen hundred and forty-six, and of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, the eleventh.

(SGD.) SERGIO OSMEÑA
President of the Philippines

By the President:

(SGD.) JOSE S. REYES
Secretary to the President

A true copy