

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

9 JUN 24 AIC :17

SENATE

P. S. Res. No. **1140**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by **Senator Biazon**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEES ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON POLICY ISSUES RELATIVE TO THE REPORTED COLLISION BETWEEN A CHINESE SUBMARINE AND THE UNITED STATES UNDERWATER SONAR

Whereas, there has been a reported collision between a Chinese submarine and an underwater sonar array being towed by an American destroyer, off the coast of the Philippines near the Scarborough Shoal;

Whereas, it was reported that Philippine Navy officials conceded that they did not receive any request from either the Chinese or the Americans to have their vessels sail through our waters;

Whereas, this incident raises many policy questions relative to national sovereignty and security and other national interests;

Whereas, under International Law, the Philippines exercises different rights and responsibilities depending on whether the areas in question are in the archipelagic waters, territorial seas, contiguous zone or the exclusive economic zone;

Whereas, under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the Philippines may designate sea lanes or prescribe traffic separation schemes suitable for the continuous and expeditious passage of foreign ships when the ships are in the territorial seas or archipelagic waters;

Whereas, under the UNCLOS, ships enjoy innocent passage in territorial seas and through archipelagic waters;

Whereas, under Article 20, Part II Section 3 of the UNCLOS, it is required that submarines and other underwater vehicles to navigate on the surface and to show their flag if they are in the territorial sea;

Whereas, there is a need to determine the exact location of the incident to be guided properly on what action should be taken by the Philippine Government or the possibility of filing a protest in case of violation of International law;

Whereas, there is also a need for the Philippines to designate sea lanes and traffic separation schemes which are vital to our national security and requiring diplomatic coordination;

Whereas, there is a need to clarify these issues relative to the collision that significantly affects our national sovereignty and security and our national interest. *Now Therefore Be It Resolved, As It Is Hereby Resolved,*

By the Senate, To Direct The Committees On Foreign Relations, National Defense And Security, And Other Appropriate Senate Committees, To Conduct An Inquiry, In Aid Of Legislation, On Policy Issues Relative To The Reported Collision Between A Chinese Submarine And The United States Underwater Sonar

Adopted,



RODOLFO G. BIAZON
Senator