



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

15 MAY 14 AM 11:46

SENATE  
P. S. R. No. 1342

RECEIVED BY: J.

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID  
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT THAT WAR GAMES BETWEEN PHILIPPINE AND  
U.S. TROOPS LED TO ECONOMIC LOSSES IN TARLAC

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 7 provides:

The State shall pursue an independent foreign policy. In its relations with  
other states, the paramount consideration shall be national sovereignty, territorial  
integrity, national interest, and the right to self-determination;

WHEREAS, Senate Resolution No. 1356, adopted in the 14<sup>th</sup> Congress, expressed the  
sense of this august body that the Department of Foreign Affairs should seek to renegotiate the  
Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) with the U.S. and, in case of denial, should give notice of  
termination of the agreement;

WHEREAS, despite the an on-going panel headed by the executive secretary to review  
the VFA, it has never been renegotiated;

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on 2 May 2015 reported that the a town mayor  
in Tarlac province wants to collect compensation from the U.S. government for daily economic  
losses due to war games between U.S. and Philippine troops in the area;

WHEREAS, the news quoted Capas Mayor Antonio Rodriguez as saying that tour  
guides, drivers, transport operators, and auxiliary workers, most of them Aeta, have lost  
₱900,000 daily since April 20, when the military exercises began in Crow Valley, the route to  
Mt. Pinatubo's crater lake;

WHEREAS, Rodriguez reportedly attributed the losses to the prohibition of civilian entry  
in the area during the war games from April to May, the same period when hiking activities  
usually peak in Mt. Pinatubo;

WHEREAS, the *Inquirer* said that Crow Valley used to be a gunnery range of the 13th  
U.S. Air Force until 1991, when the Senate voted to close down U.S. bases;

1           WHEREAS, the 18,000-hectare Crow Valley is now purportedly under the jurisdiction of  
2 the Philippine Air Force;

3           WHEREAS, the government is duty-bound to put the interests of the Filipino people  
4 before its obligations to any foreign partner;

5           WHEREAS, the economic concerns on the military exercises between the Philippines  
6 and the U.S. again bring to the fore the VFA, which, at best, disturbs communities, and, at worst,  
7 infringes on the country's sovereignty;

8           WHEREAS, pending the review of the VFA, it is imperative that the Senate address the  
9 agreement's economic impact through relevant legislation;

10          WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct  
11 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the report that war  
12 games between Filipino and U.S. troops led to economic losses in Tarlac.

Adopted,

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
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