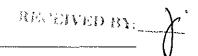


## SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC ) OF THE PHILIPPINES ) Second Regular Session )

"15 MAY 14 A11 :46

SENATE P. S. R. No. **1342** 



## Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

	indodated by Senator Minam Bereinsor Santage
1 2 3 4	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
5	WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 7 provides:
6 7 8	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;
9	WHEREAS, Senate Resolution No. 1356, adopted in the 14th Congress, expressed the
10	sense of this august body that the Department of Foreign Affairs should seek to renegotiate the
11	Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) with the U.S. and, in case of denial, should give notice of
12	termination of the agreement;
13	WHEREAS, despite the an on-going panel headed by the executive secretary to review
14	the VFA, it has never been renegotiated;
15	WHEREAS, the <i>Philippine Daily Inquirer</i> on 2 May 2015 reported that the a town mayor
16	in Tarlac province wants to collect compensation from the U.S. government for daily economic
17	losses due to war games between U.S. and Philippine troops in the area;
18	WHEREAS, the news quoted Capas Mayor Antonio Rodriguez as saying that tour
19	guides, drivers, transport operators, and auxiliary workers, most of them Aeta, have lost
20	₽900,000 daily since April 20, when the military exercises began in Crow Valley, the route to
21	Mt. Pinatubo's crater lake;
22	WHEREAS, Rodriguez reportedly attributed the losses to the prohibition of civilian entry
23	in the area during the war games from April to May, the same period when hiking activities
24	usually peak in Mt. Pinatubo;
25	WHEREAS, the Inquirer said that Crow Valley used to be a gunnery range of the 13th
26	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;

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

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

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

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

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

Adopted,

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