

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

5 NOV -9 P3:28

SENATE
P S R. No. 300

RECEIVED BY: [Signature]

Introduced by Senato. Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON REPORTS THAT REBEL GROUPS IN MINDANAO ARE SMUGGLING WEAPONS FROM CAMBODIA

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 5 provides that: "The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy",

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 2 also provides that. "The Philippines renounces war as an instrument of national policy, adopts the generally accepted principles of international law as part of the law of the land and adheres to the policy of peace, equality, justice, freedom, cooperation, and amity with all nations";

WHEREAS, the American Free Press reported in 16 October 2005 that Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen had admitted that weapons were being smuggled from Cambodia into the Philippines by rebel groups for years;

WHEREAS, Prime Minister Hun Sen said the problem of weapons smuggling is aggravated by the inefficient screening of containers in his country's borders;

WHEREAS, Cambodia is alleged to be the source of illegal weapons that arm rebel groups across Asia, including the Tamil Tigers of Indonesia, the Karen in Myanmar, and various rebel factions in Mindanao;

WHEREAS, due to this recent development, along with the constant threat of terrorism and the protracted war in the South, concerned government authorities must double their efforts in monitoring, screening, and safeguarding our country's borders;

WHEREAS, in the government's campaign against terrorism and armed rebellion, coordination with neighboring Southeast Asian countries must be enhanced in order to crush weapons smuggling within the region.

WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and the Senate Committee on National Defense and Security to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reports that rebel groups in Mindanao are smuggling weapons from Cambodia.

Approved,

[Signature]
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO