

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

6 FEB 23 P1:47

SENATE
P.S.R. No. 458

RECEIVED BY: [Signature]

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE VULNERABILITY OF OUR AIRPORTS
TO SHOULDER-FIRED MISSILE ATTACKS

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

WHEREAS, an article in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* dated 15 February 2006 reported that according to Gen. Benjamin Defensor, chairman of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum's anti-terrorism task force, aircraft landing on or taking off Philippine airports could be vulnerable to terrorist attacks from shoulder-fired missiles;

WHEREAS, this revelation came amid reports that al-Qaeda- linked militants have been strengthening its ties with extremist Muslim groups in the country;

WHEREAS, Gen. Defensor explained that man-portable air defense systems or shoulder-fired missiles posed a serious threat to regional carriers;

WHEREAS, he further elaborated that such anti-aircraft weapons are available locally, and that Muslim insurgents have manufactured shoulder-fired rocket launchers for years in their training camps;

WHEREAS, he also linked the vulnerability of our airports because of their close proximity with sprawling shantytowns around them;

WHEREAS, for the sake of both national and international security, immediate and necessary measures should be formulated and implemented in improving the security of our airports from terrorist threats and attacks;

WHEREAS, in light of the accessibility and proliferation of shoulder-fired rockets in terrorist groups, corresponding action should be taken in strengthening the country's efforts in cracking down on the illegal arms trade;

WHEREAS, this situation not only calls for the cooperation of concerned government agencies, but also requires coordination with international entities;

WHEREFORE, be it resolved that the proper Senate committee shall conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the vulnerability of the country's airports to shoulder-fired missile attacks.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO