



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

S e n a t e

Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 32

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

**FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

SESSION NO. 32
Wednesday, November 7, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:02 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Manny Villar, called the session to order.

PRAYER

The Body observed a minute of silent prayer.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, the session was suspended.

It was 3:03 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:05 p.m., the session was resumed.

ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary of the Senate, Emma Lirio-Reyes, called the roll, to which the following senators responded:

Aquino III, B. S. C.	Lacson, P. M.
Arroyo, J. P.	Lapid, M. L. M.
Cayetano, A. P. C. S.	Legarda, L.
Ejercito Estrada, J.	Pangilinan, F. N.
Gordon, R. J.	Villar, M.
Honasan, G. B.	

With 11 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senators Angara, Biazon, Cayetano (P), Enrile, Escudero, Madrigal, Revilla, Roxas and Zubiri arrived after the roll call.

Senators Defensor Santiago and Pimentel were on official mission abroad.

Senator Trillanes was unable to attend the session.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 31 and considered it approved.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR ARROYO

Availing himself of the privilege hour, Senator Arroyo stated that he has filed Proposed Senate Resolution No. 192 which expresses the concern of the Senate that the number of Filipino cardinals is grossly disproportionate to the huge Catholic population of the Philippines, being the second country in the world, next to Brazil, with the biggest number of Catholics. He stated that the Vatican has just sent Archbishop Edward Joseph Adams, an American, as the new Papal Nuncio to the Philippines.

Senator Arroyo cited the following facts that prompted him to file the resolution:

Catholic Population and the Number of Cardinals in Countries with the Largest Number of Catholics:

Country	Catholic Population	Number of Cardinals
1. Brazil	147 million	8
2. Philippines	73 million	3
3. United States	63 million	13
4. Italy	57 million	38
5. France	45 million	7
6. Spain	39 million	8

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Asian Countries with the Largest Number of Cardinals and Their Corresponding Catholic Population:

1. Philippines	73 million	3
2. India	16 million	5
3. Japan	505,000	2
4. Taiwan	305,000	1
5. Thailand	273,000	1

Senator Arroyo believed that the arrival of the new Papal Nuncio is the opportune time to raise this concern about the lopsided representation of 73 million Filipino Catholics. He hoped that the Body would support the thrust of the resolution.

Senator Arroyo noted that the Philippines is the only country that does not tax church properties and income.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary of the Senate read the following matters and the Chair made the corresponding referrals:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 1815, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A CENTER FOR BREAST CANCER CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1816, entitled

AN ACT PROFESSIONALIZING LOCAL PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT MANDATING ELECTED LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVES TO TAKE A TWO-WEEK INTENSIVE LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE COURSE THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

To the Committees on Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1817, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE PENALTIES FOR CHILD PROSTITUTION, SEXUAL ABUSE AND CHILD TRAFFICKING, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 5, 6, 7, AND 8 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7610, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SPECIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST CHILD ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION ACT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

To the Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations

Senate Bill No. 1818, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE BICOL POWER GRID TO ENSURE THE GRANT OF EQUITABLE PREFERENTIAL BENEFITS TO REGIONS HOSTING RELIABLE AND CHEAP GEOTHERMAL POWER AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Gregorio B. Honasan II

To the Committees on Energy; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1819, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A DEVISE TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF THE REFORMED VALUE ADDED TAX (RVAT) TO THE PRICE OF BASIC COMMODITIES BY WAY OF ADOPTING A SCHEME TO DIVIDE THE PAYMENT OF VAT BETWEEN THE SELLER AND BUYER, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9337 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 27, 28, 34, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 119, 121, 148, 151, 236, 237 AND 288 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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Introduced by Senator Gregorio B. Honasan II

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 1820, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY PROGRAM, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE PHILIPPINE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (PTSA), DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Gregorio B. Honasan II

To the Committees on Public Services; Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1821, entitled

AN ACT TO FURTHER PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT, UTILIZATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

To the Committees on Energy; Public Services; and Ways and Means

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 190, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE EXERCISE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POWERS OF LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVES UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991" IN RELATION TO REPUBLIC ACT 6975 KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) LAW" AND REPUBLIC ACT 8551

KNOWN AS "THE PNP REFORM AND REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1998"

Introduced by Senator Benigno S. Aquino III

To the Committees on Local Government; and Public Order and Illegal Drugs

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 191, entitled

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ALBAY DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AS A FRAMEWORK FOR THE MAINSTREAMING OF GLOBAL WARMING CONCERNS INTO THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL PLANNING, ACCOUNTING AND BUDGETING SYSTEMS AND TO SUPPORT LOCAL GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE AND CIVIL SOCIETY INITIATIVES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Introduced by Senator Gregorio B. Honasan II

To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; and Local Government

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

BILL ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 1822, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A REVISED VETERINARY QUARANTINE ACT OF 2007

Introduced by Senator Francis "Chiz" G. Escudero

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; and Finance

RESOLUTION

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 192, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE CONCERN OF THE SENATE THAT THE NUMBER OF FILIPINO CARDINALS IS GROSSLY DISPROPORTIONATE TO THE HUGE CATHOLIC

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POPULATION OF THE PHILIPPINES,
BEING THE SECOND COUNTRY IN
THE WORLD WITH THE BIGGEST
NUMBER OF CATHOLICS

Introduced by Senator Arroyo

To the Committee on Rules

COMMUNICATION

Letter from Assistant Governor and General Counsel Juan de Zuñiga Jr. of the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*, dated 23 October 2007, furnishing the Senate with certified copies of BSP Circular Nos. 585 and 586, series of 2007, dated 15 and 16 October 2006, respectively, in compliance with Section 15(a) of Republic Act No. 7653 (The New Central Bank Act).

To the Committees on banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

REPORT OF SENATOR LEGARDA

Senator Legarda rendered a report on the results of the 117th IPU Assembly in which she, Senate President Villar, Senators Alan and Pia Cayetano, and Senator Pimentel participated, to wit:

On 08 October 2007, the 117th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union commenced its proceedings at the Geneva International Conference Centre. Delegations of parliaments from 125 countries took part in the work of the 117th Assembly. The 117th Assembly ran from October 8-10, 2007. The IPU is the international organization of parliaments of sovereign states. It was established in 1889 as the focal point for worldwide parliamentary dialogue and works for peace and cooperation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative democracy.

Opening of the Assembly

The 117th Assembly was opened by the President of the IPU, Mr. Pier Ferdinando Casini, currently a member of the Italian Parliament, and was subsequently elected president of the Assembly.

Adoption of the Myanmar Issue as the Emergency Item for the 118th Assembly

Next in the agenda was the discussions and debate for the choice of an emergency item for

inclusion in the agenda of the 118th Assembly to be held in Capetown, South Africa on April 2008. Under the Rule of the IPU Assembly (Rule 11.2, (cf. *Statutes, Art. 14.2*), any Member of the Union may request the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda. Consideration and acceptance by the Assembly of a request for the inclusion of an emergency item in its agenda shall be subject to the following provisions: (a) A request for the inclusion of an emergency item must relate to a major event of international concern on which it appears necessary for the IPU to express its opinion. Such a request must receive a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in order to be accepted; and (b) The Assembly may place only one emergency item on its agenda. Should several requests obtain the requisite majority, the one having received the largest number of positive votes shall be accepted. The debate on any possible emergency item will be held in plenary by the Assembly.

The Assembly had before it a consolidated request for the inclusion of an emergency item submitted by the delegations of Iran and Bahrain on behalf of the Arab Group entitled "*Supporting Iraq's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity*," and a request submitted by the delegation of Indonesia entitled "*The urgent need to immediately stop the widespread human rights violations and to restore the democratic rights of the people of Myanmar*."

The debate on the emergency item took place in the afternoon of Monday, 8 October. The meeting was chaired in turn by the President and the Vice-President of the Assembly. A total of 31 speakers from 29 parliamentary delegations and one observer took part in the debate. On behalf the Philippine delegation, I spoke about the Philippines' fervent desire to have the Myanmar issue adopted as the emergency item. I underscored the need for the establishment of the ASEAN Human Rights Commission, a proposal which has been embodied in a Draft Agreement for the Establishment of the ASEAN Human Rights Commission submitted by senior parliamentarians of officials from the ASEAN in the year 2000. This accord creates a regional human rights body with monitoring, promotional and recommendatory powers. I expressed my view that had this Commission been approved at the time it was proposed in 2000, atrocities committed against the monks and civilians in Myanmar (Burma) or in any ASEAN country that commits human rights violations could have been addressed, if not prevented.

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After a vote, the proposal submitted by the delegation of Indonesia was adopted and added to the agenda of the 118th IPU Assembly as Item 6.

The Assembly referred the item to a drafting committee composed of members of the delegations of Canada, Chile, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Netherlands, Philippines, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Zambia. The drafting committee appointed Mr. J. P. Letelier (Chile) as its president and Mr. M. Darusman (Indonesia) as rapporteur. It met on Tuesday, 9 October, in the morning and prepared the draft resolution. The draft resolution was adopted unanimously by the Assembly on Wednesday, 10 October.

Debates and Decisions of the Assembly

As part of the overall decision on the consolidation of the reform of the IPU, the 180th session of the Governing Council, held in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia, in May 2007, decided that, on a trial basis, the three Standing Committees would not meet during the second Assembly of the year.

Instead, a panel discussion was held on each of the three subject items placed on the agenda of the 118th Assembly to be held in South Africa. The purpose of this exercise is, on the one hand, to raise the awareness of IPU Members of the subjects at hand and, on the other, to facilitate the task of the co-rapporteurs by providing them with an intermediary check-point halfway through the drafting process, so that they could fine-tune their concepts in the light of comments by experts and the IPU membership.

(Under the Assembly's Rules, (R.15.1.3) the Assembly shall start by holding a General Debate with an overall theme. During this General Debate, members may also address the political, economic, and social situation in the world. This debate shall not give rise to the adoption of a motion or draft resolution. The three subject items placed by the Assembly on its agenda shall be debated by the competent Standing Committees each of which shall prepare a report and a draft resolution for consideration by the Assembly)

Each panel discussion lasted approximately two hours. In addition to the co-rapporteurs designated for the 118th Assembly, each panel will include a number of renowned experts, to be identified by the IPU Secretariat in consultation with relevant international organizations. The

format of the panels was largely informal. During the panels, IPU Members had the opportunity to provide comments and suggestions on the preliminary draft reports prepared by the co-rapporteurs for distribution to delegates ahead of the 117th Assembly. There will be no formal outcome of the panels apart from a record of their proceedings.

Panel Discussion: The role of parliaments in striking a balance between national security, human security and individual freedoms, and in averting the threat to democracy

In accordance with this format, a panel discussion took place in the morning of 9 October 2007, on the First Standing Committee subject item at 118th Assembly: *The role of parliaments in striking a balance between national security, human security and individual freedoms, and in averting the threat to democracy* (Item 3(a)). It was chaired by Mr. T. Boa, President of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security. The co-rapporteurs of the above-mentioned item, Ms. H. Mgabadi (South Africa), Mr. L. M. Suklabaidya (India) and Mr. M. Pritchard, speaking on behalf of Lord Morris (United Kingdom, who was unable to be present for health reasons), informed participants of progress made in the preparation of their reports on the item. Participants also heard keynote presentation from M. Scheinin, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, and Mr. C. Cordone of Amnesty International. They briefed participants on the interplay between security and individual freedoms and identified action that parliaments and parliamentarians should take to guarantee respect for human rights in parallel with ensuring the national security. Twenty-two delegates also took the floor to address those issues. I manifested my intention to take part in the discussion, but due to the lack of time, I was asked to submit my input instead to the rapporteurs for their consideration.

The topic for discussion is of special interest to me in the light of the increasing role of members of the legislature to ensure that such balance is kept and respected. The fundamental principle of our republic enshrined in our Constitution is that "all government authority emanates from the people." The philosophical basis for this is the "social contract" between the governor and the governed declaring that the governors are mere "representatives" of the governed and that the rights of the governed are paramount. Parliaments all around the world are

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supposed to be underpinned by this basic principle. Thus, as we legislators craft laws, we are clearly aware that the individual is the fulcrum of all our attempts to bring about the good life. In many cases, however, *Realpolitik* tells us that there is a delicate balance that must be reached between preserving the life of the state, the collective that is established to ensure the rights of every individual and protecting the rights of the individual.

This delicate balance is oftentimes, however, not reached as in some cases, the right of the state to preserve itself becomes paramount. This issue has been brought forth more clearly with the passing of the Human Security Act (HSA) by the Philippine legislature. This law has generated many fears that the state has intruded into the basic rights of the individual to speech, to peaceful assembly and other fundamental freedoms ostensibly protected by the liberal democratic framework of our political system. Does this mean, therefore, that national security has a higher premium than human security?

In the light of the extraordinary situation that we are in following the events of September 11, 2001, it may be imperative for the state to ensure order in society absent which the individual cannot be "secure." Thus, the tension that most people see between the state and the individual has no basis because the security of the state cannot be preserved at the expense of the security of the individual. They are symbiotic or interdependent. National security is human security. The individual can no more be secure if the state itself is in peril.

The role of legislatures/parliaments in ensuring this delicate balance is crucial. Every piece of legislation that we act on must weigh in most seriously the right of the state to preserve itself for the individual freedoms to flourish. After all, it is the state which is the primary protector of the individual's rights.

As we confront the major challenges of the 21st century, all the more do we see the central role that legislatures/parliaments play in ensuring the preservation of the state to preserve the individual's rights. This issue becomes central to the continuing debate about whether political development should come first before economic development. While the most desirable state is that they should occur at the same time, in many cases, economic activities or activities to increase goods and services to bring about a higher quality of life for each individual cannot happen in a state where there exists no order. After all, it is only an orderly society that will

provide the "enabling environment" for economic and other activities to prosper. Absent order, individual rights will find no meaning.

The many issues of human trafficking, migration, transnational crimes and extremism of religious and non-religious kind are all central to our work as legislators. Here, we realize that the work has to be done "beyond the nation state." Here, we also realize that the only platform which may ensure success in confronting these challenges is cooperation.

The work of the IPU is, indeed, central to these undertakings because IPU enables legislators around the world to continue these conversations and to collectively craft a framework to enable each individual in any part of the world to be secure and to achieve the good life.

Panel Discussion: Parliamentary oversight of State policies on foreign aid

A panel discussion on the Second Standing Committee subject item at 118th Assembly: *Parliamentary oversight of State policies on foreign aid* took place in the morning of 9 October 2007. It provided an opportunity for IPU members to deepen their understanding of the subject item to be debated in South Africa. It also provided the co-rapporteurs Mr. F. – X. de Donnea (Belgium) and Mr. E. Quenum (Benin), with a midpoint review of the drafting process. The panel included two non-parliamentary experts: Mr. C. Gore of UNCTAD Secretariat and Mr. M. Halle of the International Institute for Sustainable Development. Following introductory statements by the panelists, a lively exchange of views took place, with a total of 26 delegates taking the floor. The debate focused on quality and quantity of foreign aid and on the respective roles of parliamentarians of donor and recipient countries in overseeing aid flows.

I spoke as a member of the Philippine delegation to emphasize that foreign aid, if properly used, can greatly help in the development of a nation. Improperly used, it can be counter-productive and result in social injustice and unrest. The people expect parliament, as the body of elected representatives entrusted with policy formulation and oversight, to see to it that state policies on foreign aid result in the effective and efficient delivery of public services and in the granting of assistance to needy sectors, among others. More importantly, the people want parliament to ensure that foreign aid goes to the noble purposes for which they are intended, and not to the greedy hands of corrupt officials and their accomplices. *AK*

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In the Philippines, as of 31 December 2006, total Official Development Assistance (ODA) loans reached US\$9.5 billion for 141 active loans, composed of 135 project loans supporting 123 projects, and six program loans. Project loans accounted for 86 percent or US\$8.2 billion of the portfolio, while program loans, 14 percent or US\$1.3 billion (Outcome of the 15th ODA Portfolio Review – 2006). For a developing country like the Philippines, this is a considerable amount that if properly used can truly help the people. Under Philippine laws (RA 8182, as amended by RA 8555 or “The ODA Act of 1996”), the national planning agency [National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)], is mandated to conduct annual reviews of the status of implementation of all projects financed through ODA and identify causes of delays, reasons for bottlenecks, cost overruns (both actual and prospective), and continued project viability.

The Philippine Senate and Congress, after coming out with legislation on foreign aid, still needs to ensure that policies are indeed carried out in the spirit for which they were formulated. It must also see to it that these policies are sufficient for, and consistent with, the ever-changing demands of the nation.

It is in this context that I agree with the conclusions and recommendations contained in the draft report “Parliamentary Oversight of State Policies on Foreign Aid” of the 117th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The report states, among other things, that:

“...any aid architecture requires mechanisms of accountability and oversight. Parliaments have a fundamental role to play in this respect.” (53, “Parliamentary Oversight of State Policies on Foreign Aid”)

“In seeking to improve governance in developing countries, donors have tended to work primarily with the executive or with civil society organizations. This is beginning to change as donors increasingly recognize that parliaments ... can have an important role to play in delivering governance which is effective both in reducing poverty and strengthening democracy.” (54, “Parliamentary Oversight of State Policies on Foreign Aid”)

“The parliaments of donor and beneficiary countries should engage in bilateral and multilateral dialogue, in particular on following up and

monitoring the quantity and quality of aid and its effectiveness on the ground.” (67, “Parliamentary Oversight of State Policies on Foreign Aid”).

“The IPU must work with the United Nations specialized services, in particular UNDP, and with any other multilateral or bilateral donor wishing to reinforce the parliamentary institutions in countries receiving ODA..” (69, “Parliamentary Oversight of State Policies on Foreign Aid”)

Parliamentary oversight of state policies on foreign aid and its implementation thereof is not only mandatory. It is critical for a nation’s growth. Thus, parliamentarians should rise to this challenge not only by facing it, but also by acquiring the necessary competencies and skills to do the job well.

Panel Discussion: Migrant workers, trafficking in persons, xenophobia and human rights

A panel discussion took place in the afternoon of 9 October 2007 on the Third Standing Committee subject item at 118th Assembly: *Migrant workers, trafficking in persons, xenophobia and human rights*. It was chaired by Mr. E. Rodriguez Zavaleta (Peru), President of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights. The co-rapporteurs of the above-mentioned item, Mr. A. Dismore (United Kingdom) and Mr. C. Camacho (Mexico), informed participants of progress made in the preparation of their report and draft resolution. Participants also heard keynote presentations from Ms. R. Puttonen of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Ms. J. Redpath of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). They briefed participants on the current state of play with regard to migration and human trafficking and identified action that parliaments and parliamentarians should take to improve the lives of migrant workers and stamp out the scourge of human trafficking. Some 30 delegates also took the floor to address those issues. Due to time constraints, I was requested to submit my input to the rapporteurs for their consideration.

I was particularly interested to take part in the discussion as a representative of our country that is a major source of workers for work overseas. While we have enacted an Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act three years ago, we still have to see the lessening of the number of cases of trafficked women and children or of criminal syndicates brought to justice. There will

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only be trafficked persons if there are traffickers. In a study conducted by Chris de Stoop reveals that trafficking in Europe most often involved Asian women. There is a need therefore for stronger and more vigilant coordination between parliaments to exterminate this social malaise. On labor migration, the Philippines, being a major country of origin for migrant workers, recently ratified two international agreements to enhance cooperation for the protection of rights and promotion of welfare of overseas Filipino workers – the ILO Convention No. 97, which covers the conditions governing the orderly recruitment of migrant workers, and ILO Convention No. 143, which called for the suppression of illicit and clandestine trafficking of migrant workers including the prosecution of perpetrators. Despite this, we still hear of overseas Filipino workers sexually exploited especially in countries where they have not been adequately briefed on the difference of cultures. There is therefore a need for the IPU to take stronger action for the protection of migrant workers thru their respective parliaments, thru effective legislation.

A developing country like the Philippines must take advantage of venues like the IPU as an opportunity to enrich our perspective on world affairs and to widen our knowledge on international concerns that affect our growth and development as a nation. International events like the IPU can also serve as a platform to promote the Philippines as an epitome of a truly representative democracy.

REFERRAL OF REPORT TO COMMITTEE

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Chair referred the report of Senator Legarda to the Committee on Economic Affairs.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, the session was suspended.

It was 3:26 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:26 p.m., the session was resumed.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 192

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 192, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE CONCERN OF THE SENATE THAT THE NUMBER OF FILIPINO CARDINALS IS GROSSLY DISPROPORTIONATE TO THE HUGE CATHOLIC POPULATION OF THE PHILIPPINES, BEING THE SECOND COUNTRY IN THE WORLD WITH THE BIGGEST NUMBER OF CATHOLICS.

Following is the full text of the resolution:

WHEREAS, hereunder are the Catholic population and the number of cardinals in countries with the largest number of Catholics:

<i>Catholic Population, ranking worldwide</i>		<i>No. of Cardinals</i>
1. Brazil	147 million	8
2. Philippines	73 million	3
3. U.S.A.	63 million	13
4. Italy	57 million	38
5. France	45 million	7
6. Spain	39 million	8

WHEREAS, hereunder are the Asian countries with the largest number of cardinals and their corresponding Catholic population:

<i>Catholic Population</i>		<i>No. of Cardinals</i>
1. Philippines	73 million	3
2. India	16 million	5
3. Japan	.505 thousand	2
4. Taiwan	.305 thousand	1
5. Thailand	.273 thousand	1

WHEREAS, the Philippines is the second largest country in the world in the number of Catholics, with 73 million Catholics after Brazil. The U.S. is the third with 63 million, followed by Italy with 57 million, France 45 million and Spain 39 million;

WHEREAS, the Philippines, the second largest Catholic country, has three cardinals; the U.S., Italy, France and Spain, which have smaller Catholic populations, have more or less triple that number of cardinals;

WHEREAS, the Philippines the only Christian country in Asia, and with 73 million Catholics, yet we have only 3 cardinals. On the other hand, India with 16 million Catholics has 5 cardinals more than the Philippines. Japan with only 505,000 Catholics has 2 cardinals. Taiwan with 305,000 Catholics has 1 cardinal, so with Thailand with 273,000 Catholics;

* As corrected by Senator Arroyo on November 12, 2007

WHEREAS, a new Papal Nuncio, in the person of Archbishop Edward Joseph Adams, has just been recently appointed as the Vatican's envoy to the Philippines;

WHEREAS, it is opportune that this concern about the lopsided representation of 73 million Filipino Catholics is conveyed to the proper church authorities: Now, therefore be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, To express, as it hereby expresses, the concern of the Senate that the number of Filipino Cardinals is grossly disproportionate to the huge Catholic population of the Philippines, being the second country in the world with the biggest number of Catholics;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that this Resolution be forwarded to His Excellency, Archbishop Edward Joseph Adams, Papal Nuncio to the Philippines and the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

Rank (No of Cardinals)	Country	No of Cardinals	Population of Catholics (rank in terms of Population)	Ratio of Cardinals to Population(%)	Population for Every Cardinal
# 44	Korea, South	1	4,204,000 (# 42)	0.000237	4,204,200
# 45	Venezuela	1	24,717,000 (# 12)	0.000004	24,717,000
# 46	Peru	1	27,372,000 (# 10)	0.0000036	27,372,000
# 47	Guatemala	1	9,551,000 (# 20)	0.0000104	9,551,000
# 48	Dominican Republic	1	7,667,000 (# 24)	0.000013	7,667,000
# 49	Cuba	1	6,205,000 (# 29)	0.0000161	6,205,000
# 50	Mauritius	1	277,000 (# 97)	0.000361	277,000
# 51	Angola	1	9,519,000 (# 21)	0.0000105	9,519,000
# 52	Lithuania	1	2,879,000 (# 54)	0.0000347	2,879,000
# 53	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	457,000 (# 87)	0.0002178	457,000
# 54	Belarus	1	1,037,000 (# 72)	0.0000964	1,037,000
# 55	Mozambique	1	4,187,000 (# 43)	0.0000238	4,187,000
# 56	Ecuador	1	12,183,000 (# 16)	0.0000082	12,183,000
# 57	Puerto Rico	1	2,744,000 (#56)	0.0000364	2,744,000
# 58	Cote d'Ivoire	1	(data not available)		
			(not included in the list)		
# 59	South Africa	1	3,081,000 (# 51)	0.0000324	3,081,000
# 60	Syria	1	365,000 (# 94)	0.0002739	365,000
# 61	Nicaragua	1	5,019,000 (#35)	0.0000199	5,019,000
# 62	Uganda	1	10,397,000 (# 18)	0.0000096	10,397,000
# 63	Lebanon	1	(data not available)		
			(not included in the list)		
# 64	Saint Kitts and Nevis	1	6,000 (# 134)	0.01666	6,000
# 65	Sudan	1	3,833,000 (# 49)	0.000026	3,833,000
Total		180	834,629,000		
Weighted Average		2.8	6,675,921.40		

Annex

Statistics on Catholic Cardinals in Various Countries

Rank (No. of Cardinals)	Country	No of Cardinals	Population of Catholics (rank in terms of Population)	Ratio of Cardinals to Population(%)	Population for Every Cardinal
# 1	Italy	38	57,689,000 (# 4)	0.0000658	1,518,131
# 2	United States	13	63,188,000 (# 3)	0.0000205	4,860,616
# 3	Germany	8	28,894,000 (# 11)	0.0000299	3,336,750
# 4	Brazil	8	147,398,000 (# 1)	0.0000054	18,423,250
# 5	Spain	8	39,002,000 (# 6)	0.0000205	4,875,250
# 6	France	7	45,345,000 (# 5)	0.0000154	6,477,857
# 7	Poland	7	34,573,000 (# 8)	0.0000202	4,939,000
# 8	India	5	16,758,000 (# 14)	0.0000298	3,351,600
# 9	Canada	5	13,018,000 (# 15)	0.0000384	2,603,200
# 10	Mexico	5	data not available		
			(not included in the list)		
# 11	Australia	3	5,153,000 (# 33)	0.0000582	1,717,666
# 12	Argentina	3	33,389,000 (# 9)	0.0000089	11,129,666
# 13	Switzerland	3	3,140,000 (# 50)	0.0000955	1,046,666
# 14	Philippines	3	73,805,000 (# 2)	0.000004	24,535,000
# 15	Colombia	3	38,626,000 (# 7)	0.0000077	12,875,333
# 16	Netherlands	2	4,984,000 (# 38)	0.0000471	2,492,000
# 17	Japan	2	505,000 (# 83)	0.0000396	252,500
# 18	Austria	2	5,837,000 (# 30)	0.0000342	2,918,500
# 19	Ukraine	2	5,141,000 (# 34)	0.0000389	2,570,500
# 20	Vietnam	2	data not available		
			(not included in the list)		
# 21	Hungary	2	6,284,000 (# 28)	0.0000319	3,132,000
# 22	Nigeria	2	16,853,000 (# 13)	0.0000118	8,426,500
# 23	Czech Republic	2	4,002,000 (# 46)	0.0000499	2,001,000
# 24	Portugal	2	9,343,000 (# 22)	0.0000214	4,671,500
# 25	Slovakia	2	2,731,000 (# 57)	0.0000732	1,365,500
# 26	Chile	2	11,606,000 (# 17)	0.0000086	5,803,000
# 27	Bolivia	1	7,353,000 (# 25)	0.0000135	7,353,000
# 28	New Zealand	1	470,000 (# 85)	0.0002127	470,000
# 29	Cameroon	1	4,253,000 (# 41)	0.0000236	4,235,000
# 30	Ghana	1	2,348,000 (# 58)	0.0000425	2,348,000
# 31	Benin	1	1,581,000 (# 64)	0.000064	1,561,000
# 32	Latvia	1	414,000 (# 90)	0.0000135	414,000
# 33	Taiwan	1	305,000 (# 96)	0.0003278	305,000
# 34	Ireland	1	4,063,000 (# 45)	0.0000246	4,063,000
# 35	Congo	1	1,555,555 (# 65)	0.0000643	1,555,000
	Democratic Republic of the				
# 36	Tanzania	1	10,313,000 (# 19)	0.000096	10,313,000
# 37	Belgium	1	7,845,000 (# 23)	0.0000127	7,845,000
# 38	Croatia	1	3,837,000 (# 48)	0.000026	3,837,000
# 39	Thailand	1	273,000 (# 98)	0.0003633	273,000
# 40	Indonesia	1	6,359,000 (# 27)	0.0000157	6,359,000
# 41	Madagascar	1	4,432,000 (# 39)	0.0000225	4,439,000
# 42	Honduras	1	5,334,000 (# 32)	0.0000187	5,334,000
# 43	Egypt	1	(data not available)		
			(not included in the list)		

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Arroyo, sponsor of the resolution, and Senator Gordon for his interpellation.

**INTERPELLATION
OF SENATOR GORDON**

Senator Gordon inquired how the Senate could inveigle upon the Catholic Church to appoint more cardinals to the Philippines. Senator Arroyo clarified that the thrust of the resolution is not to find fault with nor demand an explanation from the Church but rather to seek enlightenment from church authorities why the Philippines, having the second largest Catholic population in the world, is ranked No. 14 in terms of cardinalship.

Asked if the situation is indicative of the growing lack of interest in the Church as evidenced by the diminishing number of men entering the priesthood, Senator Arroyo replied that this is a worldwide phenomenon as he noted that European Catholics do not practice their faith and most of their churches are empty on Sundays and holy days. On the other hand, he pointed out that Filipino Catholics practice their faith more seriously and the churches are full on Sundays and holy days.

As to the assignment of an American as a papal nuncio, Senator Arroyo surmised that the Vatican wanted U.S. Ambassador Kenney to have a counterpart.

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To the observation that Filipino cardinals have been a little bit more political than spiritual, Senator Arroyo reiterated that the resolution simply seeks enlightenment as to why the country has only three cardinals when it has a very large Catholic population. He acknowledged that the Church's influence is so pervading in Philippine politics that the legislature has been reluctant to legislate on sensitive matter like divorce and birth control which are against the Church's dogma. However, he said, European countries like Italy, France and Spain that have large Catholic population allow divorce and birth control. He opined that it is not fair that India with a Catholic population of 16 million has five cardinals and Japan with a 500,000 Catholic population has two cardinals, while the Philippines with a 73 million Catholic population has three cardinals.

Senator Arroyo clarified that the resolution would be forwarded to the new Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Edward Joseph Adams, and to the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and it is up to them to enlighten the Senate on the matter. He stressed that the resolution seeks information to which the Catholic faithful have a right.

To the observation that the Philippines has a number of bishops who are very qualified to become cardinals, Senator Arroyo agreed, adding that the talents of many Filipino bishops are being wasted. On the other hand, he lamented that some American cardinals have been accused of shenanigans and the Church has paid off the complainants.

Senator Gordon wondered if the Senate should be lobbying for more cardinals given the fact that there are also shenanigans in the Catholic Church in the Philippines, albeit not as many as those in the United States. He stated that it would best for the Church to come out with more qualitative priests. He doubted if the Senate is the proper forum to raise the question. Senator Arroyo stressed that it is the Senate's duty to ask the Church. He stated that, in fact, the data in the resolution were downloaded from a website.

At this juncture, the Chair acknowledged the presence in the gallery of former Senate President and Ambassador Ernesto M. Maceda.

Senator Gordon noted that the Church has spoken on issues like birth control but has remained silent on the sale of body organs by people from poor countries

to very rich countries, a matter that was exposed on CNN. Senator Arroyo clarified that the resolution only aims to be informed why there is a very minimal number of cardinals in the Philippines.

At this juncture, with the permission of Senator Gordon, adverting to the statistical list on the number of cardinals per country, Senator Enrile wondered how much each country gives to the Vatican treasury. He suspected that the number of cardinals could have been based on the amount of money that a country contributed to the Vatican. Senator Arroyo replied that it is possible that the number is based on the financial support to the Vatican of the Catholics of a country.

To the observation that the resolution was touching on the constitutional issue of separation of Church and State — “to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's,” Senator Arroyo replied that the resolution is not demanding an answer but is merely asking questions that the Vatican could choose to answer or ignore.

Senator Gordon said that issue of the power of the purse is reflective of the importance of the Church dating way back to colonial Philippines when it did not just basically save souls and spread the Christian faith but spread the walls of the Church as well.

Senator Arroyo said that his curiosity was aroused upon the arrival of the new Papal Nuncio. He believed that there is no country other than the Philippines that exempts church property and church income from taxes, which means revenue loss to the government.

Senator Gordon averred that when such questions are raised, the Church becomes a challenged Church like in the United States where there are many court cases against cardinals and bishops. Despite the issues, however, he believed that as a Catholic nation, the faithful should stick to the faith not because of the Church's messengers or shepherds but because they are part of the entire church system. Thus, he believed that the questions might better be asked in the pulpits than in the Senate.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR LACSON

Senator Lacson expressed support for the adoption of the resolution, as he also conveyed his desire to be its coauthor.

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Asked by Senator Lacson if there is anything in Canon Law that states that the basis of the number of cardinals in a country is its Catholic population, Senator Arroyo admitted that he did not know the answer, which is why he is seeking explanation from the Church.

Senator Lacson informed the Body that he just got word from Senator Madrigal, who is very close to some bishops, that the Canon Law does not say anything about the appointment of cardinals and that actually, it is the sole prerogative of the Pope whom to appoint.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR BIAZON

Asked by Senator Biazon if the Catholic lay organizations in the country such as the Couples for Christ and *Opus Dei* have expressed their position on the matter, Senator Arroyo replied that they are not expected to be at the forefront of an otherwise delicate issue. That is why, he said, as a senator and as someone already exposed to controversies, he took the risk of presenting the issue.

Asked if the hierarchy of the Catholic Church in the Philippines has made any move to express the same concern to the Vatican, Senator Arroyo replied in the negative. He said that precisely, the intent of the resolution is to get answers to the questions. He believed that unlike the era when it was taboo to ask questions about controversial issues like Rizal's *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*, there is more freedom to raise questions now that the unedited novels are already taught in Catholic schools.

Senator Biazon wondered whether the Philippine ambassador to the Vatican has already relayed the concern to the Vatican. Senator Arroyo replied that he did not know. Senator Biazon pointed out that India, which is a poor country and has only 16 million Catholics, has more cardinals than the Philippines.

Senator Biazon expressed hope that the Philippine ambassador to the Vatican and the Catholic lay organizations in the Philippines would take the lead in raising the issue to the Vatican.

Asked if the resolution would be scheduled for a hearing so that the positions of the different Catholic lay organizations and the Church hierarchy on the matter would be ventilated, Senator Arroyo explained

that the resolution does not intend to go that far because he has not even obtained the position of the Papal Nuncio who might either sit on the issue or might not even dignify the Senate with an answer. Thus, he said, the Senate is doing the first step by transmitting the resolution in the hope that it could get intelligent answers.

Senator Biazon suggested that the members take a closer look at the resolution because it might put in question the constitutional principle of separation of church and State.

Senator Arroyo reasoned that the constitutional provision on the separation of Church and State should not be invoked in the resolution because the Church, by invoking that its members are also citizens, had participated in purely political questions. He believed that if the Church could involve itself in the politics of the country, the government could also get involved in the politics of the church in the Philippines.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 192

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 192 was adopted by the Body.

COAUTHOR

Upon his request, Senator Lacson was made coauthor of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 192.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

Availing himself of the privilege hour, Senator Zubiri delivered the following speech:

A few weeks ago, Sen. Edgardo Angara stood before this august Chamber to look into the infestation of coconut leaf beetles, how it started, identify the culpability of our law enforcers and government agencies, and how our concerned government agencies are dealing with the situation. If left unchecked, that coconut leaf beetle infestation could threaten the survival of our coconut industry and the lives of our millions of coconut farmers.

As a result, the Executive branch acted swiftly on the issue and hopefully the situation is now under control. That is a solid manifestation where congressional intervention, particularly Senate's intervention, through our over-

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sight functions and inquiries in aid of legislation, has resulted in a positive way and abetted a clear and present danger to our coconut industry.

And so, I rise on another issue, an issue which is related to coconut beetle infestation and also with far-reaching implications on our environmental and economic conditions. I refer to the smuggling and illegal trade of our corals and seashells. Today, a news article has appeared in several newspapers about the seizure by Argentine customs of a valuable, five-ton shipment of endangered and protected corals and seashells from the Philippines that was destined for the black market in tourist haven Mar del Plata in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The newspaper article said that 1,500 pieces of corals and seashells were listed as manufactured goods when it arrived at the Buenos Aires port. Imagine the shock that I got last night while watching CNN, seeing our countrymen selling their human organs in an illegal human organ trade. It is a big embarrassment to our country, and we would like to know what our government agencies are doing about this.

I strongly condemn this smuggling activity and illegal trade of our protected flora and fauna and endangered marine resources. This is a clear violation of our laws, in particular Republic Act No. 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, as well as an international treaty, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to which the Philippines is a signatory.

I earlier related this issue to the coconut leaf beetle infestation. The initial theory on how the coconut leaf beetle arrived in the country was through the importation of royal palms from Malaysia and Thailand which were infested by the beetle. It then transferred to the coconut trees along Roxas Boulevard in Manila and spread to the other parts of the country. That incident as well as this smuggling and illegal trade of our endangered corals and seashells speaks volumes of the irresponsibility and culpability of our quarantine and customs officials.

Why does this kind of crime continue?

Who are the quarantine and customs officials in cahoots with the illegal traders of these endangered marine resources?

Who is the godfather/protector of these corrupt officials?

Are these criminals aware of the environmental and economic impacts of their illegal trade?

If these corrupt officials and illegal traders are listening, let me educate them so that they will stop their criminal activities, if there is still dignity and conscience left to them.

The economic costs of environmental degradation of coastal and marine resources are significant. According to the Philippine Environment Monitor 2005 on Coastal and Marine Resource Management (PEM 2005), the economic benefits of Philippine coastal resources are estimated at P180 billion per year. Coral reefs alone contribute about 1.4 percent of GDP or P75.9 billion in 2005 level. It is estimated that one square kilometer of healthy coral reef generates an estimated P2.5 million from fishing and tourism. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources estimates that the country has about 26,000 square kilometers of coral reefs.

We take pride in the fact that the Philippine coastal waters contain some of the world's most diverse ecosystems and its waters are characterized by extensive coral reefs, sea grass beds, and pristine and beautiful beaches. We have one of the longest coastlines in the world that stretches 36,289 kilometers from Batanes to Tawi-Tawi. The continuing trade of endangered marine species such as corals and seashells would result in habitat loss and destruction of our coastal biodiversity. This would threaten the livelihood and further aggravate the economic conditions of our millions of fisherfolk whose annual household income level is as low as P24,000 annually.

We must put a stop to these smuggling activities and illegal trade that threaten our marine biodiversity and cause us huge economic losses. We must seriously look into this issue and prosecute those found violating our laws. I enjoin our distinguished colleagues in this fight, not only against international environmental crimes but also crimes against humanity.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR ARROYO

In reply to Senator Arroyo's query, Senator Zubiri stated that the protection of natural resources and the environment has been his advocacy since he entered Congress and that, in fact, he was the author of the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act. He lamented that five tons of coral reefs, seashells and other endangered marine species were shipped out of the country and the officials of the Bureau of Customs and Bureau of Quarantine got away with it.

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Stating that the illegal shipment of marine resources involves a lot of money, Senator Arroyo asked whether Senator Zubiri's advocacy would in turn benefit those championing the cause of the environment.

Senator Zubiri replied that the people who would actually benefit are the fisherfolk and millions of Filipinos who rely on marine resources for their food and livelihood. He expressed concern that if the government remains silent on the massive destruction of coral reefs, there would be no more breeding grounds left for the fish.

Asked if he was suggesting that the government maintain the status quo, Senator Zubiri replied in the negative, as he clarified that what he was suggesting is an investigation into the illegal shipment of several tons of marine resources that were confiscated at the port of Buenos Aires in Argentina. He pointed out that the incident was an embarrassment to the Philippines because it showed the laxity of Philippine ports authorities.

Senator Arroyo commented that the issue of illegal smuggling of marine and other aquatic resources has been going on for the past ten years. He asked which agency of the government should conduct the investigation. Senator Zubiri replied that the investigation should focus on the officials and personnel of the Bureau of Customs and Bureau of Quarantine who are responsible for the release of such resources, and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and the DENR which are tasked to preserve and protect the country's resources and environment.

Senator Arroyo expressed the view that if there are no boats or ships that could be used to ship out the items, the smuggling of marine resources in the country would stop. Senator Zubiri pointed out that even the harvesting of endangered corals and seashells is against the law.

Asked how he intends to curb coral and seashell smuggling in an archipelago like the Philippines, Senator Zubiri replied that he would suggest to the appropriate committee to find out first which forwarder was actually contracted to handle the cargo which was declared to contain manufactured goods and finished products, and the vessel which shipped them to Argentina.

Senator Arroyo said that the investigation should be conducted by the Executive department because the Senate does not have the manpower and resources to do so. He suggested that the Body adopt measures to regulate the use of boats and ships to stop the smuggling of marine resources.

Senator Zubiri believed that similar to what the legislative and executive branches did to address the problem of the coconut leaf beetle infestation in the country, the proper Senate committees could prod the Bureau of Customs, Bureau of Quarantine and International Health Surveillance (BQIHS), the BFAR and DENR to act swiftly on the matter.

Senator Arroyo recalled that the Senate committees have been fulfilling their responsibilities but the concerned offices and agencies under the Executive branch are not doing anything.

Senator Zubiri maintained that the matter should be pushed further in the Senate and at the same time drum up public support through media. He expressed concern that the incident, which came out only in the *Philippine Star* and *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, would soon be forgotten but the destruction and depletion of the country's marine resources would continue and affect the Philippines as an eco-tourism destination.

In the course of Senator Arroyo's interpellation, the Senate President relinquished the Chair to President Pro Tempore Ejercito Estrada.

REMARKS OF SENATOR MADRIGAL

Senator Madrigal revealed that she has been receiving reports on the destruction of marine resources from frustrated NGOs and concerned citizens. She informed the Body that in the past two weeks, she has been involved in chasing a boat in Tacloban City, Leyte which illegally salvaged a coral reef in order to sell a few million pesos worth of scrap metal. She said that she reported the matter to the DENR but it did nothing so she had to call the Philippine Coast Guard to intercept the shipment in Cebu. The smuggling of corals and shells, she stated, could not be stopped unless the DENR strictly enforced the rules. She added that the DENR should imprison both the seller and the buyer of sharks, manta rays, turtles and napoleon wrasses for they are in violation of the CITES Treaty. She noted that one napoleon wrasse (*mameng*) can fetch \$5,000 in the market.

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Further, Senator Madrigal stated that she has also received reports from Palawan that although dynamite fishing has been stopped in the area, Coron has become the leading illegal fishing area with the cooperation of the local government. She said that in Malapascua, Cebu, treasure sharks and manta rays, which are an attraction to foreign divers, can no longer be found even though it is the time of year when they are best seen. She pointed out that the smuggling of marine resources has greatly affected tourism.

On a related matter, Senator Madrigal said that Senator Trillanes, who is a navy officer, had once stopped the shipment of corals from Ilocos Sur but the boat was allowed to leave again. She stressed that this is a major cause for concern.

REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE

There being no other reservation for interpellation, upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Chair referred the privilege speech of Senator Zubiri and the interpellations thereon to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 188

Upon motion of of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 188, entitled

RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE
MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE
SPECIAL OLYMPICS TEAM FOR
THEIR SIGNIFICANT AND VICTORI-
OUS PARTICIPATION IN THE
2007 SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD
SUMMER GAMES HELD IN
SHANGHAI, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

OF CHINA ON OCTOBER 2-11, 2007
WHEREIN THEY BROUGHT HOME
NINE GOLD MEDALS GIVING OUR
COUNTRY GREAT PRIDE, HONOR
AND RECOGNITION.

With the permission of the Body, only the title of the resolution was read without prejudice to the insertion of its full text into the Record of the Senate.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 188


Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 188 was adopted by the Body.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the President Pro Tempore declared the session adjourned until three o' clock in the afternoon of Monday, November 12, 2007.

It was 4:29 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


EMMA LIRIO-REYES
Secretary of the Senate
65 18 11

Approved on November 12, 2007