

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

Office of the Secretary

16 JUL 19 AM 11:42

SENATE

S. No. 491

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

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AN ACT  
EXPANDING THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND  
STRATEGIC STUDIES TO INCLUDE RESEARCH AND FORMULATION OF  
STRATEGIC OPTIONS FOR NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SECURITY POLICIES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Government policies in the country have been inclined to vary from one administration to another. Attached to this is merely the absence of systematic policy research that can facilitate the formulation of government policies as well as the strategies necessary to implement them.

In public governance, leaders should consider not only affairs that are confined within their terms as elected public officials. More importantly, they must focus on long-term planning and strategic concepts in relation to the country's welfare. Thus, there should be a special group - a team of experts doing research work and formulating sound national policies - assigned to carry out strategic studies for the benefit of the country.

The strengthening of policy research and strategic studies on the country is extremely urgent. In anticipation of the remarkable changes the country is bound to experience, both nationwide and worldwide, it becomes more necessary to define how our national and international policies should advance.

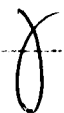
This bill assigns the formulation of strategic policies to the Center for International Relations and Strategic Studies. This bill also proposes for the expansion of functions of the said center, by including researches on matters of national and economic security. In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV  
Senator

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*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in  
Congress assembled:*

1           **SECTION 1. *Expansion of the Center for International Relations and Strategic***  
2 ***Studies.*** - The Center for International Relations and Strategic Studies is hereby expanded to  
3 include research and formulation of strategic options for national and economic security  
4 policies in its operational scope and activities.

5  
6           **SEC. 2. *General Objectives.*** - The Center's general objectives are as follows:

- 7  
8           1. To enhance understanding by the executive and legislative branches of  
9           fundamental, current and emerging domestic and international issues by assisting  
10           the government in formulating policy and strategic perspectives thereon;  
11           2. To undertake studies of domestic and international, political, economic, military,  
12           socio-cultural, and techno scientific significance in an inter-discipline and  
13           integrative manner;  
14           3. To carry out such other programs and projects as may contribute to the  
15           attainment of its mission.

16  
17           **SEC. 3. *Specific Objectives.*** -

- 18           1) Examine Philippine foreign and domestic policy issues and identity problems in  
19           their conceptualization, formulation and implementation;

- 1           2) Assess social, economic, political and security developments and trends in our  
2           country and in various parts of the world and help formulate appropriate policy  
3           responses and strategies.
- 4
- 5           3) To study the experience of other governments and ten (10) nations insofar as to  
6           draw lessons from them and/or anticipate their repercussions on the Philippines.
- 7
- 8           4) To examine the global presence of Filipino nationals and their impact upon our  
9           national development and foreign relations and help project constructive policies  
10          in this regard.
- 11
- 12          5) To develop expertise in area studies as well as resource bases on international  
13          relations, economic security and national development to serve the long-term  
14          needs of our country.
- 15
- 16          6) To develop networks and information dissemination among various sectors in  
17          Philippine society and counterpart organizations in the international community  
18          for the above purposes and as a contribution to the enhancement of global  
19          understanding and cooperation.
- 20

21          **SEC. 4. Divisions.** - The Center shall have the following Divisions under it:

- 22          1) The Strategic Studies Division, which shall conduct -long-term and  
23          comprehensive studies on major strategic global issues and their probable impact  
24          on the Philippines;
- 25
- 26          2) The International Relations Division, which shall undertake studies on Philippine  
27          bilateral and multilateral relations;
- 28
- 29          3) The National Policy Issues Division, which shall concentrate on studies dealing  
30          with national concerns in the political, economic and security areas;
- 31
- 32          4) The Cultural and Scientific Policy Studies Division, which shall deal with studies  
33          regarding national concerns in the socio-cultural and techno scientific fields; and

1           5) The Library, which shall serve as the information repository of the Department  
2           and the Institute.

3  
4           **SEC. 5. *Research Fellows.*** - There shall be designated research fellows to conduct  
5           and direct research work and strategic studies in the various functional/area programs  
6           consistent with their disciplines and expertise individually or collegially. They are to be  
7           commissioned by the Center to conduct studies or to serve as project directors/consultants for  
8           in-house studies.

9  
10           Depending on the nature and scale of the project, fellows recruited as consultants will  
11           be paid monthly honoraria for the duration of the project. Alternatively, a memorandum of  
12           agreement may be signed between the fellow or the agency he represents and the Center for  
13           needed studies.

14  
15           The Center shall hire research consultants and commission projects in special cases  
16           where the in-house staff has no technical capability or where other individuals or institutions  
17           have expertise.

18  
19           **SEC. 6. *Council of Advisers.*** - The Center shall organize a Council of Advisers. It  
20           will be composed of eminent scholars and practitioners from government and non-  
21           government institutions/entities that maintain units engaged in policy research and strategic  
22           studies.

23  
24           The Council shall be consulted regularly by the Center on the research agenda. Its  
25           member-entities will be entitled to copies of regular CIRSS publications and access to the  
26           Center's library and data bank. In employing visiting research fellows, the Center shall give  
27           priority to researches and analysts of the Council's member-entities if found qualified. In  
28           return, the member-entities will link up with the CIRSS information network and grant the  
29           Center's research fellows access to their indexed reference materials subject to clearance.

30  
31           **SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees and executive orders inconsistent  
32           herewith are hereby modified or repealed accordingly.

1           **SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.*** - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared  
2 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and enforceability of other provisions  
3 not affected thereby.

4

5           **SEC. 9. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect upon its approval and publication in  
6 the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*