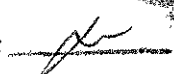


THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

6 JUN -6 P6:47

SENATE
P.S. Resolution No. 492

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator **JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED UNAUTHORIZED DEDUCTIONS IMPOSED BY THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) FROM THE MONTHLY SALARY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE FILIPINO CONTINGENT TO THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING FORCES

WHEREAS, on April 23, 2002, the President issued Executive Order No. 97 which approves and adopts the Policy Framework and Guidelines for Philippine Participation in United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping Operations;

WHEREAS, based on the records of the Office of United Nations and International Organizations (UNIO) of the Department of Foreign Affairs as of February 6, 2006, the Philippines has deployed three hundred seventy four (374) soldiers and one hundred seventy four (174) policemen which makes a total of five hundred forty eight (548) peacekeepers to eight (8) UN peacekeeping missions worldwide;

WHEREAS, according to reports, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) deducts forty percent (40%) of the \$1,000 monthly Troop Cost Allowance (TCA) of the Filipino peacekeepers allegedly to cover the P4 million spent by the AFP in the transportation and other logistics for the deployments of the peacekeepers abroad;

WHEREAS, UNIO Director Jesus Domingo stated that the said deduction violates the Policy Framework and Guidelines for Philippine Participation in United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping Operations;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations, in reply to the reported reduction of peacekeepers' allowance, recommended, among others:

"For the AFP to immediately provide its justification for its decision to reduce TCA allowances of members of the Philippine peacekeeping contingents in Haiti and Liberia, including a copy of the findings and recommendations of the study committee that looked into this issue";

"To request the AFP to temporarily hold implementation of the TCA rate reductions and to pay our deployed peacekeepers their allowances in full to address possible demoralization"; and,

"To convene an inter-agency conference to review the existing policy framework and guidelines governing Philippine participation in UN peacekeeping operations and formulate the national policy on UN reimbursements."

WHEREAS, it is only incumbent upon the government to give the peacekeepers the allowance due them as just remuneration for the performance of their duties in view of our commitment to serve the cause for world peace;

Now therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Senate Committee on National Defense and Security to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the reported unauthorized deductions imposed by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) from the monthly salary of the members of the Filipino contingent to the United Nations peacekeeping forces.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator