SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 519

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE REPORTED SEIZURE OF SMUGGLED LUXURY VEHICLES IN CEBU

WHEREAS, news articles in the 19 April 2006 issue of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* and of the *Manila Bulletin* reported the seizure of ten slightly used luxury vehicles, estimated to be worth ₱8 million, by the office of Cebu Customs Collector Ma. Lourdes Mangaoang;

WHEREAS, the cars, reportedly stolen in and smuggled out of South Korea, were loaded in five container vans; the cars consisted of four units of Sorento Limited, three units of Sorento LX, two units of Sorento TLX, and one unit of Hyundai Starex;

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) was prompted to open the container vans after receiving a letter from Roh Suk-Hwan, director of the International Cooperation Division of the Intelligence and International Affairs Bureau of the Korea Customs Service;

WHEREAS, the letter was addressed to John Simon, chief of the International Affairs of the BOC, requesting the bureau for assistance in its ongoing investigation of a smuggling case in Korea wherein luxury cars on board the MV Pearl Island were stolen;

WHEREAS, Mangaoang said in a press conference that each vehicle is priced at more than ₱1 million; since the vehicles are slightly used, the price is placed at ₱800,000 each or ₱8 million for the ten units;

WHEREAS, according to Mangaoang, a big-time syndicate operating in Cebu had been busted with the seizure of the smuggled vehicles; she alleged that Cebu-based businessmen could be involved in the shipment;

WHEREAS, the BOC should further strengthen its campaign to stop smuggling activities in the various ports in the country; now be it

RESOLVED, that the proper Senate committee shall conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported seizure of smuggled luxury vehicles in Cebu.

Adopted,

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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