

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

First Regular Session

365

House Resolution No. _____



Introduced by Congressman Ferdinand R. Marcos II

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE(S) OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE REPORTED "TOXIC LEGACY" BEQUEATHED BY THE U.S.A WHEN IT WITHDREW ITS MILITARY FORCES FROM CLARK AIR BASE AND SUBIC NAVAL BASE, WITH THE END VIEW OF FORMULATING AND ENACTING REMEDIAL LEGISLATIVE MEASURES THAT WILL ADDRESS THE ADVERSE EFFECTS WROUGHT BY THE SAID BASES' ALMOST A CENTURY OF PRESENCE IN THE PHILIPPINES, SUCH AS ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, CONTAMINATION OF WORKERS WITH HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES AND THE CONVERSION OF LANDS USED FOR MILITARY EXERCISES INTO "MINE FIELDS"

WHEREAS, the US military presence in the Philippines ended when the last American Troops shipped out of the country on November 24, 1992;

WHEREAS, however, the American withdrawal leaves behind a vast tract of land and a number of facilities exposed to nearly half century of toxic and hazardous waste dumping at Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base;

WHEREAS, according to US government documents, and on-site investigation by Filipino scientists and the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, the US "toxic legacy" covers the following:

- improper storage and use of hazardous materials that have been banned in the US, such as asbestos and polychlorinated biphenyl or PCB --a cancer causing chemical used in transformers;

- thousands of gallons of highly corrosive aviation fuel left behind in a decrepit 42-mile underground pipeline connecting Subic and Clark; and

- live bombs and ammunitions, called unexploded ordnance or UXOs, left behind in firing ranges at Subic and Clark.

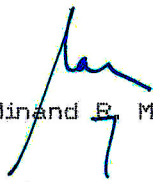
WHEREAS, moreover, Filipino workers in said bases have also been exposed to hazardous substances that have already been banned in the US, such as asbestos and PCB, which may cause them illness in the future;

WHEREAS, furthermore, it has been established that land used for the military exercises by the US military forces have virtually become mine fields littered with bombs and bullets that do not explode, after years of bombing exercises;

WHEREAS, considering the foregoing documents, reports and findings, there is a felt need to be informed on the extent of the degradation and destruction of the environment, contamination of the bases workers, and the conversion of the lands used for military exercises into "mine fields", with the end view of formulating and enacting remedial legislative measures that shall address the problems and provide the appropriate solutions thereto;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the appropriate Committee(s) of the House of Representatives to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the so-called "toxic legacy" bequeathed by the U.S.A when it withdrew its military forces from Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, with the end view of formulating and enacting remedial legislative measures that will address the adverse effects wrought by the said bases' long history of presence in the Philippines, such as environmental degradation, contamination of workers with hazardous substances and the conversion of lands used for military exercises into "mine fields".

Approved,


Hon. Ferdinand B. Marcos II