

[**PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1264, December 15, 1977**]

AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 95 (As amended by Republic Acts No. 855 and 6373), AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RED CROSS.

WHEREAS, during the meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, on 22 August 1864, the nations of the world unanimously agreed to diminish within their power the evils inherent in war;

WHEREAS, more than one hundred forty nations of the world have ratified or adhered to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949 for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick of Armed Forces in the Field and at Sea, The Prisoners of War, and The Civilian Population in Time of War referred to in this Charter as the Geneva Conventions;

WHEREAS, the Republic of the Philippines became an independent nation on July 4, 1946, and proclaimed on February 14, 1947 its adherence to the Geneva Conventions of 1929, and by the action, indicated its desire to participate with the nations of the world in mitigating the suffering caused by war and to establish in the Philippines a voluntary organization for that purpose as contemplated by the Geneva Conventions;

WHEREAS, there existed in the Philippines since 1917 a chapter of the American National Red Cross which was terminated in view of the independence of the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, the volunteer organizations established in other countries which have ratified or adhered to the Geneva Conventions assist in promoting the health and welfare of their people in peace and in war, and through their mutual assistance and cooperation directly and through their international organizations promote better understanding and sympathy among the people of the world;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution as Commander-in-Chief of all the Armed Forces of the Philippines and pursuant to Proclamation No. 1081 dated September 21, 1972, and General Order No. 1 dated September 22, 1972 do hereby decree and order that Republic Act No. 95, Charter of the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) as amended by Republic Acts No. 855 and 6373, be further amended as follows:

SECTION 1. There is hereby created in the Republic of the Philippines a body corporate and politic to be the voluntary organization officially designated to assist the Republic of the Philippines in discharging the obligations set forth in the Geneva Conventions and to perform such other duties as are inherent upon a national Red Cross Society. The National headquarters of this Corporation shall be located in Metropolitan Manila.

SECTION 2. The name of this corporation shall be "The Philippine National Red Cross" and by that name shall have perpetual succession with the power to sue and be sued; to own and hold such real and personal estate as shall be deemed advisable and to accept bequests, donations and contributions of property of all

classes for the purpose of this Corporation hereinafter set forth; to adopt a seal and to alter and destroy the same at pleasure; and to have the right to adopt and to use, in carrying out its purposes hereinafter designated, as an emblem and badge, a red Greek cross on a white ground, the same as has been described in the Geneva Conventions, and adopted by the several nations ratifying or adhering thereto; to ordain and establish by-laws and regulations not inconsistent with the laws of the Republic of the Philippines, and generally to do all such acts and things as may be necessary to carry into effect the provisions of this Act and promote the purposes of said organization; and the corporation hereby created is designated as the organization which is authorized to act in matters of relief under said Convention. In accordance with the Geneva Conventions, the issuance of the distinctive Red Cross emblem to medical units and establishments, personnel and materials neutralized in time of war shall be left to the military authorities. The Red Greek cross on a white ground, as has been described by the Geneva Conventions is not, and shall not be construed as a religious symbol, and shall have equal efficacy and applicability to persons of all faiths, creeds and beliefs. The operational jurisdiction of the Philippine National Red Cross shall be over the entire territory of the Philippines.

SECTION 3. That the purposes of this Corporation shall be as follows:

- a. To provide volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of armed forces in time of war, in accordance with the spirit of and under the conditions prescribed by Geneva Conventions to which the Republic of the Philippines proclaimed, its adherence;
- b. For the purposes mentioned in the preceding subsection, to perform all duties devolving upon the Corporation as a result of the adherence of the Republic of the Philippines to the said Convention;
- c. To act in matters of voluntary relief and in accordance with the authorities of the armed forces as a medium of communication between the people of the Republic of the Philippines and their Armed Forces, in time of peace and in time of war, and to act in such matters between similar national societies of other governments and the Governments and people and the Armed Forces of the Republic of the Philippines;
- d. To establish and maintain a system of national and international relief in time of peace and in time of war and apply the same in meeting and emergency needs caused by typhoons, flood, fires, earthquakes, and other natural disasters and to devise and carry on measures for minimizing the suffering caused by such disasters;
- e. To devise and promote such other services in time of peace and in time of war as may be found desirable in improving the health, safety and welfare of the people;
- f. To devise such means as to make every citizen and/or resident of the Philippines a member of the Red Cross.

SECTION 4. In furtherance of the purposes mentioned in the preceding subparagraphs, the Philippine National Red Cross shall:

- a. Be authorized to secure loans from any financial institution which shall not exceed its budget of the previous year.
- b. Be exempt from payment of all duties, taxes, fees, and other charges of all kinds on all importations and purchases for its exclusive use, on donations for its disaster relief work and other Red Cross services, and in its benefits and fund raising drives all provisions of law to the contrary notwithstanding.