

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 89, October 01, 1999]

**IMPOSING THE PENALTY OF SUSPENSION FOR ONE (1) YEAR ON
AMBROSIO F. CONLU, ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR,
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, REGIONAL OFFICE NO. III.**

This refers to an anonymous complaint dated April 12, 1994 addressed to then President Fidel V. Ramos, through the Presidential Commission Against Graft and Corruption (PCAGC), against Assistant Regional Director Ambrosio F. Conlu, and three (3) others for their alleged involvement in the irregular and anomalous purchase by the Department of Agriculture, Regional Office No. III, of a set of books and tapes for staff development, in the amount of thirteen thousand pesos (P13,000.00).

Initially, the PCAGC took cognizance of the complaint against all respondents. Subsequently, however, the proceedings continued only against Assistant Regional Director Ambrosio F. Conlu (the "respondent"), a presidential appointee.

On October 31, 1997, the PCAGC issued a resolution finding respondent guilty of conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service, and recommending the penalty of suspension for one (1) year on the strength of the following premises:

"The complaint alleged, among other things that: (1) respondent pressured Libertad A. Rivera, Agriculturist II of the Research Division, into purchasing said books and tapes; (2) said books and tapes were actually owned by respondent and did not belong to the supplier named Proteus Trade Ventures; (3) while the requisitioning officer was ISAGANI O. HERRERA, Sales Invoice No. 1984 and Official Receipt No. 4903 both dated 7 October 1993 were issued by the said supplier in the name of respondent; (4) respondent claimed for a reimbursement in the amount of thirteen thousand pesos (P13,000.00), which amount was more than his (respondent's) salary; (5) Check No. 695461 dated 26 October 1993 in the amount of thirteen thousand pesos (P13,000.00) was issued in the name of respondent as reimbursement for the payment of said books and tapes; and (6) respondent defrauded the government in the amount of thirteen thousand pesos (P13,000.00).

Respondent's comment dated 27 July 1994 alleged, that:

(1) As Assistant Regional Director for Administration, his responsibility involved administrative and support services needed in the day-to-day operation of the agency, including personnel matters and upkeep/maintenance of the department facilities. The Procurement Unit of the General Services Section which is tasked to procure supplies and materials requisitioned by operating units/end-users is directly under his office; (2) he denied exerting pressure on anybody as there was no need