

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 776, February 24, 1982]

To: The Minister of Finance
The Governor, Central Bank of the Philippines
The Minister of Industry
The Minister of Health
The Commissioner, Bureau of Customs
The Administrator, Food and Drug Administration

WHEREAS, the promotion of health is a primary national objective demanding the attainment of self-sufficiency in materials used in the manufacture of life-saving medicines;

WHEREAS, the establishment in the country of a plant to produce semi-synthetic antibiotics answers a long-felt need to have a reliable local source of semi-synthetic antibiotics, the main ingredients used in the manufacture of life-saving antibiotic medicines;

WHEREAS, with domestic production, the country is free to act in any sudden exigencies arising from the spread of infectious diseases, thus safeguarding not only its people's health but its national security as well;

WHEREAS, the first Philippine semi-synthetic antibiotics plant signifies a major step in bridging the gap between the country's rich scientific knowledge and inadequate technological knowhow;

WHEREAS, besides its contribution to the promotion of health, national security and technological advancement, semi-synthetic anti-biotics plant will contribute concrete economic benefits, among which are foreign exchange earnings and savings and the upstream industrialization of the local pharmaceutical industry;

WHEREAS, this plant has an annual production capacity more than adequate to meet not only the domestic consumption requirements but also part of the export demand emanating from some countries in the region;

WHEREAS, the locally-produced semi-synthetic antibiotics are comparable to the imported counterparts in terms of price and quality;

WHEREAS, conscious of the fact that the local production of semi-synthetic antibiotics transcends the narrow confines of a purely business venture and bears directly on the attainment of the national objectives pertaining to health and security, the government has seen it fit to take certain steps that will ensure the viability thereof;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, do hereby