

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 850, December 01, 1982]

REORGANIZING THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

WHEREAS, under the New Republic, national development shall be pursued with renewed dedication and greater determination through a more efficient, effective, and economical government;

WHEREAS, it is desirable to strengthen the administrative capability of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to enable it to be a more effective instrumentality of the Government in the promotion of the foreign relations of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, to attain this objective, it would be desirable to restructure the Ministry by providing for the realignment of its primary responsibilities basically along geographical coverage rather than along functional areas;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 523 mandated the restructuring of the Ministry and the Foreign Service to enable it to pursue goals in keeping with the realities of world diplomacy as characterized by regional and bilateral relations; and

WHEREAS, under Presidential Decree No. 1416 as amended, the President is empowered to undertake such organizational and related improvements as may be appropriate in the light of changing circumstances and new developments;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and the authority vested in me by Presidential Decree No. 1416 as amended, do hereby order and ordain:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution, the President shall formulate the national guidelines and overall policies on foreign affairs. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, hereinafter referred to as the Ministry, shall be the ministry primarily responsible for the planning, implementation and coordination of the appropriate supportive policies and programs in the field of foreign affairs, in accordance with the general policies formulated by the President. The primary function of the Ministry shall be the promotion and conduct of the country's foreign relations, and the provision of such services to Filipino nationals abroad as may be necessary.

The President shall exercise control over the Ministry and the Prime Minister shall supervise the Ministry. The Prime Minister and the Cabinet shall be responsible to the Batasang Pambansa for the general program of government.

SECTION 2. The authority and responsibility for the exercise of the powers and the discharge of the functions of the Ministry shall be vested in the Minister of Foreign Affairs, hereinafter referred to as the Minister, who shall be appointed by the

President. He shall be assisted by such Deputy Ministers as may be appointed by the President. The Minister is authorized to determine and assign the respective functional areas of responsibility of the Deputy Ministers, should there be more than one; provided, that such delineation of responsibilities shall cover the substantive functions and operations of the Ministry; and provided, further, that there shall be no Deputy Minister for Administration, and that the assignment of administrative responsibilities to any Deputy Minister shall be in addition to his substantive responsibilities.

SECTION 3. There is hereby created an Office of Inspection, Intelligence and Legal Services which shall absorb the applicable functions, appropriations, records, equipment, property, and personnel of the Office of Legal Affairs, the Inspection Division and the Intelligence and Research Division, which are hereinafter abolished. The Office shall be responsible for enforcing high standards of performance in all foreign service posts through a system of periodic inspection. It shall also be responsible for the strict enforcement of security measures in the Ministry and the Foreign Service. It shall likewise be responsible for providing legal services in the negotiation of treaties as well as in their interpretations.

The Head of the Office of Inspection, Intelligence and Legal Services shall serve as Inspector General.

SECTION 4. There is hereby created an Office of Personnel and Management Services which shall be responsible for the efficient management of services for the personnel of the Ministry and the Foreign Service.

SECTION 5. The Office of Press and Public Affairs is hereby renamed the Office of Public Affairs. It shall be responsible for the handling of Ministry relations with the local and foreign media and educational institutions as well as in the regular dissemination of relevant information to all Foreign Services posts.

SECTION 6. The Office of Fiscal Affairs is hereby renamed the Office of Fiscal Services. It shall be responsible for all budget, financial and accounting services of the Ministry and the Foreign Service.

SECTION 7. The Office of Consular Affairs is hereby renamed the Office of Consular Services which shall be responsible for the effective and efficient discharge of passport, visa and notarization services as well as the provision of requisite assistance to Filipino citizens abroad.

SECTION 8. The Office of Protocol is retained. It shall be responsible for the handling of all activities of the Ministry concerning protocol, ceremonials and socials. It shall also be responsible for the proper observance and enforcement of all formalities, courtesies and facilities required by the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic Relations and Consular Relations as well as other related conventions and agreements.

SECTION 9. There are hereby created the following Offices:

(1) Office of American Affairs (2) Office of Asian and Pacific Affairs (3) Office of European Affairs (4) Office of Middle East and African Affairs (5) Office of ASEAN Affairs