

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 554, August 21, 1979]

CREATING A TASK FORCE ON INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ASSISTANCE AND ADMINISTRATION, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, in accordance with simple humanity the Filipino people and their government are ready to render assistance in the processing of refugees specially from Vietnam;

WHEREAS, as a responsible member of the United Nations, this country has supported UN efforts to assist refugees provided such support is consistent with international law and practice and the Philippines' national laws and interests;

WHEREAS, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees has sought the cooperation of the Philippine government in the temporary lodging of such refugees prior to their final resettlement in other countries and the Philippines has agreed to set up such a processing center provided that costs shall not be borne by the Philippines and there will be no residual refugees left in such processing center;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND, E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, and in order to effect the needed assistance to refugees reaching the Philippines, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. It is hereby declared that for the purpose of complying with the Philippines' duty to humanity and its commitment to assist legitimate projects and programs of the United Nations, the Philippines should create and activate a group that will respond to the request of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

SECTION 2. To achieve the above, there is hereby created a Task Force on Refugee Assistance and Administration under the Ministry of Human Settlements.

a. The Task Force shall be composed of the Minister of Human Settlements as Chairman and the following as members:

- (1) Minister of Foreign Affairs
- (2) Minister of National Defense
- (3) Minister of Public Works
- (4) Minister of Public Highways
- (5) Minister of Local Government and Community Development
- (6) Minister of Natural Resources
- (7) Minister of Health
- (8) Minister of Agriculture
- (9) Minister of Education and Culture
- (10) Minister of Transportation and Communications
- (11) Acting Minister of Social Services and Development