

**SUMMARY (FINAL ACT) OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE JOINT  
COMMITTEE MEETING ON THE PHILIPPINES-SPAIN  
CONVENTION ON SOCIAL SECURITY MADRID**

The Joint Committee Meeting on the implementation of the Philippines-Spain Convention on Social Security was held in Madrid from 27 29 November 2000. The members of the delegation of both sides as well as the Agenda/Program of Activities are attached as Annexes I and II, respectively, to the Summary.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Carlos Garcia Cortazar, Coordinator for International Security Affairs of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, who underscored the fraternal ties that bind the Philippines and Spain, and who thanked the Philippine delegation for having accepted the Spanish invitation to resolve particular problems arising from the implementation of the Convention.

H.E. the Secretary of State for Social Security, Mr. Gerard Camps Devesa, in spite of his tight agenda, personally welcomed the Philippine delegation.

He underscored the close union which goes beyond the friendship that binds both countries, expressing the desire that the negotiations would end with optimum results.

H.E. Jose Zarate Oledan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to Spain, with heartfelt words, expressed his thanks to the Spanish authorities for the invitation, expounding in the process, that the Philippine Government considers its relations with Spain as one of the most important priorities in its foreign policy. The actual text of his speech is attached as Annex III to the present Summary.

Following are the subject themes of the meeting :

1. Inclusion of the workers of the Philippine civil service in the Convention

The Philippine Delegation explains that the country's social security system is divided into two segments: the first, which consists of workers of the private sector (S.S.S.) and the second, which covers workers from the government sector (G.S.I.S), both parts being integrated in said system.

The Spanish Delegation reports that some public officials included in the social security system (General Regime), are already presently covered by the Convention. However, some who are covered by other public administration laws cannot yet be covered by the Convention.

With what have been expounded by the Philippine Delegation, the Spanish Delegation foresees that workers from the government sector will enjoy a situation similar to those of Spanish officials under the General Regime who are covered by the Convention.

However, for greater clarity, it has been agreed upon to expressly Q mention these government workers in Article 2(B) of the Convention, adding to "social security legislation" the phrase, "for public and private workers." At the same time, a Transitory Provision in the Convention was suggested to be included to facilitate the implementation of the amendments to the Convention which may give rise to requests for the review of benefits currently being granted.

## II. Workers of the Compañia General de Tabacos de Filipinas

Both delegations agree to adopt the following decision:

1. The Philippine delegation accepts with retroactive effect to the entry into force of the Convention on January 11, 1989, that the workers posted by "Compania General de Tabacos de Filipinas" who render their work activity in that country, maintain indefinitely their registration and contribution status with the Spanish Social Security System.
2. Consequently, the Company will request from the Philippine Social Security System for the refund of any contributions made from the entry into force of the Convention. The request will include the conformity of the individual members for the suspension and refund of total amounts received as retirement pension.
3. The workers who, simultaneously, were pensioners of the Philippine Social Security System and registered in the Spanish Social Security System will refund the total amount they received as retirement pension.
4. The contributions paid prior to the date of force of the Convention, both in Spain and the Philippines, will be taken into account in accordance with the content of Article 27, Paragraph 1, of the current Convention, and will be effective when the requirements to be entitled to this benefit, are met in both countries.

## III. Amendments to the Existing Convention

Both delegations reviewed the text of the existing Convention and modifications were agreed upon. Modified articles in the Spanish version is attached as Annex IV to the present Summary (Final Act) of Proceedings.

The Protocol in the Spanish text is appended to the Summary as Annex IV.

The English version will subsequently be prepared in accordance with the agreements of both delegations.

## IV. Forms

The Spanish Delegation has provided the liaison forms for the implementation of the Convention.

The above documents will replace the former supporting documents in indication of Article 8,3 of the Administrative Agreement of 21 May 1991, for both the Philippines and Spain..

The meetings were held in utmost cordiality and friendship.

Both Chairpersons, by mutual agreement, have signed this Summary (Final Act) of Proceedings on 29 November of Year Two Thousand in Madrid, Spain.

For the Government of the  
Republic of the Philippines:

**(Sgd.)**  
**FEDERICO C. PASCUAL**

President and General  
Manager  
Government Service  
Insurance  
System

For the Minister of Labor  
and  
Social Affairs of the  
Kingdom of  
Spain:

**(Sgd.)**  
**ANA GONZALEZ GOMEZ**

Chief of Services  
Bilateral Conventions  
Ministry of Labor and  
Social Affairs

**(Sgd.)**  
**JOSE ZARATE OLEDAN**

Ambassador Extraordinary  
and Plenipotentiary of the  
Republic of the Philippines  
to the  
Kingdom of Spain

#### PHILIPPINE DELEGATION

Atty. Federico C. Pascual -Chairman  
President and General Manager  
Government Service Insurance System

H.E. Jose Zarate Oledan -Co-Chairman  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Philippine Embassy in Madrid

#### Members

Atty. Leopoldo S. Veroy  
Executive Vice President for Operations  
Social Security System

Ms. Judy Frances A. See  
Assistant Vice President  
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Social Security System

Mr. Alejandrino A. Vicente  
Minister and Consul General  
Philippine Embassy in Madrid

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Senior Vice President  
Social Insurance Group  
Government Service Insurance System

Ms. Christine Queenie C. Mangunay  
Second Secretary and Consul  
Philippine Embassy in Madrid

#### SPANISH DELEGATION

Ms. Ana Gonzalez Gomez -Head of Delegation  
Chief of Services, Bilateral Conventions  
Ministry of Labor and Social Services

Ms. Gema Lopez Menendez -Member of Delegation  
Chief of Services, International Social Relations  
Ministry of Labor and Social Services

Ms. Carmen Cidranes Ramos -Member of Delegation  
Chief of Services, International Coordination  
National Institute of Social Security

Ms. Carmen Benito Romero -Member of Delegation  
General Treasurer for Social Security

**Agenda and Program of Activities Joint Committee  
Meeting on the  
RP-Spain Convention on Social Security  
(27-29 November 2000)**

Venue Spanish Ministry of Labor and Social  
: Affairs  
C/ Agustin de Bethancourt, 4  
Madrid, Spain

Day 1 27 November (Monday)  
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0900 Welcome remarks by Mr. Carlos Garcia  
H de Cortazar  
Chief of Social Security,