

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 467, March 17, 1998]

**PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL POLICY ON THE OPERATION AND
USE OF INTERNATIONAL SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS IN THE
COUNTRY**

WHEREAS, the State, recognizing the vital role of communications in nation building, is committed to promote the establishment of communications structures responsive to information technology of the country;

WHEREAS, the provision of modern, efficient, and adequate satellite telecommunications facilities and services will promote the pole vaulting strategy of the government to launch the country as a telecommunications hub in the Asia-Pacific region by the 21st century;

WHEREAS, there is a need to broaden the access by authorized entities to international satellite systems and services and thereby, accelerate the attainment of the development thrusts for the local telecommunications sector;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FIDEL V. RAMOS, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order the adoption as a national policy, of the following policy guidance in the operation and use of satellite communications in the country.

SECTION 1. Policy Guidance. The following guidance and regulations shall govern the operation and use of the following satellite telecommunications facilities and services in the country:

a. *Access to International Fixed Satellite Systems.* Enfranchised telecommunications entities duly authorized by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) to provide international telecommunications services shall be allowed direct access to all international fixed satellite systems. Broadcast service providers may also be allowed to directly access international fixed satellite systems subject to NTC rules, regulations and authorizations.

b. *Access to International Mobile Satellite Systems.* Direct access to international mobile satellite services shall be allowed for maritime, aeronautical and land mobile uses, subject to NTC rules and regulations. For this purpose, the DOTC/NTC shall recognize the authorization and/or certification of foreign-registered mobile units designed to access international mobile satellite systems, provided they are consistent with said NTC rules and regulations.

c. *Use of Satellite Newsgathering (SNG) Earth Stations.* The government shall take a permissive approach on the use and operation of SNG earth stations owned or operated by foreign news media organizations, for a limited period of time as defined by NTC. Foreign news media organizations wanting to bring SNG earth