

[VOL. III, August 09, 1986]

R.C.C. NO. 52

Saturday, August 9, 1986

OPENING OF SESSION

At 9:25 a.m., the President, the Honorable Cecilia Muñoz Palma, opened the session.

THE PRESIDENT: The session is called to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE PRESIDENT: Everybody will please rise to sing the National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the National Anthem.

THE PRESIDENT: Everybody will please remain standing for the Prayer to be led by the Honorable Crispino M. de Castro.

Everybody remained standing for the Prayer.

PRAYER

MR. DE CASTRO: Almighty God: We beseech Thee once again to guide our minds and our hearts so that the thoughts and feelings that may emanate from each of us will be those of the Filipino people on whose behalf we seek to fashion a fundamental law that shall embody our collective ideals and aspirations.

Enlighten us, O Lord. Open our eyes and minds. Give us the courage and the strength to see and understand those ideals and proposals that may differ from our own.

Let the light of reason shine on our discussions and debates so that we may exchange ideas, thoughts and arguments with truth, clarity and sincerity towards democratic ideals. This, our people expect from us.

Help us, O Lord, to finish this Constitution as early as possible because millions of Filipinos are awaiting the day when we shall live in peace and in glory.

Thank you, O Lord, Amen.

ROLL CALL

THE PRESIDENT: The Secretary-General will call the roll.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, *reading*:

Abubakar	Present*	Natividad	Present*
Alonto	Present*	Nieva	Absent
Aquino	Present*	Nolledo	Present
Azcuna	Present	Ople	Present*

Bacani	Present	Padilla	Present [*]
Bengzon	Present [*]	Quesada	Present
Bennagen	Present	Rama	Present
Bernas	Present	Regalado	Present
Rosario Braid	Present	Reyes de los	Present
Brocka	Present	Rigos	Present
Calderon	Present [*]	Rodrigo	Present
Castro de	Present	Romulo	Present
Colayco	Present [*]	Rosales	Present
Concepcion	Present	Sarmiento	Present [*]
Davide	Present	Suarez	Present
Foz	Present	Sumulong	Present
Garcia	Present [*]	Tadeo	Present
Gascon	Absent	Tan	Present
Guingona	Absent	Tingson	Present
Jamir	Present	Treñas	Present
Laurel	Present [*]	Uka	Present
Lerum	Present	Villacorta	Present [*]
Maambong	Present	Villegas	Present
Monsod	Present [*]		

The President is present.

The roll call shows 31 Members responded to the call.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

MR. RAMA: Madam President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the Journal of yesterday's session.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

MR. RAMA: I move that we approve the Journal yesterday's session.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

MR. RAMA: Madam President, I move that we proceed to the Reference of Business.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Secretary-General will read the Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary-General read the following Communications, the President making the corresponding references:

COMMUNICATIONS

Radiogram from the Association of Philippine Physicians in America, Inc., 1830 Mirmar Road, Munster, Indiana 46321, proposing an amendment to Section 7 of Proposed Resolution No. 496 so as to enable a natural-born Filipino citizen who lost his Philippine citizenship to acquire private lands.

(Communication No. 500 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on the National Economy and Patrimony.

Communication from the Philippine Union for Human Rights, 2215 Pedro Gil St., Sta. Ana, Metro Manila, expressing its support for a draft proposal prohibiting the extension of the RP-US Military Bases Agreement beyond its expiry date in 1991.

(Communication No. 501 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on General Provisions.

Communication from the Board of Directors of the CEU Faculty and Allied Workers Union, expressing its solid support for the social justice program envisioned in the proposed Constitution and attaching thereto a copy of its proposal to convert CEU into a cooperative, hoping that the honorable Commissioners will find some pertinent and relevant information therein for the solution of the funding problem of the educational system in the private sector.

(Communication No. 502 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Social Justice.

Communication from Mr. Roberto G. Plata of Grepalife and six hundred ninety-nine other petitioners, seeking to include in the new Constitution a provision obliging the State to protect the life of the unborn from the moment of conception.

(Communication No. 503 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Preamble, National Territory, and Declaration of Principles.

Communication from Messrs. Emerito P. Nacpil and Emmanuel G. Cleto, both of the United Method Church in the Philippines, proposing an amendment by substitution to Section 10 of Proposed Resolution No. 531 (Committee Report No. 31) on the separation and mutual autonomy of the Church and State.

(Communication No. 504 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on General Provisions.

Letter from Mr. Abraham Sarmiento for Nationalist Alliance for Justice, Freedom and Democracy, urging the inclusion of provisions banning foreign military bases, and nuclear weapons and facilities from Philippine territory.

(Communication No. 505 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on General Provisions.

Letter from Mr. Miguel Resus of Diatagon, Lianga Surigao del Sur, suggesting, among others, that Filipino citizens abroad be allowed to vote; that every individual must be allowed to donate a portion of his tax obligation to charitable, political, educational and sports purposes; and that dual citizenship may be allowed to Filipinos who have lost their Philippine citizenship.

(Communication No. 506 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Steering Committee.

Communication from the Philippine Association for the Advancement of Science, Inc. signed by Mr. Quintin I. Kintanar, expressing its full support to Proposed Resolution No. 222, entitled: "RESOLUTION ADOPTING PROVISIONS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR INCLUSION IN THE PROPOSED NEW CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES."

(Communication No. 507 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Human Resources.

Letter from Ms. Leticia L. de Leon of 7 Mother Ignacia Avenue, Quezon City, advocating the teaching of religion in both public and private schools, making this compulsory for Catholics to be taught the Catholic faith, the Protestants, the Protestant faith, and so forth.

(Communication No. 508 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Human Resources.

Letter from Mr. Amando R. Ortiz of M. H. del Pilar Street, Tabaco, Albay, suggesting, among others, that coconut lands should not be covered by land reform and that P.D. No. 27 be amended to give the heirs of landowners shares of the property.

(Communication No. 509 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Social Justice.

Communication from the Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers, First Quezon City Chapter, Centroid Building, 395 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, signed by Ms. Vivian M. de los Reyes, transmitting a Resolution addressed to President Corazon C. Aquino, requesting the adoption of a national policy requiring the utilization of services of qualified Filipino professionals and experts in all government projects which are funded by the Philippine government or by foreign loans.

(Communication No. 510 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on the National Economy and Patrimony.

Letter from Ms. Melba P. Maggay of the Institute for Studies in Asian Church and Culture, 4 Malinis Street, U.P. Village, Quezon City, endorsing the proposal of Konfes, a group of evangelical Christians, for the retention of the text of Section 8, Article XV of the 1973 Constitution regarding religious instruction in public elementary and high schools.

(Communication No. 511 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on General Provisions.

Letter from Mr. Horacio V. Marasigan of the Concerned Citizens of San Juan, Batangas, submitting his proposal regarding "THE STRATEGY FOR DISTRIBUTING THE PATRIMONY OF THE NATION" and "RESOLUTION ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF LAND AND ITS FRUITS."

(Communication No. 512 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on the National Economy and Patrimony.

MR. RAMA: Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Floor Leader is recognized.

MR. RAMA: There is an important information from the Muslim world which Commissioner Uka will announce. I ask that Commissioner Uka be recognized.

THE PRESIDENT: Commissioner Uka is recognized.

MR. UKA: Madam President, honorable Members of the Constitutional Commission:

I have been requested by our other Commissioners Honorable Alonto and Abubakar, that I inform the honorable Members of the Commission that one of the most important Muslim holidays, *Hariraya Hadj*, will be celebrated on Friday, August 15, 1986 by the 7 million Muslims in the Philippines and about 1 billion Muslims all over the world. As a matter of fact, about 2,000 of our brother Muslims have left for the Holy City of Mecca. This is in celebration of the founding of the monotheistic faith in that part of the world by Father Abraham and his sacrifice of his son Ismael. And so, I just want to say that this is a very important occasion for us.

Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

MR. RAMA: Madam President, the Chairman and some of the members of the Committee on Social Justice are not yet here. May I ask for a suspension of the session for five minutes?

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE PRESIDENT: The session is suspended.

It was 9:38 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 9:44 a.m., the session was resumed.

THE PRESIDENT: The session is resumed.

MR. RAMA: Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Floor Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 534 (Article on Social Justice) *Continuation*

PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS