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PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRINCIPLES AND NORMS OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW RELATING TO THE NEW INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC ORDER

Letter dated 15 August 1988 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Manila Declaration of 1988 adopted at the International Conference of Newly Restored Democracies, which was held at Manila, the Philippines, from 3 to 6 June 1988. The following countries participated in the Conference: Argentina, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Greece, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Spain and Uruguay (see annex).

* A/43/150.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 82, 83, 96, 104 and 129 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Manuel MENDEZ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

The Manila Declaration of 1988, issued on 6 June 1988 at the
conclusion of the International Conference of Newly Restored
Democracies, held at Manila, from 3 to 6 June 1988

We, the representatives of newly restored democracies, meeting in Manila from 3 to 6 June 1988:

Sharing a commitment to democracy which encompasses the exercise of personal freedom as well as the enjoyment of national sovereignty and development;

Convinced of the moral superiority of power which is legitimized by the will of the people, expressed in free and regular elections;

Recognizing that the forms of our Governments vary because democracy always bears the imprint of our respective cultures;

Affirming that democracy, once gained, must be enhanced and defended;

Realizing that, by supporting each other, we can overcome the internal and external forces that may still endanger our democracies;

Taking into account that the external debt has emerged for many countries as a formidable obstacle to their social and economic development;

Hereby declare that as delegations from sovereign nations:

We support the legitimacy of constitutional Governments emanating from the popular will, and we accept their principles;

We endeavour to ensure that democracy would mean the exercise of power with responsibility, and to this end, we vow to guarantee that our peoples will enjoy human rights, freedom and social justice;

We affirm that our efforts must be aimed at eradicating poverty and liberating our peoples from want and dependency;

We believe that only participatory democracy and decentralized government can genuinely bring about the exercise of people's sovereignty and increased benefits of economic and social development;

We denounce protectionism of the advanced economies and we declare the servicing of external debts must be compatible with the responsibility of promoting development;

We commit ourselves to political pluralism for the free expression of divergent ideas;

We strongly condemn all forms of terrorism and insurgency against democracy and freely elected Governments;

We call upon older democracies to adopt a posture of solidarity with the newly restored democracies that suffer threat of terrorism, in order to prevent the operations as well as the development of terrorist organisations in their homelands;

We equally call upon other Governments to desist from extending any aid or support to any group or movement that constitutes a threat to our democratic institutions and territorial integrity;

We reject the systematic recourse to violence to effect changes in our societies and affirm that active non-violence safeguards human dignity while effecting reform and change;

We commit ourselves to welcome in our countries exiles and political refugees or those persecuted on account of their ideas, with the exception of those involved in crimes of terrorism;

We reject external interference but are all for international co-operation in the pursuit of democratic goals;

We support the role of non-governmental organizations which assist in the struggle for democracy within the framework of the principles and objectives of this Declaration;

We recognize the necessity of a continuous citizens' vigilance to sustain the restored institutions of democracy;

We proclaim our solidarity with other peoples who remain victims of authoritarianism and totalitarianism and are still struggling for freedom;

We further confirm that:

In this Conference we have had a fruitful interchange of experiences, committing ourselves to continue with this multilateral dialogue;

We will seek ways, in close consultation among our Governments, without prejudice to the growth and welfare of our peoples, to confront the problem of external debt;

We recommend to consider the establishment of a consultative mechanism in order to assist each other in times of danger and crisis to our restored democracies.
