BILATERAL

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

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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



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

(Sgd.)
FEDERICO C. PASCUAL (Sgd.)
ANA GONZALEZ GOMEZ

President and General Manager
Government Service Insurance
System Chief of Services
Bilateral Conventions
Ministry of Labor and
Social Affairs


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(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
International Affairs and Branch Expansion
Social Security System

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

Ms. Lourdes G. Patag
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
hief 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)

0900 H

Welcome remarks by Mr. Carlos Garcia de Cortazar
Chief of Social Security,
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
Kingdom of Spain

Remarks by H.E. Jose Zarate Oledan
Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines
to the Kingdom of Spain
Co-Chair of the Philippine Delegation to
the Joint Committee Meeting on the RP-Spain
Convention on Social Security

Remarks of Mr. Federico C. Pascual
Chairman of the Philippine Delegation
to the Joint Committee Meeting on the RP-Spain
Convention on Social Security

1030

Remarks by H.E. Gerard Camps Devesa
Secretary of State for Social Security
Kingdom of Spain

1100

Exposition on the social security laws of
Spain and the Philippines
Possibility of inclusion of the GSIS (coverage of
Philippine government employees)

1200

Presentation of topics to be taken up during the
Joint Committee Meeting

1300

End of session

Day 2 :

28 November (Tuesday)

0900 H

Review of the original texts of the Convention
for possible corrections of discrepancies

1030

Break

1100

Resumption of Session

1300

End of session

Drafting of the Summary (Final Act) of Proceedings
of the Joint Committee Meeting on the
RP-Spain Convention on Social Security

Day 3 :

29 November (Wednesday)

1100 H

Review of the Summary (Final Act )of Proceedings of
the Joint Committee on the Philippines-Spain
Convention on Social Security

Signing of the Summary (Final Act) of
Proceedings of the Joint Committee Meeting on the
RP-Spain Convention on Social Security

1330

Lunch to be hosted
by the Spanish Ministry of Labor
and Social Affairs
Restaurante Alboran, C/Ponzano
Madrid

Palabras de Su Excelencia, Don Jose Zarate OLEDAN Embajador Extraordinario y Plenipotenciario de la Republica de Filipinas en Espana, con motivo de la Apertura de la Comision Mixta para la Aplicacion del Convenio Hispano-Filipino de Seguridad Social Madrid, 27 de noviembre de 2000

Su Excelentisimo Sr. Secretario del Estado,
D. Gerard Camps Devesa Estimado Sr. Carlos Garcia Cortazar
Estimada Presidenta y


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miembros de la Delegacion
Espanola Estimado Presidente y
miembros de la Delegacion Filipina

Amigos y amigas

Buenos dias. Es para mi un gran honor poder dirigirme a esta Comision Mixta hispano-filipina y tomar parte en esta reunion sobre la aplicacion del Convenio Hispano-Filipino de la Seguridad Social que el Ministerio de Trabajo y Asuntos Sociales ha tenido la amabilidad de ser anfitrion durante los dias de 27 de noviembre a 1 de diciembre.

De hecho, esta Comision me trae a la mente nuestro esfuerzo creciente y comun para renovar y reforzar este tema , tan importante para los trabajadores de ambos paises , que facilitan significativamente un medio de entendimiento mutuo entre Filipinas y Espana.

Al respecto, el Gobierno Filipino considera su relacion con Espana como una de las mas destacadas prioridades en su politica extranjera. Nuestras relaciones poseen la nueva dimension de una numerosa comunidad filipina en Espana, los nuevos heroes del Gobierno Filipino que a traves de su envio de sus ingresos a sus familias, contribuyen — y no de forma insignificante --- al desarrollo nacional : un acto de inmenso sacrificio y heroismo que siempre valoramos.

Y por tanto, la delegacion filipina esta profundamente agradecida por la oportunidad que nos presta— siempre tan amablemente— para permitir al Gobierno filipino, a traves de esta delegacion, cooperar con el fin de tener una colaboracion fortalecida, elevando el mutuo conocimiento sobre el tema de seguridad social, al nivel compatible a los inmensos desaffos ctuales.

Por lo tanto, el Convenio de Seguridad Social de 1989 entre Espana y Filipinas nos hizo acercar al objetivo de proteger mas los intereses de nuestros compatriotas mientras esten trabajando hasta al periodo de jubilarse .

Ahora, esta Comislon sirve como un impulso a fortalecer mas las zonas de coordinacion imprescindible para mejorar la interaccion mutua dentro del marco juridico de dicho Convenio bilateral .

Nos reunimos en la cooperacion y amistad como en el pasado para intentar resolver los problemas tanto ahora como en el futuro.

Entre ustedes y dentro de los cinco dias importantes, hay una disponibilidad para promover el ardiente deseo de ver que el bienestar de nuestros pueblos en materia de seguridad social, salgan mas adelante, mas desarrollada y indudablemente, mas fortalecida.

Muchas gracias .

English Translation

Remarks of His Excellency, D. Jose Zarate OLEDAN Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines in Spain
Opening Ceremony of the Joint Committee Meeting on the Philippines-Spain Convention on Social Security Madrid, 27 November 2000

His Excellency the Secretary of State,
Gerard Camps Devesa
The Honorable Carlos Garcia Cortazar
The Honorable Chairman and members

of the Spanish Delegation
The Honorable Chairman and members
of the Philippine Delegation
Friends

Good morning. It is indeed a great honor for me to address the Philippines-Spain Joint Committee and to participate in this meeting on the application of the Philippines-Spain Convention on Social Security, which the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is graciously hosting from 27 November-1 December .

In fact, the work of this Committee brings to mind the increasing and common efforts to nurture and strengthen this theme, a very important one indeed for workers of both countries who significantly serve as a bridge of common understanding between the Philippines and Spain.

In this regard, the Philippine Govenrment considers its relations with Spain as one of the priority areas in its foreign policy. The presence of a large community of Filipinos in Spain adds a new dimension to such relations, as they are the new heroes of the Philippines whose remittances to their families contribute significantly to our country's national development : an act of immense sacrifice and heroism which we consider to be of great importance.

Thus, the Philippine Delegation is profoundly grateful for the opportunity graciously provided to the Philippine Government through this delegation to be able to cooperate and enhance interaction and in the process, bring shared knowledge of social security matters to a level which meets the challenges of the present.

Moreover, the Philippines-Spain Convention of 1989 has brought us closer to our objective of granting greater protection for our peoples' interests in their

present status as workers until they reach the period of retirement.

Presently, this Joint Committee serves as a catalyst to further strengthen the essential areas of cooperation to improve bilateral interaction within the legal framework of the Convention.

As in the past, we now meet in the spirit of cooperation and friendship , with the common intent to arrive at solutions to present as well as future problems.

Among us and within these five important days, we have the resources to set in motion the ardent wish to see that the welfare of our peoples in the area of social security will be advanced, developed further, and undoubtedly, strengthened.

Thank you.

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