REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA

Record of the House of Representatives

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES

R.H.R NO. 1
Monday, July 24, 1989

OPENING OF SESSION

At 10:01 a.m., the Speaker, the Honorable Ramon V. Mitra called the session to order.

THE SPEAKER. The Third Regular Session is called to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE SPEAKER. Everybody will please rise to sing the National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the National Anthem.

THE SPEAKER. The Honorable Antonio V. Cuenco, the Speaker Pro Tempore, will deliver today's Invocation.

Everybody remained standing for the Invocation.

INVOCATION

MR. CUENCO. Eternal Father, You have been called by many names. Today, we call on You as the God of history. We bow to You now not only as individuals with private or personal lives, but as a Congress with the power to lead our people to progress or fling them to perdition.

We know that as the God of history, You will not allow Your purpose to be defeated in the affairs of men. But Your guidance and our prayer will not by themselves assure salvation for this nation, this government or this Congress.

For we can choose to reject Your counsel and oppose Your will. Or we can leave our prayer unaccompanied by deed.

In spite of the sure triumph of Your purpose in the grand proportions of history, You did not predestine our course. You did not restrict our conduct like railway track holding captive the direction of the train.

You did not keep us hostage to Your will even if, in our weakness and prodigality, that would have been our greatest blessing. You did not make us helpless prisoners of history. You made us free men. You gave us the most fearful of responsibilities, the responsibility of freedom.

And so, in spite of Your accountability for Your own creation, it appears that You are not predisposed to intervene in human events. In spite of Your stewardship of history, You will not stop us if we lead our people to perversity and ruin. You will not prevent us from choosing to be wayward and self-seeking, or vicious and corrupt.

Some say that You take Your siesta while millions of Filipino children starve. Or that You turn the other way while the innocent are slaughtered in our cruel insurgency war. Or that You do not lift a finger to protect us from typhoons which batter our islands year after year.

But then there were times when, with ireful brows, You descended from Your lofty perch and laid Your mighty arm on the very heart of history. This was in the time of Moses -- and in our own struggle against dictatorship -- You did the same. So we still believe in praying to You because we are not forsaken.

But much depends on us -- not only on this Congress but on those outside these halls, those in the military and media, on the countryside as well as on the cities, young and old, left and right, north and south.

Much depends also on the critics and faultfinders themselves, who should help us row the ship of State instead of rocking the boat all the time.

Finally, Lord, we know we can cross this stormy sea of peril if You help us to be brave enough; that we can overcome the odds if You can make us strong enough; that we can really serve our country if You make us care enough; and that we can ease the burdens of our people if You make us true and compassionate enough.

In supplication, we echo today the words of Your faithful servant, Martin Luther King, who turned to You for help as his people tried "to hew from a mountain of despair a pebble of hope." Today, as we in this Chamber start another year of toil, we ask You to do the same for us: to animate our people

and lift them up from the crevices of dissension and doubt and make this land truly an archipelago of rejoicing.

Amen.

OPENING REMARKS OF SPEAKER MITRA

THE SPEAKER. The Chair will make a statement.

As we begin the third year of our term, we all feel deeply the need for haste, if we are to complete the agenda we set out for ourselves when we were just beginning. I think this House can justly claim it has set some landmarks for future Congresses to follow -- in our Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, in our Organic Acts for the Cordilleras and Mindanao; in our efforts to free the spirit enterprise in our countryside; and in the quality of social legislation.

We have come a long way toward our goal, but we still have a long distance to cover before we face the judgment of our constituents. And this year, our table is full, so we need to buckle down to work.

I suggest that we first clear our table of unfinished business. Among other things, we have four bills on public health and three on workers' benefits left over from the last session. We also have a bill setting tax incentives to induce private developers to go into low-cost housing. Our package of reform legislation for the civil service has now been completed. The Task Force we organized to work in collaboration with the Civil Service Commission has filed six (6) bills and two (2) resolutions, which the Committee on Civil Service should be reporting out before too long.

Another bill requiring our urgent attention is House Bill No. 23355, authored by 27 Members of this Chamber headed by Congressman Teves, which seeks to lay down the credit, marketing, technological and research infrastructure to back up Kalakalan 20. Associated with this are a bill proposing a merger of all agencies concerned with rural development programs, and another to revitalize rural banking -- to make rural banks an effective conduit for countryside credit.

We also need to organize legislative support for the development of indigenous sources of energy and to set incentives for explorers of oil and petroleum. The widening gap between the supply and demand for power threatens our industrial recovery. This is the primary reason we have to review the entire program, including the oil price stabilization fund, find the money for it and strengthen the agencies directing our energy program.

On tax reform, we have to follow up our proposal to create criminal tax courts with other ways of increasing tax efficiency and for correcting our regressive tax system, which now extracts proportionate to their incomes more from the poor than from the rich among our people.

Our budget review under the leadership of Chairman Andaya will be a major undertaking of this House over half-year ahead of us. As you know, our oversight subcommittees continued their work of evaluating the performance of the different government departments, agencies and programs through the legislative recess.

What we are trying to do is to move Congress away from its conventional, line-item review of the budget, toward an approach to budget formation which focuses primarily on the efficiency with which government resources are used, and then on determining how these resources are best allocated.

To achieve these ends, we are referring strategic performance standards reflecting the goals of the Medium Term National Development Plan and operating performance standards for the various departments. These standards shall be based on performance and effect, rather than on activity for its own sake, since no government activity is worthwhile unless it helps improve popular living standards and accomplishes national objectives.

We expect oversight subcommittee hearings to be completed early next month. Their reports will then go to the Committee on Appropriations, where the final legislative step in budget formation will begin.

I must acknowledge on behalf of this House the sterling cooperation we have been receiving from the Department of Budget and Management, for the clear and comprehensive information the DBM has been giving us on the various agency programs and activities of the government.

To start off our effort to democratize political power -- to build the capabilities of our provinces, districts, towns and barangays to govern themselves -- Congressmen from Iloilo are proposing a house bill which, if approved by the House, will make their province the proving ground for decentralization.

The bill calls for a kind of chartering, similar to that our cities now enjoy, which will give Iloilo Province the fiscal authority to raise its own taxes; award it all the provincial collections of national taxes beyond a reasonable rate of increase over a specific period; and empower it to develop and manage its own development projects.

I urge this House to give urgent consideration and the staunchest support to this experiment. If it succeeds we can then confidently empower all local governments in the same manner, perhaps through the new Code that our Committee on Local Government is drafting.

Resident Ombudsmen in Sensitive Offices

Over the recess I explored with Ombudsman Conrado Vasquez the possibility of posting resident ombudsmen in all sensitive public offices as yet another check against graft and corruption. I assured the Ombudsman that this House would be pleased to appropriate additional funds for such an effort and that this House is aware of the need to make the campaign against graft and corruption successful even before the bishops made that announcement.

I understand that the executive order creating the Office of the Ombudsman is silent on whether or not the Ombudsman is empowered to establish resident offices in other government agencies. Our Committee on Justice under Congressman Zarraga should be able to determine quickly whether or not legislation is necessary to get this done.

Urban Land Reform

Another urgent question concerns the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law -- whether or not we should, on the

basis of recent experience, look at it again to close loopholes in the law, to set up stronger safeguards against its abuse, and tighten up its procedures and controls. I do not know if Congressman Edcel Lagman and his group have begun to look into this.

We must also extend our efforts at tenure reform to cover urban land. Four different bills on urban land reform--including an administration bill certified by the President--are before our Committee on Urban Development, before your committee, Congresswoman Puyat-Reyes.

The committee is drafting a consolidated bill based on these bills and on data gathered from six public hearings it held on the question. I am sure we are all agreed on the need to provide decent housing and basic amenities for the homeless people of our cities. All we have to ensure is that such a law is equitable and that it benefits the greatest number of our people.

Improving the Legislative Process

Improving the legislative process, we must look at our internal procedures and processes, and seek to improve them as far as we can. For instance, we obviously need greater coordination and consultation among the House, the Senate, the executive department and the relevant interest groups in formulating the yearly legislative agenda.

We also must set up mechanisms to bring about closer cooperation among our House committees and we should strictly enforce the 50-session day deadline we had set for committees to act on bills referred to them.

These are the priorities I commend to this House for its Third Session which I now formally declare open.

ROLL CALL

THE SPEAKER. The Secretary will call the roll by provinces.

THE SECRETARY, *reading:*

ABRA
First District
Rudolfo A. F. Bernardez ..... Present

AGUSAN DEL NORTE (with City of Butuan)
First District
Charito B. Plaza ..... Present*
Second District
Edelmiro A. Amante ..... Present*

AGUSAN DEL SUR
First District
Democrito O. Plaza ..... Present

AKLAN
Ramon B. Legazpi ..... Present

ALBAY (with Legazpi City)
First District
Edcel C. Lagman ..... Present
Second District
Carlos R. Imperial ..... Present

ANTIQUE
First District
Exequiel V. Javier ..... Present

AURORA
Benedicto G. Miran ..... Present*

BACOLOD CITY
First District
Romeo G. Guanzon ..... Present*

BASILAN
Alvin G. Dans ..... Present*

BATAAN
First District
Felicito C. Payumo ..... Present*
Second District
Enrique T. Garcia ..... Present*

BATANES
Florencio B. Abad ..... Present

BATANGAS (with Cities of Batangas and Lipa)
First District
Conrado V. Apacible ..... Present
Second District
Hernando B. Perez ..... Present*
Third District
Lally Laurel-Trinidad ..... Present
Fourth District
Jose E. Calingasan ..... Present*

BENGUET (with Baguio City)
First District
Honorato Y. Aquino ..... Present*
Second District
Samuel M. Dangwa ..... Present*

BOHOL (with Tagbilaran City)
First District
Venice Borja-Agana ..... Present*
Second District
David B. Tirol ..... Present
Third District
Isidro C. Zarraga ..... Present*

BUKIDNON
First District
Socorro Q. Acosta ..... Present
Second District
Violeta T. Labaria ..... Present
Third District
Jose Ma. R. Zubiri, Jr. ..... Present*

* Appeared after the roll call

BULACAN
First District
Francisco B. Aniag, Jr. ..... Present
Second District
Vicente C. Rivera, Jr. ..... Present
Third District
Jose L. Cabochan ..... Present
Fourth District
Rogaciano M. Mercado .....

CAGAYAN
First District
Domingo A. Tuzon ..... Present
Second District
Leoncio M. Puzon ..... Present

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
Benedicta B. Roa ..... Present*

CALOOCAN CITY
First District
Virgilio P. Robles ..... Present
Second District
Gerardo P. Cabochan ..... Present

CAMARINES NORTE
Renato P. Unico ..... Present*

CAMARINES SUR (with Cities of Naga and Iriga)
First District
Rolando R. Andaya ..... Present
Second District
Raul S. Roco ..... Present
Third District
Eduardo P. Pilapil ..... Present*
Fourth District
Ciriaco R. Alfelor ..... Present

CAMIGUIN
Pedro P. Romualdo ..... Present

CAPIZ (with Roxas City)
First District
Gerardo A. Roxas, Jr. ..... Present
Second District
Cornelio T. Villareal, Sr. ..... Present*

CAVITE (with Cities of Tagaytay, Cavite, and Trece Martires)
First District
Leonardo L. Guerrero ..... Present*
Second District
Renato P. Dragon ..... Present*
Third District
Jorge A. Nuñez .....*

CEBU (with Cities of Danao, Lapu-Lapu, Mandaue and Toledo)
First District
Antonio T. Bacaltos ..... Present
Second District
Crisologo A. Abines .....Present*
Third District
Pablo P. Garcia ..... Present*
Fourth District
Celestino E. Martinez, Jr. ..... Present*
Fifth District
Ramon D. Durano III ..... Present
Sixth District
Vicente L. de la Serna .....

CEBU CITY
First District
Raul V. del Mar .....
Second District
Antonio V. Cuenco ..... Present

DAVAO CITY
First District
Jesus G. Dureza .....
Second District
Cornelio P. Maskariño ..... Present

DAVAO DEL NORTE
First District
Lorenzo S. Sarmiento, Sr. ..... Present
Second District
Baltazar A. Sator ..... Present*
Third District
Rodolfo B. del Rosario ..... Present*

DAVAO DEL SUR
First District
Juanito G. Camasura, Jr. ..... Present
Second District
Benjamine V. Bautista, Sr. ..... Present

DAVAO ORIENTAL
First District
Enrico G. Dayanghirang ..... Present
Second District
Thelma Z. Almario ..... Present*

EASTERN SAMAR
Jose T. Ramirez ..... Present

IFUGAO
Gualberto B. Lumauig ..... Present

ILOCOS NORTE
First District
Roque R. Ablan, Jr. ..... Present
Second District
Mariano R. Nalupta, Jr. ..... Present*

ILOCOS SUR
First District

* Appeared after the roll call

Luis C. Singson ..... Present*
Second District
Eric D. Singson ..... Present*

ILOILO
First District
Oscar G. Garin ..... Present*
Second District
Alberto J. Lopez ..... Present
Third District
Licurgo T. Tirador ..... Present*
Fourth District
Narciso D. Monfort ..... Present
Fifth District
Niel D. Tupas ..... Present

ILOILO CITY
Rafael Lopez-Vito ..... Present

ISABELA
First District
Rodolfo B. Albano ..... Present
Second District
Simplicio D. Domingo, Jr. ..... Present
Third District
Santiago P. Respicio ..... Present
Fourth District
Antonio M. Abaya ..... Present

KALINGA APAYAO
William F. Claver .....

LAGUNA (with San Pablo City)
First District
Nereo R. Joaquin ..... Present
Second District
Joaquin M. Chipeco, Jr. ..... Present
Third District
Florante L. Aquino ..... Present
Fourth District
Magdaleno M. Palacol ..... Present

LANAO DEL NORTE (with Iligan City)
First District
Mariano Ll. Badelles, Sr. ..... Present
Second District
Abdullah D. Dimaporo ..... Present*

LANAO DEL SUR
First District
Omar M. Dianalan ..... Present
Second District
Mohammad Ali B. Dimaporo ..... Present

LAS PIÑAS AND MUNTINLUPA
Filemon C. Aguilar ..... Present*

LA UNION
First District
Victor F. Ortega ..... Present
Second District
Jose D. Aspiras ..... Present*

LEYTE (with Cities of Tacloban and Ormoc)
First District
Cirilo Roy G. Montejo ..... Present
Second District
Manuel L. Horca, Jr. ..... Present*
Third District
Alberto S. Veloso ..... Present
Fourth District
Carmelo J. Locsin ..... Present*
Fifth District
Eriberto V. Loreto..... Present*

MAGUINDANAO (with Cotabato City)
First District
Michael O. Mastura ..... Present
Second District
Guimid P. Matalam ..... Present*

MAKATI
Ma. Consuelo Puyat-Reyes ..... Present

MALABON AND NAVOTAS
Teresa Aquino-Oreta ..... Present*

MANILA
First District
Martin B. Isidro ..... Present
Second District
Jaime C. Lopez ..... Present*

Third District
Leonardo B. Fugoso ..... Present
Fourth District
Ramon S. Bagatsing, Jr. ..... Present*
Fifth District
Amado S. Bagatsing ..... Present*
Sixth District
Pablo V. Ocampo ..... Present

MARIKINA
Democrito J. Angeles ..... Present

MARINDUQUE
Carmencita O. Reyes ..... Present

MASBATE
First District
Tito R. Espinosa.....
Second District
Luz Cleta R. Bakunawa ..... Present*

MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL (with Cities of Oroquieta, Ozamiz and Tangub)
First District
Julio H. Ozamiz ..... Present*

* Appeared after the roll call

Second District
Hilarion J. Ramiro, Jr. ..... Present*

MISAMIS ORIENTAL
First District
Isacio A. Pelaez ..... Present
Second District
Victorico L. Chaves ..... Present

MOUNTAIN PROVINCE
Victor S. Domiguez .....

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL (with Cities of San Carlos, Cadiz, La Carlota and Silay)
First District
Salvador S. Laguda ..... Present
Second District
Manuel H. Puey ..... Present
Third District
Jose Carlos V. Lacson ..... Present*
Fourth District
Edward M. Matti .....
Fifth District
Mariano M. Yulo ..... Present*
Sixth District
Hortensia L. Starke ..... Present*

NEGROS ORIENTAL (with Cities of Bais, Canlaon and Dumaguete)
First District
Jerome V. Paras ..... Present*
Second District
Miguel L. Romero ..... Present*
Third District
Margarito B. Teves ..... Present

NORTH COTABATO
First District
Rodrigo B. Gutang ..... Present
Second District
Gregorio A. Andolana ..... Present

NORTHERN SAMAR
First District
Raul A. Daza ..... Present
Second District
Jose L. Ong, Jr. ..... Present*

NUEVA ECIJA (with Cities of Cabanatuan, Palayan and San Jose)
First District
Eduardo Nonato N. Joson, Jr. ..... Present*
Second District
Simeon E. Garcia, Jr. ..... Present*
Third District
Hermogenes D. Concepcion, Jr. ... Present
Fourth District
Nicanor G. de Guzman, Jr. ..... Present*

NUEVA VIZCAYA
Carlos M. Padilla ..... Present*

OCCIDENTAL MINDORO
Mario Gene J. Mendiola ..... Absent

ORIENTAL MINDORO
First District
Rodolfo G. Valencia..... Present*
Second District
Jesus M. Punzalan ..... Present

PALAWAN
First District
David A. Ponce de Leon ..... Present
Second District
Ramon V. Mitra ..... Present

PAMPANGA (with Angeles City)
First District
Carmelo F. Lazatin ..... Present*
Second District
Emigdio L. Lingad ..... Present
Third District
Oscar S. Rodriguez ..... Present
Fourth District
Marciano M. Pineda ..... Present

PANGASINAN (with Cities of Dagupan and San Carlos)
First District
Oscar M. Orbos ..... Present*
Second District
Antonio E. Bengson III ..... Present*
Third District
Fabian S. Sison ..... Present
Fourth District
Jose C. de Venecia, Jr. ..... Present
Fifth District
Conrado B. Estrella, Jr. .....
Sixth District
Conrado M. Estrella III ..... Present*

PARAÑAQUE
Freddie Webb ..... Present*

PASAY CITY
Lorna Verano-Yap ..... Present

PASIG
Rufino S. Javier ..... Present

PATEROS and TAGUIG
Dante O. Tinga ..... Present*

QUEZON (with Lucena City)
First District
Wilfrido L. Enverga ..... Present
Second District

* Appeared after the roll call

Mario L. Tagarao ..... Present*
Third District
Bienvenido O. Marquez, Jr. ..... Present
Fourth District
Oscar F. Santos .....

QUEZON CITY
First District
Renato A. Yap ..... Present
Second District
Antonio L. Aquino ..... Present
Third District
Anna Dominique M.L. Coseteng .. Present
Fourth District
Ismael A. Mathay, Jr. ..... Present

QUIRINO
Junie E. Cua ..... Present

RIZAL
First District
Francisco S. Sumulong, Sr. ..... Present
Second District
Emigdio S. Tanjuatco, Jr. ..... Present*

ROMBLON
Natalio M. Beltran, Jr. ..... Present*

SAMAR (with Calbayog City)
First District
Jose A. Roño ..... Present*
Second District
Venancio T. Garduce ..... Present

SAN JUAN AND MANDALUYONG
Ronaldo B. Zamora ..... Present*

SIQUIJOR
Orlando B. Fua ..... Present

SORSOGON
First District
Salvador H. Escudero III ..... Present
Second District
Bonifacio H. Gillego ..... Present

SOUTH COTABATO (with General Santos City)
First District
Adelberto W. Antonino ..... Present*
Second District
Hilario L. de Pedro III ..... Present
Third District
James L. Chiongbian ..... Present

SOUTHERN LEYTE
Roger R. Mercado ..... Present

SULTAN KUDARAT
Estanislao V. Valdez ..... Present

SULU
First District
Abdusakur M. Tan ..... Present*
Second District
Arden S. Anni ..... Present

SURIGAO DEL NORTE (with Surigao City)
First District
Glenda B. Ecleo ..... Present*
Second District
Constantino C. Navarro, Sr. ..... Present*

SURIGAO DEL SUR
First District
Mario S. Ty ..... Present*
Second District
Ernesto T. Estrella ..... Present

TARLAC
First District
Jose S. Cojuangco, Jr. ..... Present*
Second District
Jose V. Yap ..... Present
Third District
Herminio S. Aquino ..... Present*

TAWI-TAWI
Alawadin T. Bandon, Jr. ..... Present

VALENZUELA
Antonio M. Serapio ..... Present

ZAMBALES (with Olongapo City)
First District
Katherine H. Gordon .....
Second District
Pacita T. Gonzalez ..... Present

ZAMBOANGA CITY
Maria Clara L. Lobregat ..... Present

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE (with Cities of Dapitan and Dipolog)
First District
Artemio A. Adasa, Jr. ..... Present*
Second District
Ernesto S. Amatong ..... Present
Third District
Angel M. Carloto ..... Present

ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR (with Pagadian City)
First District
Isidoro E. Real, Jr. ..... Present
Second District
Antonio H. Cerilles ..... Present*
Third District
Wilfrido G. Cainglet ..... Present

* Appeared after the roll call

SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES

PEASANT SECTOR
Romeo S. Angeles ..... Present
Bartolome O. Arteche ..... Present

LABOR SECTOR
Ramon J. Jabar ..... Present

VETERANS AND ELDERLY SECTOR
Dionisio S. Ojeda ..... Present

The House is in receipt of official advice of absence of the following Members: Honorable Imperial, Mercado (R.M.), Nuñez, de la Serna, Dureza, Claver, Espinosa, Dominguez, Estrella (C.B.) and Santos.

Honorable del Mar and Gordon are on official mission.

The roll call shows 109 Members responded to the call.

THE SPEAKER. The Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

MR. SUMULONG. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Majority Floor Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 1378
(Exercise of functions by the House)

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP

MR. SUMULONG. Mr. Speaker, I move for the consideration of House Resolution No. 1378 and may I request the Secretary to read the title and text of the resolution.

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

The Secretary is requested to read the title and text of the resolution.

THE SECRETARY. House Resolution No. 1378, entitled: RESOLUTION INFORMING THE SENATE THAT A QUORUM BEING PRESENT, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS ENTERED UPON THE EXERCISE OF ITS FUNCTIONS.

Resolved, by the House of Representatives, That a message be sent to the Senate informing said Body that a quorum being present, the House of Representatives has entered upon the exercise of its functions.

MR. SUMULONG. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Majority Floor Leader is recognized.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 1378
(Exercise of functions by the House)

MR. SUMULONG. I move for the unanimous adoption of House Resolution No. 1378.

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

MR. SUMULONG. Mr. Speaker, in pursuance of the approval of House Resolution No. 1378, may I propose the following Members to compose, on the part of the House, the Joint Committee to inform the Senate that the House has entered upon its duties: Honorable Cirilo Roy Montejo, Honorable Martin Isidro, and Honorable Victor Ortega.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the members so named by the Majority Floor Leader are appointed members of the Joint Committee.

The Majority Floor Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. CT. RES. NO. 29
(Joint Session of Congress)

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP

MR. SUMULONG. Mr. Speaker, I move for the consideration of House Concurrent Resolution No. 29 for the holding of a joint session in the afternoon to hear the message of the President. May we request the Secretary to read the title and text of said resolution.

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

The Secretary is directed to read the title and text of House Resolution No 29.

THE SECRETARY. House Concurrent Resolution No. 29, entitled: CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO HOLD A JOINT SESSION TO HEAR THE MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Resolved, by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, That both Houses of the Congress of the Philippines hold a joint session on July twenty-four, nineteen hundred and eighty nine, at four o'clock in the afternoon in the Session Hall of the House of Representatives, to hear the message of the President of the Philippines.

ADOPTION OF H.CT. RES. NO. 29
(Joint Session of Congress)

MR. SUMULONG. Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution No. 29.

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

The Majority Floor Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

MR. SUMULONG. Mr. Speaker, I move for a suspension of session.

THE SPEAKER. The session is suspended.

It was 10:37 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 10:41 a.m., the session is resumed.

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed.
The Majority Floor Leader is recognized.

MR. SUMULONG. Mr. Speaker, may I request that certain messages from the Senate be read by the Secretary?

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved. The Secretary is directed to read the messages from the Senate.

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

The Secretary read the following messages from the Senate while the Speaker made the corresponding references:

THE SECRETARY, *reading:*

The Honorable
Speaker RAMON V. MITRA
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Mr. Speaker:

I have been directed to inform the House of Representatives that the Senate on July 24, 1989 adopted Resolution No. 67, entitled:

"RESOLUTION INFORMING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT, A QUORUM BEING PRESENT, THE SENATE HAS ENTERED UPON THE EXERCISE OF ITS FUNCTIONS."

THE SPEAKER. To the Archives.

THE SECRETARY, *reading:*

The Honorable
Speaker RAMON V. MITRA
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Mr. Speaker:

I have been directed to inform the House of Representatives that the Senate on July 24, 1989 passed without amendment House Concurrent Resolution No. 29, entitled:

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO HOLD A JOINT SESSION TO HEAR THE MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES.

THE SPEAKER. To the Archives.

THE SECRETARY, *reading:*

The Honorable
Speaker RAMON V. MITRA
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Mr. Speaker:

I have been directed to inform the House of Representatives that the Senate on July 24, 1989 adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 32, entitled:

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF A JOINT COMMITTEE OF BOTH HOUSES TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES THAT THE CONGRESS NOW CONVENED IN REGULAR SESSION IS READY TO RECEIVE HER MESSAGE IN A JOINT SESSION.

THE SPEAKER. To the Committee on Rules.

MR. SUMULONG. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Majority Floor Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF S. CT. RES. NO. 32
(Joint Committee to Notify the President of Joint Regular Session)

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

MR. SUMULONG. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 32.

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

Consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 32 is now in order. With the permission of the body, the Secretary will read only the title of the resolution without prejudice to inserting in the Record the whole text thereof.

THE SECRETARY. Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 32, entitled: CONCURRENT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF A JOINT COMMITTEE OF BOTH HOUSES TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT OF

THE PHILIPPINES THAT THE CONGRESS NOW CONVENED IN REGULAR SESSION, IS READY TO RECEIVE HER MESSAGE IN A JOINT SESSION.

The following is the whole text of the resolution.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 32

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF A JOINT COMMITTEE OF BOTH HOUSES TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES THAT THE CONGRESS NOW CONVENED IN REGULAR SESSION, IS READY TO RECEIVE HER MESSAGE IN A JOINT SESSION

Resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring, To authorize, as it hereby authorizes, the appointment of a Joint Committee of both Houses of Congress to be composed of six Members, three to be appointed by the President of the Senate, and three by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to notify the President of the Philippines that the Congress, now convened in regular session, is ready to receive her message to the Congress for its Third Regular Session in a Joint Session for the purpose.

(Sgd.) RAMON V. MITRA
Speaker of the House of
Representatives

(Sgd.) JOVITO R. SALONGA
President of the Senate

ADOPTION OF S.CT. RES. NO. 32
(Joint Committee to Notify the President of Joint Regular Session)

MR. SUMULONG. I move for the adoption of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 32.

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

The Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 32 is adopted.

MR. SUMULONG. Mr. Speaker, I now move for the appointment of the following Members of the House to the Joint Committee to notify the President of the joint session at four o'clock in the afternoon today.

May I propose the following: Honorable Teresa Aquino-Oreta, Honorable Pedro Romualdo, Honorable Emigdio Lingad, and Honorable Albertito Lopez; and for the minority, the Honorable Antonio Serapio.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the Members who were named are appointed to the Committee.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

MR. SUMULONG. Mr. Speaker, may I move for the suspension of the session for a few minutes.

THE SPEAKER. The session is suspended.

It was 10:44 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 10:49 a.m., the session was resumed.

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed.

MR. SUMULONG. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Majority Floor Leader is recognized.

MR. SUMULONG. In lieu of the Honorable Teresa Aquino-Oreta, I move that the Honorable Pacita Gonzalez be nominated to the Joint Committee to inform the President of the joint session.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the Lady from Zambales is named to the Joint Committee.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

MR. SUMULONG. Mr. Speaker, I move for a suspension of the session.

THE SPEAKER. The session is suspended until word from the Committee is received.

The session is suspended.

It was 10:50 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 11:00 a.m., the session is resumed.

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed.

MR. SUMULONG. Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. The Majority Floor Leader is recognized.

MR. SUMULONG. We have just received word from the members of our committee that went to see the President at Malacañang to inform her that the House is ready to receive her State-of-the-Nation message this afternoon at four o'clock. Accordingly, we are now prepared for the joint session at four o'clock this afternoon, and each and every

Member of the House is reminded that we have to be here an hour before the joint session.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore move that we now adjourn our session this morning until four o'clock.

THE SPEAKER. The understanding was that following receipt by the President of the invitation to address the joint session, she will be here at four o'clock this afternoon.

Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the session is adjourned until four o'clock this afternoon.

The session was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

OPENING OF THE THIRD JOINT REGULAR SESSION

At 4:28 p.m., the processional took place with the entry of the President of the Republic of the Philippines into the Plenary Hall.

At 4:29 p.m., the Speaker, the Honorable Ramon V. Mitra, Jr., and the Senate President, the Honorable Jovito R. Salonga, opened the joint session.

THE SPEAKER. On the part of the House, the joint session is called to order.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. Sa panig ng Senado ng Pilipinas, binubuksan ang ating pagpupulong.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE SPEAKER. Everybody will please remain standing for the singing of the National Anthem to be led by the Congressional Choir.

Everybody remained standing for the singing of the National Anthem.

THE SPEAKER. Everybody will please remain standing while the representatives from different sects read the nation's prayer.

Everybody remained standing for the Nation's Prayer led by Bishop Gabriel Reyes, Bishop George Castro, Bishop Tito Pasco, and Uztadz Harun.

NATION'S PRAYER

Alalahanin natin na lagi tayong nasa
harapan ng Diyos

Aming Panginoon
Sa muli naming pagtitipon ngayon
Kami ay lubusang nagpapasalamat
Sa lahat ng aming naisakatuparan
Sa mga araw na nagdaan

Sana'y patuloy naming madama
Ang Iyong patnubay
Sa mga darating pang panahon
Kasama ng pagpapatnubay
Ng aming mga yumaong kasamahan
Na nasa Iyong piling na sa ngayon

Dinggin sana Ninyo ang pagsusumamo
Ng Iyong mga abang lingkod --
Ang mga Kinatawan ng bayang ito

Sana'y hindi ka namin mabigo
At tulad Mo ay maging laging bukas
Ang aming mga puso
Sa mga mahahalagang daing
At pangangailangan
Ng aming mga kapatid

Sana'y maging pangunahin
Sa aming isipan
Bilang mga Mambabatas
Ang tanging makakabuti
Sa buong sambayanan

Pahintulutan sana Ninyo
Na ang pagkakaisa namin ngayon
Ay Inyong tuluyang matunghayan
Sa mga darating pang panahon.

Tuloy tayong manalangin.
Bigyan ninyo kami
Ng sapat na lakas
Upang tuluyang makapaglingkod
Nang sapat sa sambayanang Pilipino

Pahintulutan Ninyo kaming tanggapin
Ang mga hamon ng panahon
Na buo ang loob at puno ng pag-asang
Kayo ay patuloy naming maging gabay
Tungo sa isang tunay
Na demokratikong lipunan,
At isang kinabukasang
May pagpapahalaga
Sa kalayaan, sa katarungan, sa kapayapaan at pag-iibigan.

Siya nawa.

THE SPEAKER. Ladies and Gentlemen, Her Excellency, Pres. Corazon Cojuangco Aquino, President of the Republic of the Philippines.

STATE-OF-THE-NATION ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT AQUINO

THE PRESIDENT. Mr. Senate President, Mr. Speaker, Members of both Houses of Congress, Mr. Vice-President and the Members of the Cabinet, the Chief Justice and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, your Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps, distinguished guests, minamahal kong kababayan:

Pursuant to the Constitution, I have come to report on the state of the nation. This recurring event, however, has

another significance today. For it comes midway in my term of office. It is time to review what has gone before, how things stand today, and what must be done tomorrow.

Three-and-a-half years have passed since the Revolution. Recalling the perils we passed and the ground we have covered, I marvel at the kindness of God and the strength of our people--at the fortitude and ingenuity of a race that did so much with so little, and in so short a time.

We revived a dead economy and in three years had it well on the road to recovery. The figures are well-known and unimpeachable, yet some bear repeating:

Industrial capacity, idle for lack of capital, markets, and confidence under the dictatorship, has been fully utilized. In the past two years, investments have increased 25 percent annually. P30.97 billion was invested in 1988. Industry grew by 8.6 percent in gross value added last year, improving yet further on the already impressive growth of 7.7 percent in 1987.

The number of business enterprises increased by 38 percent, most of them small-and-medium-scale and located outside Metro Manila.

More than 2.3 million new jobs have been created. Unemployment declined from 12.5 percent in 1985 to 9.6 percent in 1988.

Last year, we posted a 6.7 percent growth. This year we anticipate less because of a slight contraction of the world economy and the shift from consumer-led to the more substantive but slower investment-led growth that we see as the safer course to take.

The economic upturn is reflected in the reduction of industrial actions. The exuberance of a suddenly liberated labor sector has made room for a deeper appreciation of the need for all sectors to work together -- rather than against each other -- for the general improvement. Let us not, however, use the reduction in strikes by itself as an invitation to more investments but rather as a barometer of the more equitable distribution of the progress we are making. We are instructed by this welcome development to work towards even greater equity in the distribution of wealth as the surest means to social order and peace.

Our greatest investment in enhancing national productive capacity is in education -- in developing the intelligence and the sinews of our people, as it were.

Thus, we have put 98 percent of school age children in school; we are close to universal elementary education. The universal free high school program is also well underway. Quantitatively, we are close to our targets; qualitatively we are far. A rigorous and high quality secondary education, the Japanese and German experiences teach, is a foundation of a modern economy.

Last year, 70 percent of all infants one year old or younger were immunized, representing 1,318,000 babies -- a dramatic improvement over 30 percent in 1985; 7.7 million children were treated for various illnesses. Our aim, as we said, is sharper minds and sounder bodies for the next generation of Filipinos.

Yet poverty remains prevalent. The lowest 30 percent of our population remains mired in unchanging misery. They think nothing has changed and I do not blame them. Liberty is a poor substitute for food. The economic improvement we have experienced has had some impact on the incidence of poverty which declined from 59 percent in 1985 to 49 percent in 1988. But the 500,000 families who crossed the official poverty threshold may not even be aware of it.

The economic recovery has restored old fortunes far more significantly than it has touched the lives of the vast majority of our people. For all that, we cannot downplay our economic progress for it has spoken more eloquently to the world than words ever could. It has earned us tremendous respect throughout the world. This was shown in the Tokyo Consultative Group meeting which paid tribute to the country's growth with low inflation, despite the debt. A similar respect was evident throughout my European visit. My hosts were clearly encouraged to support what they saw as a record of success against great odds. We have been working to translate this respect into concrete support to reduce those odds.

Yet nothing generated greater admiration than our political achievements. In little over a year, we uprooted a dictatorship and planted the freest democracy in the world -- with all its good and bad features. We held elections that were the freest and most participative in the history of this and perhaps of any republic in the world.

Our swift democratization was done against the advice that I reserve emergency powers in the face of rising military adventurism and communist terrorism. But I believed then -- and time has proved me right -- that this nation shall find no greater source of strength to defend democracy than in the enjoyment of all its rights and liberties. Democracy is our faith and the root of our strength to defend it.

Added to that faith was the will to stand for no more nonsense from military adventurers who thought that failure to shave qualified them for national leadership. Some people do not like the way I dress. Well, I do not like the way they looked. I am in power and they are out. *(Applause)* Surely there is a lesson here to be learned about delusions of self-importance and the realities of power.

My assessment of the peace and order situation is mixed. With regard to the insurgency, the tide has turned, I believe, permanently. The main weapons were democracy, a greater concern by government for rural needs, the economic recovery, a heightened respect for political and human rights, and a deeper commitment to their proper mission on the part of the Armed Forces. The AFP reports an 8 percent reduction in NPA troop strength. A better indicator is the brutality with which the communist leadership has treated the common people and even their own ranks. This self-destructive course reveals a movement whose organizational and moral center has ceased to hold. This picture of disarray is both good news and bad, for we must brace ourselves for greater cruelties from a cause that is now indistinguishable from a common crime. In summary, we have beaten the insurgents less by fighting than by example of our humanity, our concern, and the impact of our economic progress.

On the subject of common crimes, the situation is nothing less than terrible. What compounds it is the general distress occasioned by the prominence of military and police elements in the worst criminal activities. The first duty of the State is the enforcement of order. Until we -- the executive,

the Congress and the judiciary -- bring the situation totally under control, none of our accomplishments elsewhere will have a lasting impact on the opinion of the public. For criminality threatens the most basic rights of man -- the right to live, to raise a family, and enjoy and bequeath the prosperity he has worked for.

I recall our achievements not to make the past compensate for the present nor to excuse inaction in the future but so we do not lose faith in the essential strength of our race to rebuild, to recuperate, to grow, and to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

There is a challenge of rising world oil prices that threatens to undercut our continued growth.

There is a challenge of continuing debt service that eats 40 percent of the national budget or 7.7 percent of GNP. We are expected, in the next five years, to make a net payment to our creditors of $12 billion or approximately P260 billion at the current exchange rate.

There is a challenge of sustaining growth and meeting our medium-term targets.

And there is the age-old challenge and threat that poverty and underemployment pose to the viability of democracies in the Third World. How long can we stay poor and still be free?

Poverty has lessened but 5.3 million households or 29 million people remain poor. Unemployment has been reduced but try telling that to the 2.9 million still jobless and the 7.2 million underemployed.

For these reasons, we critically need to sustain economic growth.

First, we have to strengthen the foundations of vigorous market-oriented economy. This would involve continued adherence to prudent fiscal and monetary policies and reliance on market forces in the functioning of the economy. These policies have engendered robust growth of private investment, output, employment and consumption. These have also kept inflation at acceptable levels and helped protect the real incomes of wage earners. Our record of high growth with low inflation is a singular achievement among heavily indebted countries.

We must steer away from the siren of songs of quick fixes, easy spending, unwarranted subsidies, and irrational price controls, which elsewhere have contributed to bloated deficits, tailspin hyperinflation, and social instability.

Second, we must go on building structures essential to the efficiency and productivity of the economy. Government has improved or constructed 1,124 kilometers of major roads and 7,821 kilometers of secondary and feeder roads to bring markets and producers closer to each other. Yet this is a small part of the projects in the pipeline-- numerous ports, power generation plants, and modern telecommunications.

Third, no less important than physical infrastructure, we must continue to strengthen our public institutions and find ways to do things better, faster, and with the greater appearance and substance of integrity. I have a few words to say on the subject of corruption. Yesterday, a pastoral letter was read in all the churches deploring the resurgence of official corruption. How can the Cabinet, the Congress, and the Supreme Court deny what is plain for all to see: that corruption is again a way of public life?

I will not preempt a Congress that feels its time is better spent in investigations of anything, nor a Supreme Court that has a longer backlog of unresolved cases than there are decisions in the casebooks from the turn of the century. I have my own responsibilities to face, and my own people to hold to account. *(Applause)*

The magnitude of unresolved disputes has frozen innumerable billions of pesos worth of assets in litigation. The staggering number of unsolved crimes has eroded the credibility of the state to be respected as such.

The problem is massive for having been left unattended by the branch of government, and the departments and agencies specifically charged with the dispensation of justice and the punishment of crimes. But a start must be made.

I have ordered a review of the structure and performance of the National Bureau of Investigation with a view of making it the lead arm in criminal investigation. I have ordered a review of the prosecution service, and call upon the Supreme Court to do the same to the judiciary, with a view to relieving the incompetent and the passive who have allowed so many cases to languish unresolved.

I am tired of being taken to task for the thing above all others that I wanted to leave as legacy: the example of a clean and honest government. To my fellow workers in government specifically involved in this area -- and in all other areas as well -- let me say that unless the public sees results soon, it will be goodbye for you. *(Applause)*

The compassion that marked my administration in the past may generate doubts about my resolve in this matter, but the actions that will be taken by me in the next weeks and months will dispel them all. *(Applause)*

Fourth, as the lynchpin of our efforts to lift the mass of our people from poverty, we must implement agrarian reform with greater vigor, doing our best to combine speed with the necessary caution. I would like to stress again the aim of agrarian reform. Our objective is not merely to subdivide the misery of the land, but to raise the living standards of our farmers to the level of their dignity as the backbone of our economy.

Fifth, for our development to be at all sustainable, we need to redress the years of degradation and neglect of our environment, and preserve what remains of our natural resources. We have embarked on projects to restore and conserve our marine and forest resources -- among them the largest reforestation program in history covering 100,000 hectares a year to the end of the century.

Sixth, we must mobilize the resources, both domestic and foreign, necessary to sustain public and private investment and provide basic social services. To generate domestic resources, vigorous tax collection efforts, banking reforms, and the development of capital markets are underway. Measures to enhance public confidence in the stock markets are needed and I look to the Congress to study and initiate them.

I cannot overemphasize the importance of improving our tax performance. We have one of the lowest tax to GNP ratios of any country in the world. No longer can we tolerate tax evasion as a national pastime, especially of the rich, when indeed our economic future is at stake. The place for tax evaders is not high society but behind bars. *(Applause)*

As regards external financing resources, except for one component, we have installed a financing structure which will support sustained growth.

We are currently engaged in negotiations with commercial creditors for a package that will support our external financing program. An important element of this package will include debt and debt service reduction schemes inspired by new debt initiatives. By firm adherence to its strong record of economic adjustment and performance, the Philippines is particularly well placed to be favored by these initiatives.

With the endorsement of the multilateral institutions and foreign governments -- and in the conviction that we have done our part in keeping our economic house in order -- we shall negotiate forcefully to secure the cooperation of the commercial banks in the Philippine recovery. In the riot-torn streets of Caracas, in the teeming barrios of Mexico, in our barangays -- no less than in Washington, Tokyo, and Paris -- there is growing recognition that something real must be done about the Third World debt.

Let us not forget that we have come from a 20-year struggle between our people and the dictator, and that we are here engaged in the reconstruction of an economy and a polity as though from the ruins of war, except the destruction has been more sweeping. We did not emerge from the Second World War with losses anywhere near the $28 billion being exacted by our creditors.

Our principal focus must be on rural development -- the liberation of the economic, social and political energies of the countryside. We need the physical infrastructure to link rural production and consumption with the national and international economies. We need to enhance education and health to make the best assets -- our people. We need to decentralize political structures to widen the people's participation in national life.

A people-powered revolution must aim for a people-empowered democracy and economy. Rural development will best realize this aim. The alleviation of poverty will come with the upliftment of the rural poor.

Unless we draw our rural areas into the dynamics of the national economy, turning hinterlands of decay into frontiers of progress, our growth and equity goals will not be attained, neither in the short nor the long term.

The great task we have set ourselves will require two great instruments of social transformation: a just but iron-fisted law and good government.

There will be no progress in our communities without order, without securing the lives and properties of our citizens against criminality and the insurgency.

I have already noted the progress that has been made against the insurgency. The increasing isolation of the rebels has allowed military operations to succeed as never before. But such operations must take greater care to avoid collateral damage to the civilian population, for our moral ascendancy has accounted for the greater part of our superiority in this conflict. The protection of human rights even under conditions of conflict must be a key consideration in military operations and missions.

Our great task is to deliver good government. This, I believe, consists of maintaining closeness to the people, honesty and efficiency in their service, and making a difference for the better in their lives. Thus, I have brought an active presidency to bear on the many issues that shape our lives from police work to women's concerns, from improving customs collections to disaster relief operations. I have brought the physical presence of the presidency to 54 provinces, from Tawi-Tawi to Batanes.

I shall emphasize even further the standard of my example by exacting the same dedication and discipline -- from my Cabinet, the bureaucracy and the local governments. A quarterly review of departmental performance shall become the forum for diagnosing the strengths and weaknesses of programs and performance, and the basis for the proper remedies.

I expect to see the departments pull together in more coherent and focused efforts to advance policies and programs across the board, and to translate this address into action. The process should involve the participation of mayors and governors, and consultation with Members of Congress.

On local autonomy and decentralization, it was never my intention to substitute the abuses of over-centralization with widespread incompetence in local leadership. Our people will simply regard both as our failure. Thus, as we devolve greater authority and resources to local governments, we shall exact from them greater responsibility to their communities and more support of the national objectives.

I call also on the support of constitutional bodies, such as the Civil Service Commission, the Commission on Audit, and the Ombudsman. Even if they perform their duties with the required independence and integrity, let them be reminded that good government can be achieved as well by cooperation as by adversarial relations. The purpose of checks in government is not to induce paralysis but to achieve balance and foster progress.

As we emerge from a singular preoccupation with economic recovery, we must remind ourselves of initiatives that will have a major impact now and profound implications tomorrow. Three particular priorities are: the protection of the environment, the promotion of family planning and responsible parenthood, and the development of science and technology.

While the lead in the environmental movement must be taken by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, responsibility must be assumed by all of us. While the Department of Health is the designated lead agency for family planning, we should all contribute towards building the family as a purposeful act of confidence in the future. The Department of Science and Technology needs to bring academe, government and business together in promoting science and technology.

Our gains in the past three years serve as the base for launching a comprehensive advance on all fronts. The scale of the effort and the importance of the outcome call for the wisdom of Congress to consider and affirm these intentions. I propose the following:

First, measures to alleviate poverty:

1) Tax and other incentives to small and medium countryside business enterprises;

2) Authorizing the bidding out to the private sector of

BOT projects, or projects to build, operate and transfer self-liquidating infrastructure projects; and

3) Promoting countryside investments;

Second, measures to improve peace and order:

1) Immediate creation of civilian national police force;

2) Limiting discretion in the disposition of seized importations;

3) Penalizing the crime of plunder to deter the accumulation of ill-gotten wealth by public officials; and

4) Further protecting human rights;

Third, measures promoting honesty and efficiency in the government:

1) Devolution of more substantial powers to local governments;

2) Doubling the financial resources of local governments effective 1990 by increasing internal revenue allotments, granting incentives for improved real estate tax collections, and abolishing mandatory contributions to the PC-INP and hospitals;

3) Reorganizing and strengthening the Philippine foreign service.

Fourth, measures promoting social justice:

1) Defining ancestral domains;

2) Providing a more extensive program of urban housing development;

3) Setting ceilings and limiting deductions on travel, representation, and other expenses;

4) Encouraging cooperatives;

5) Rationalizing small-scale mining;

Finally, measures for the protection of the environment:

1) Increasing forest charges;

2) Increasing penalties for pollution; and

3) Adopting a national land-use plan.

Finally, I seek your support for the 1990 budget that I shall be submitting in the next few days. I ask you to consider our proposal in light of the priorities I have outlined, and the deep concerns that we all share for the upliftment of our people from poverty, and of our nation to progress. I ask you to regard with sympathy and understanding my deep desire and my unshakable resolve to give our people all that I have promised them. Let me make myself especially clear on this point: I shall complete the work that we have started, the work that God gave us to do -- to make a new nation, strong, and free and prosperous. I shall not rest from that labor until its fruits have been enjoyed by you, by me, and by all our people. Only success will stop my unceasing efforts, my undying commitment to the great task before us. God bless us all. Mabuhay ang Pilipinas. *(Applause)*

ADJOURNMENT OF JOINT SESSION

SPEAKER MITRA. On the part of the House, the session is adjourned.

PRESIDENT SALONGA. Sa panig ng Senado ng Pilipinas, itinitindig ang sesyon.

It was 5:06 p.m.