

# The Pacific Charter

**T**HE Delegates of Australia, France, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and the United States,

**DESIRING** to establish a firm basis for common action to maintain peace and security in South East Asia and the South West Pacific,

**CONVINCED** that common action to this end, in order to be worthy and effective, must be inspired by the highest principles of justice and liberty,

## **DO HEREBY PROCLAIM:**

*First*, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Charter, they uphold the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and they will earnestly strive by every peaceful means

to promote self-government and to secure the independence of all countries whose peoples desire it and are able to undertake its responsibilities.

*Second*, they are each prepared to continue taking effective practical measures to ensure conditions favorable to the orderly achievement of the foregoing purposes in accordance with their constitutional procedures.

*Third*, they will continue to cooperate in the economic, social, and cultural fields in order to promote higher living standards, economic progress, and social well-being in this region.

*Fourth*, as declared in the South East Asia Collective Defense Treaty, they are determined to prevent or counter by appropriate means any attempt in the Treaty area to subvert their freedom or to destroy their sovereignty or territorial integrity.

## The South East Asia Collective Defense Treaty

**T**HE Parties to this Treaty, Recognizing the sovereign equality of all the Parties,

Reiterating their faith in the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and their desire to live in peace with all peoples and all governments,

Reaffirming that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, they uphold the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and declaring that they will earnestly strive by every peaceful means to promote self-government and to secure the independence of all countries whose peoples desire it and are able to undertake its responsibilities,

Intending to declare publicly and formally their sense of unity, so that any potential aggressor will appreciate that the Parties stand together in the area, and

Desiring further to coordinate their efforts for collective defense for the preservation of peace and security,

Therefore agree as follows:

### **ARTICLE I**

The Parties undertake, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, to settle any international disputes in which they may be involved by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered, and to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations.

### **ARTICLE II**

In order more effectively to achieve the objectives of this Treaty, the Parties, separately and jointly, by means of continuous and effective self-help and mutual aid, will maintain and develop their individual and collective capacity to resist armed attack and to prevent and counter subversive activities directed from without against their territorial integrity and political stability.

### **ARTICLE III**

The Parties undertake to strengthen their free institutions and to cooperate with one another in the further development of economic measures, including technical assistance, designed both to promote economic progress and social well-being, and to further the individual and collective efforts of governments toward these ends.

### **ARTICLE IV**

1. Each Party recognizes that aggression by means of armed attack in the treaty area against any of the Parties or against any State or territory which the Parties by unanimous agreement may hereafter designate, would endanger its own peace and safety, and agrees that it will in that event act to meet the common danger in accordance with its constitutional processes. Measures taken under this paragraph shall be immediately reported to the Security Council of the United Nations.

2. If, in the opinion of any of the Parties, the inviolability or the integrity of the territory or the sovereignty or political independence of any Party in the treaty area or of any other State or territory to which the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article from time to time apply is threatened in any way other than by armed attack or is affected or threatened by any fact or situation which might endanger the peace of the area, the Parties shall consult immediately in order to agree on the measures which should be taken for the common defense.

3. It is understood that no action on the territory of any State designated by unanimous agreement under paragraph 1 of this Article or on any territory so designated shall be taken except at the invitation or with the consent of the Government concerned.

### **ARTICLE V**

The Parties hereby establish a Council, on which each of them shall be represented, to consider matters concerning the implementation of this Treaty. The Council shall provide for consultation with regard to military and any other planning as the situation obtaining in the treaty area may from time to time require. The Council shall be so organized as to be able to meet at any time.

### **ARTICLE VI**

This Treaty does not affect and shall not be interpreted as affecting in any way the rights and obligations of any of the Parties under the Charter of the United Nations or the responsibility of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security. Each Party declares that none of the international engagements now in force between it and any other of the Parties or any third party is in conflict with the provisions of this Treaty, and undertakes not to enter into any international engagement in conflict with this Treaty.

### **ARTICLE VII**

Any other State in a position to further the objectives of this Treaty and to contribute to the security of the area may, by unanimous agreement of the Parties, be invited to accede to this Treaty. Any State so invited may become a Party to the Treaty by depositing its instrument of accession with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines shall inform each of the Parties of the deposit of each such instrument of accession.

### **ARTICLE VIII**

As used in this Treaty, the "treaty area" is the general area of Southeast Asia, including also the entire territories of the Asian Parties, and the general area of the Southwest Pacific not including the Pacific area north of 21 degrees 30 minutes north latitude. The Parties may, by unanimous agreement, amend this Article to include within the treaty area the territory of any State acceding to this Treaty in accordance with Article VII or otherwise to change the treaty area.

### **ARTICLE IX**

1. This Treaty shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines. Duly certified copies thereof shall be transmitted by that Government to the other signatories.

2. The Treaty shall be ratified and its provisions carried out by the Parties in accordance with their respective constitutional processes. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited as soon as possible with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, which shall notify all of the other signatories of such deposit.

3. The Treaty shall enter into force between the States which have ratified it as soon as the instruments of ratification of a majority of the signatories shall have been deposited, and shall come into effect with respect to each other State on the date of the deposit of its instrument of ratification.

### **ARTICLE X**

This Treaty shall remain in force indefinitely, but any Party may cease to be a Party one year after its notice of denunciation has been given to the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, which shall inform the Governments of the other Parties of the deposit of each notice of denunciation.

The English text of this Treaty is binding on the Parties, but when the Parties have agreed to the French text thereof and have so notified the Government of the Philippines, the French text shall be equally authentic and binding on the Parties.

#### *Understanding of the United States of America*

The Delegation of the United States of America in signing the present Treaty does so with the understanding that its recognition of the effect of aggression and armed attack and its agreement with reference thereto in Article IV, paragraph 1, apply only to Communist aggression, but affirms that in the event of other aggression or armed attack it will consult under the provisions of Article IV, paragraph 2.

In witness whereof, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries have signed this treaty.

Done at Manila, this eighth day of September, 1954.

Designation of States and Territory as to which provisions of Article IV and Article III are to be applicable

THE Parties to the South East Asia Collective Defense Treaty unanimously designate for the purposes of Articles IV of the Treaty the States of Cambodia and Laos and the free territory under the jurisdiction of the State of Vietnam.

The Parties further agree that the above-mentioned States and territory shall be eligible in respect of the economic measures contemplated by Article III.

This Protocol shall come into force simultaneously with the coming into force of the Treaty.

In witness whereof, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries have signed this Protocol to the South East Asia Collective Defense Treaty.

Done at Manila, this eighth day of September, 1954.

## Letter of Secretary of State Dulles on the Defense of the Philippines under the Mutual Defence Treaty of 1951

No. 0284

American Embassy  
Manila, September 7, 1954

EXCELLENCY:

I have the honor to refer to the meeting of the Council of Ministers under the Mutual Defense Treaty between the Philippines and the United States which was held in Manila on September 4, 1954. In response to your words of welcome, I gave expression to the intimacy of our relationship and to the practical consequences which derive therefrom. Under our Mutual Defense Treaty and related actions, there have resulted air and naval dispositions of the United States in the Philippines, such that an armed attack on the Philippines could not but be also an attack upon the military forces of the United States. As between our nations, it is no legal fiction to say that an attack on one is an attack on both. It is a reality that an attack on the Philippines is an attack also on the United States. In the light of those facts, I made the following statements which I am glad to quote:

"I wish to state in the most emphatic terms that the United States will honor fully its commitments under the Mutual Defense Treaty. If the Philippines were attacked, the United States would act immediately. We expect the Philippines to contribute to its own security to the extent of its capabilities. To that would be added United States air, naval, and logistical support. The United States will take all practicable measures to maintain the security of the Philippines against external attack. The United States intends to maintain and use its air and naval bases in the Philippines. These provide concrete evidence of United States ability and intention to take necessary counter-

measures. The United States emphasizes the fact that in the event of war, its power to take the offensive against points of its own choosing will, in conjunction with the efforts of the Philippine forces, provide a major contribution to the security of the Philippines.

"The President of the United States has ordered the Seventh Fleet to protect Formosa from invasion by Communist aggressors. In the case of the Philippines, no specific orders are required; our forces would automatically react."

The foregoing statements were not made lightly. They were made soberly in the light of the fact that our two countries have deliberately chosen to work together with such intimacy and with such integration of our effort that an aggressor could not, if he wished, disentangle us and attack the Philippines without attacking also the United States with all the consequences that this would imply.

I feel, Excellency, that the Conference we have concluded has been most fruitful and in the best tradition of the relationship between your country and mine. The way is now clear for us to proceed with our utmost energy to the difficult tasks which lie ahead.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

(Sgd.) JOHN FOSTER DULLES

His Excellency  
Carlos P. Garcia  
Secretary of Foreign Affairs for the Republic of the Philippines.

## Government Corporations . . .

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Capital City Planning Commission (established, 1948; merged with National Urban Planning Commission into National Planning Commission, 1950)

Pulp and Paper Mill (established as NDC unit, 1948; transferred to Cebu Portland Cement Company, 1950)

Nail Plant (established as NDC unit, 1948; sold to Marcelo Steel Corporation, 1949)

National Airports Corporation (established, 1948; merged with Civil Aeronautics Administration, Department of Commerce and Industry, 1950)

Rice and Corn Production Administration (established as NDC unit, 1949, replacing Rice and Corn Production Commission; transferred to Land Settlement and Development Corporation, 1950)

Central Bank of the Philippines (established, 1949)

Import Control Board (established, 1949, under Department of Commerce and Industry; superseded by Import Control Administration under a new Board, 1950; licensing functions transferred to PRISCO, 1951; superseded by Import Control Commission, 1951)

National Shipyards and Graving Dock (established as NDC unit, 1949; later became the National Shipyards and Heavy Industries Department of NDC; dissolved and merged with the National Shipyards and Steel Corporation, 1950)

Philippine Council for United States Aid (established, 1950, in cooperation with the U.S. Economic Cooperation Administration, later the U.S. Mutual Security Agency, since August, 1953, the U. S. Foreign Operations Administration)

National Planning Commission (established, 1950, merging National Urban Planning Commission and Capital City Planning Commission)

Price Stabilization Corporation, PRISCO (established, 1950, replacing PRATRA and absorbing the National Rice and Corn Corporation; NARIC reactivated as an independent government corporation, 1951)

National Shipyards and Steel Corporation (established, 1950, merging the following NDC units: National Shipyards and Heavy Industries, Engineer Island Shops, Steel Mill, and Repairs Tools)

Land Settlement and Development Corporation, LASEDECO (established, 1950, by merger of the National Land Settlement Administration, the Rice and Corn Production Administration, NDC, and the Machinery and Equipment Department, NDC, as an independent government corporation; abolished and replaced by the National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration, NARRA, in 1954)

Philippine Air Lines, Inc., PAL (established, 1941, replacing the Philippine Aerial Taxi Company, originally organized in 1932; reorganized, 1946; Government, through NDC, acquired majority control, 1950)

Inter-Departmental Committee on Exports (established, 1950; superseded by the Export Control Committee under the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, 1951)

Import Control Administration (established, 1950, superseding Import Control Board; licensing functions transferred to PRISCO, 1951; superseded by Import Control Commission, 1951)

Institute of Science and Technology (established, 1951, superseding the Institute of Science)

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