

# Text of Executive Order No. 229 implementing the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program

## EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 229

### PROVIDING THE MECHANISMS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM

WHEREAS, by virtue of Proclamation No. 131 dated July 22, 1987, the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program has been instituted;

WHEREAS, there is a need to provide for the mechanisms to start the implementation of the program;

WHEREAS, public hearings and consultations were held to determine appropriate mechanisms capable of being established;

NOW, THEREFORE, I CORAZON C. AQUINO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, do hereby order:

### CHAPTER I. COVERAGE

**SECTION 1. Scope.** The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) shall cover regardless of tenurial arrangement and commodity produced all public and private agricultural lands as provided in Proclamation No. 131 dated July 22, 1987, including whenever applicable in accordance with law, other lands of the public domain suitable to agriculture.

**SECTION 2. Implementation.** Land acquisition and distribution shall be implemented as provided in this Order as to all kinds of lands under the coverage of the program, subject to such priorities and reasonable retention limits as the Congress may under the Constitution prescribe, taking into account ecological, developmental, or equity considerations, and subject to the payment of just compensation.

**SECTION 3. Exemptions.** Lands actually used and found to be necessary for national defense, school sites and campuses, religious purposes, penal colonies, and government research and quarantine centers, are exempted from the coverage of the program.

**SECTION 4. Compulsory Registration.** Within one hundred eighty (180) days from the effectivity of this Order all natural and juridical persons, including government entities, owning, leasing or managing agricultural lands shall file a sworn statement in the proper Assessor's Office in the form to be prescribed by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR). This statement shall include among others, (a) the description and area of the property; (b) the estimated average gross income from the property; (c) the names of all tenants and regular farmworkers therein; (d) the crop(s) planted in the property and the area covered by each crop as of June 1, 1987; (e) the terms of mortgages, leases, and management contracts subsisting as of June 1, 1987; (f) the latest declared market value of the land as determined by the City/Provincial Assessor; and (g) a sworn declaration of the current fair market value, which the owner wishes to receive if the property should be acquired by the government for agrarian reform purposes.

If the landowner fails to register within the prescribed period, the government shall base the valuation of his property for landowner compensation purposes on the City/Provincial Assessor's value. Beginning with the quarter immediately following this registration, the real property tax payable shall be based on the above mentioned owner's declaration of current fair market value.

### CHAPTER II. PRIVATE LAND ACQUISITION

**SECTION 5. Procedure of Acquisition.** After the land, landowners, and beneficiaries shall have been identified, the DAR shall publish its decision to acquire the land and notify the landowners thereof, together with the offer of the DAR to pay for the land as provided in Section 6 hereunder.

Within fifteen (15) days from publication and notice, the landowner shall signify to the DAR his acceptance or rejection of the offer.

If the landowner accepts the offer of the DAR, the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) shall pay the landowner the purchase price of the land within fifteen (15) days after he surrenders the Certificate of Title and other relevant documents required by the DAR and the LBP.

In case of rejection or if no reply is received, the DAR shall conduct administrative summary proceedings to determine the compensation for the land, requiring the landowner, the LBP, and other interested parties to submit within fifteen (15) days from the receipt of notice, evidence as to the compensation for the land. After the expiration of the above period, the matter is deemed submitted for decision.

Within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the decision, the LBP shall establish a trust fund for the landowner concerned in the amount decided and notify the landowner and the DAR of its establishment.

Any party who disagrees with the decision may bring the matter to the proper court for determination of just compensation.

After the establishment of the trust fund or receipt by the DAR of the landowner's acceptance of the offer, the DAR shall take immediate possession of the land. Upon formal notification by the DAR, the Register of Deeds shall issue a Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT) in the name of the Republic of the Philippines as Trustee for and in behalf of qualified beneficiaries. Thereupon, the DAR shall proceed with the redistribution of the land to the qualified beneficiaries.

The rights and responsibilities of ownership by the beneficiaries commence at the time of their designation as awardees-owners by the DAR, as evidence by a Certificate of Landownership Award in their favor.

**SECTION 6. Compensation to Landowners.** The LBP shall compensate the landowner an amount to be established by the government, which shall be based on the owner's declaration of current fair market value as provided in Section 4 hereof, but subject to certain controls to be defined and promulgated by the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) as provided in Section 18 hereof. The compensation shall be paid in any of the following modes, at the option of the landowner:

- Bond payment over ten (10) years, with ten (10) percent of the value of the land payable immediately in cash and the balance in the form of LBP bonds bearing market rates of interest that are aligned with 90-day treasury bills rates, net of applicable final withholding tax. One-tenth of the face value of the bonds shall mature every year from the date of issuance until the tenth year;

The LBP bonds issued hereunder shall be eligible at face value for the purchase of government assets to be privatized;

- Direct payment in cash or kind by the farmer-beneficiaries with the terms to be mutually agreed upon by the beneficiaries and landowners and subject to the approval of the DAR; and
- Other modes of payment as may be prescribed or approved by the PARC.

**SECTION 7. Assistant to Landowners.** Landowners affected by this Order shall be assisted and provided by the LBP with the following services:

- Investment information and counselling assistance;
- Conversion and/or exchange of LBP bonds to/from government stocks and/or with government assets; and
- Marketing of LBP bonds.

### CHAPTER III. LAND TRANSFER, UTILIZATION, AND SHARING

**SECTION 8. Voluntary Land Transfer.** Landowners whose lands are subject to redistribution under this Order have the option of entering into a voluntary agreement for direct transfer of their lands to appropriate beneficiaries, under terms and conditions acceptable to both parties and

subject to the approval of the DAR. The general guidelines for voluntary land transfer are:

- The beneficiaries are determined by the DAR to be the same individuals who would be eligible to purchase the land in case the government under this Order acquired the land for resale;
- The area of land to be transferred is no less than the area which the government, under this Order, would otherwise acquire for resale;
- The terms and conditions of the government's standing offer to purchase from the landowner and standing offer to resell to the beneficiaries are fully known and understood by both parties.
- The voluntary transfer agreement shall include sanctions for non-compliance by either party and shall be binding and irrevocable for both parties, and shall be duly recorded at and monitored by the DAR.

**SECTION 9. Voluntary Offer to Sell.** The government shall purchase all agricultural lands it deems productive and suitable to farmer cultivation voluntarily offered for sale to it at a valuation determined in accordance with Section 6. Such transactions shall be exempt from the payment of capital gains tax and other taxes and fees.

**SECTION 10. Corporate Landowners.** Corporate landowners may give their workers and other qualified beneficiaries the right to purchase such proportion of the capital stock of the corporation that the land assets bear in relation to the corporation's total assets, and grant additional compensation which may be used for this purpose. The approval by the PARC of a plan for such stock distribution, and its initial implementation, shall be deemed compliance with the land distribution requirements of the CARP.

**SECTION 11. Leases, Management Contracts, Mortgages, and Claims.** Leases and management contracts on land covered by land distribution and registered with the Register of Deeds prior to the approval of this Order may continue under their original terms and conditions, but not beyond five (5) years from the effectivity of this Order; provided that upon expiration, leases and management contracts may only be renewed subject to the agreement of the qualified beneficiaries; and provided further that upon the distribution or award of the land, where the existing lease rentals are not acceptable to the qualified beneficiaries, such rentals shall be renegotiated with the assistance of the Barangay Agrarian Reform Council (BARC). If the parties fail to agree, the DAR shall determine the rental. Mortgages and other claims registered with the Register of Deeds will be assumed by the government up to the landowner's compensation value as provided for in Section 6 hereof.

**SECTION 12. Payment of Beneficiaries.** Land acquired and redistributed by the government shall be paid for by the beneficiaries in thirty (30) equal annual payments at six (6) percent per annum interest, with the first payment due one year after resale, and a two (2) percent interest rebate for amortizations paid on time, provided, that in no case shall the annual amortizations exceed ten (10) percent of the land's annual value of gross production. Should the amortization exceed ten (10) percent, the LBP shall reduce the interest rate and/or reduce the principal obligation to make the repayments affordable. Incentives shall be given for prepayments.

The LBP shall have a lien by way of mortgage on the land acquired by the beneficiary and this mortgage may be foreclosed by the LBP when the outstanding principal balance unpaid and past due reaches the equivalent of three (3) annual amortizations.

**SECTION 13. Credit Support.** Upon land transfer, each beneficiary who actually farms his land shall be eligible for a production loan to finance one crop cycle under terms and conditions to be determined by the LBP on a case to case basis, renewable upon repayment.

**SECTION 14. Collective or Individual Ownership.** For lands with multiple beneficiaries, ownership of whole parcels or estates may be transferred to the farmer-beneficiaries collectively or individually, at the option of the beneficiaries, provided, that in collective ownership, each beneficiary shall have an undivided share of the land held in common equivalent to, not more than the applicable retention limit. The beneficiaries may collectively decide on the continued operation of the parcel/estate as a whole or to subdivide the same into individual lots and determine the manner in which such subdivision is to be implemented.

**SECTION 15. Distribution and Utilization of Public Lands.** All alienable and disposable lands of the public domain suitable for agriculture and outside proclaimed settlements shall be distributed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to qualified beneficiaries as certified to jointly by the DAR and the DENR.

**SECTION 16. Production Sharing.** Individuals or entities owning and/or operating under lease agricultural lands with gross sales in excess of Five Million Pesos (P5 million) per annum are hereby mandated to execute a production sharing plan whereby at least two and one-half (2.5) percent of the gross sales from the production/cultivation of such lands are distributed as compensation to the farmworkers over and above the compensation they currently receive, provided that such individuals or entities are not obligated to pay more than 100 percent of the regular annual compensation of the farmworkers.

### CHAPTER IV. IMPLEMENTING AND COORDINATING MECHANISMS

**SECTION 17. Quasi-Judicial Powers of the DAR.** The DAR is hereby vested with quasi-judicial powers to determine and adjudicate agrarian reform matters, and shall have exclusive original jurisdiction over all matters involving implementation of agrarian reform, except those falling under the exclusive original jurisdiction of the DENR and the Department of Agriculture (DA).

The DAR shall have powers to punish for contempt and to issue subpoena, subpoena duces tecum and writs to enforce its orders or decisions.

The decisions of the DAR may, in proper cases, be appealed to the Regional Trial Courts but shall be immediately final and executory notwithstanding such appeal.

**SECTION 18. The Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC).** To coordinate the implementation of the CARP and to ensure the timely and effective delivery of the necessary support services, there is hereby created the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council composed of the President as the Chairman, and the Secretaries or Heads of the following agencies, as follows:

Department of Agrarian Reform	--	Vice Chairman
Department of Agriculture	--	Vice Chairman
Department of Environment and Natural Resources	--	Vice Chairman
Executive Secretary	--	Member
Department of Budget and Management	--	Member
Department of Finance	--	Member
Department of Justice	--	Member
Department of Labor and Employment	--	Member
Department of Local Government	--	Member
Department of Public Works and Highways	--	Member
Department of Trade & Industry	--	Member
Department of Transportation and Communications	--	Member
National Economic and Development Authority	--	Member
Land Bank of the Philippines	--	Member
Presidential Commission on Good Government	--	Member

The President shall appoint representatives of agrarian reform beneficiaries and affected landowners as members of PARC.

The DAR shall provide the Secretariat for the PARC and the Secretary of Agrarian Reform shall be the Director-General thereof.

The PARC shall formulate and/or implement the policies, rules and regulations necessary to implement each component of the CARP, and may authorize any of its members to formulate rules and regulations concerning aspects of agrarian reform falling within their area of responsibility. These policies, rules and regulations shall include the following:

- Recommended small farm economy areas, which shall be specific by crop and based on thorough technical study and evaluation;
- The schedule of acquisition and redistribution of specific agrarian reform areas, provided that such acquisition shall not be implemented until all the requirements are completed, including the first payment to the landowners concerned.
- Control mechanism for evaluating the owner's declaration of current fair market value as provided in Section 4 hereof in order to establish the government's compensation offer as provided in Section 6 hereof, taking into account current land transactions in the locality, the landowner's annual income from his land, and other factors.

PARC shall have an Executive Committee composed of the Secretary of Agrarian Reform as Chairman, and Secretaries or Heads of the following agencies as members:

Executive Secretary	
Department of Agriculture	
Department of Environment and Natural Resources	
Department of Finance	
Department of Public Works and Highways	
Land Bank of the Philippines	

Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Order, the Executive Committee of PARC shall complete a Program of implementation incorporating the physical targets, implementation schedule and support requirements of agrarian reform, and shall submit the same to the PARC for approval. Such program of implementation shall take into account, and be consistent with, priorities and retention limits that Congress may in the meantime prescribe, and the following basic policies and guidelines set forth in the Constitution:

- The CARP is founded on the right of farmers and regular farmworkers, who are

landless, to own directly or collectively, the lands they till or, in the case of other farmworkers, to receive a just share of the fruits thereof;

b. The right of small landowners shall be respected;

c. Voluntary land-sharing shall be encouraged;

d. Farmers, farmworkers, landowners, cooperatives and/or independent farmers' organizations, have the right to participate in the planning, organization, and management of the CARP;

e. In lands of the public domain, the CARP shall respect prior rights, homestead rights of small settlers, and the rights of indigenous communities to their ancestral lands;

f. Support to agriculture through appropriate technology and research, and adequate financial, production, marketing, and other support services must be provided;

g. Landowners shall be encouraged to invest the proceeds of the agrarian reform program to promote industrialization, employment creation, and privatization of public sector enterprises; and

h. At the earliest possible time, idle or abandoned agricultural lands as may be defined by law shall be expropriated for distribution to the beneficiaries of the agrarian reform program.

**SECTION 9. Barangay Agrarian Reform Council (BARC).** On matters related to agrarian reform, the DAR shall convene at the barangay level, a Barangay Agrarian Reform Council. The BARC shall be operated on a self-help basis and will be composed of the following:

- Representative/s of farmer and farmworker beneficiaries;
- Representative/s of farmer and farmworker non-beneficiaries;
- Representative/s of agricultural cooperatives;
- Representative/s of other farmer organizations;
- Representative/s of the Barangay Council;
- Representative/s of non-government organizations (NGOs);
- Representative/s of landowners;
- DA official assigned to the barangay;
- DENR official assigned to the area;
- DAR Agrarian Reform Technologist assigned to the area who shall act as the Secretary; and
- Land Bank of the Philippines representative.

The functions of the BARC shall be:

- To participate and give support to the implementation of program on agrarian reform;
- To mediate, conciliate or arbitrate agrarian conflicts and issues that are brought to it for resolution; and
- To perform such other functions that the PARC, its Executive Committee, or the DAR Secretary may delegate from time to time.

### CHAPTER V. FINANCING

**SECTION 20. Agrarian Reform Fund.** As provided in Proclamation No. 131 dated July 22, 1987, a special fund created, known as The Agrarian Reform Fund, an initial amount of FIFTY BILLION PESOS (P50 billion) to cover the estimated cost of the CARP from 1987 to 1992 which shall be sourced from the receipts of the sale of the assets of the Asset Privatization Trust (APT) and receipts of sale of ill-gotten wealth recovered through the Presidential Commission on Good Government and such other sources as government may deem appropriate. The amount collected and accruing to this special fund shall be considered automatically appropriated for the purpose authorized in this Order.

**SECTION 21. Supplemental Appropriations.** The amount of TWO BILLION SEVEN HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (P2.7 billion) is hereby appropriated to cover the supplemental requirements of the CARP for 1987, to be sourced from the receipts of the sale of ill-gotten wealth recovered through the Presidential Commission on Good Government and the proceeds from the sale of assets by the APT. The amount collected from these sources shall accrue to the Agrarian Reform Fund and shall likewise be considered automatically appropriated for the purpose authorized in this Order.

### CHAPTER VI. SANCTIONS

**SECTION 22. Permanent Disqualification.** Persons, associations, or entities who prematurely enter the land to avail themselves of the rights and benefits hereunder, shall be permanently disqualified from receiving benefits and shall forfeit their rights hereunder.

**SECTION 23. Contempt.** Persons, associations, or entities who willfully prevent or obstruct the implementation of the CARP shall be liable for contempt:

### CHAPTER VII. GENERAL PROVISIONS

**SECTION 24. Ancestral Lands.** Within the framework of national unity and development, the rights of indigenous cultural communities to their ancestral lands are hereby protected to ensure their economic, social, and cultural well-being.

**SECTION 25. Immunity of Government Agencies from Undue Interference.** No injunction, restraining order, prohibition or mandamus shall be issued by the lower courts against the DAR, the DA, the DENR and the Department of Justice in their implementation of the CARP.

**SECTION 26. Assistance of other Government Entities.** The PARC in the exercise of its functions is hereby authorized to call upon the assistance and support of other government agencies, bureaus, and offices, including government-owned or controlled corporations.

**SECTION 27. Applications of Existing Legislation.** Presidential Decree No. 27, as amended, shall continue to operate with respect to rice and corn lands, covered thereunder. The provisions of Republic Act No. 3844 and other agrarian laws not inconsistent with this Order shall have suppletory effect.

**SECTION 28. Free Registration of Patents and Titles.** All Registers of Deeds are hereby directed to register free from payment of all fees, patents, titles, and documents required in the implementation of the CARP.

**SECTION 29. Separability Clause.** If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Order shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, no other section or provision hereof shall be affected thereby.

**SECTION 30. Repealing Clause.** All laws, issuances, decrees or any part or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

**SECTION 31. Effectivity Clause.** This Executive Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippine.

APPROVED, in the City of Manila, Philippines, this 22nd day of July, 1987.

By the President:  
JOKER P. ARROYO  
Executive Secretary

## Substantive excerpts of Proclamation No. 131

### Instituting a Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program

**Section 1. Scope.** A Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) is hereby instituted which shall cover, regardless of tenurial arrangement and commodity produced, all public and private agricultural lands as provided in the Constitution, including whenever applicable in accordance with law, other lands of the public domain suitable to agriculture.

**Sec. 2. Agrarian Reform Fund.** There is hereby created a special fund, to be known as The Agrarian Reform Fund, an initial amount of P50 billion to cover the estimated cost of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program from 1987 to 1992 which shall be sourced from the receipts of the sale of the assets of the Asset Privatization Trust and receipts of sale of ill-gotten wealth received through the Presidential Commission on Good Government and such other sources as government may deem appropriate. The amounts collected and accruing to this special fund shall be considered automatically appropriated for the purpose authorized in this Proclamation.

**Sec. 3. Implementation.** The provisions for the mechanisms needed initially to implement the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program



MS. AQUINO signs the historic decree. JOSEPH BERNABE

are set forth in Executive Order No. 229, dated 22, July, 1987, which is a companion measure to this Proclamation.

**Sec. 4. Effectivity and Repealing Clause.** This Proclamation shall take effect immediately upon its approval and repeals or amends accordingly all laws, issuances, decrees or any parts thereof inconsistent with its provisions.



**It's final:**

administration candidate Michael Mastura by Faustino Ibay. The two are contesting the congressional seat for the second district of Maguindanao. The latest "still uncorrected" tally, as of July 17, has Rasul leading Enrile by only 2,768 votes: Rasul has 7,966,121 while Enrile has 7,963,353 votes. "Imagine how embarrassing it would have

**US**

Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, on the main Philippine island of Luzon. Ms. Aquino has kept silent on whether she will allow the re-

been had we proclaimed Rasul hastily," Felipe said, adding that he had immediately ordered a reapportionment of the erroneous returns so that the necessary corrections can be made. Felipe said the 17,000 votes from the towns of Barira and Kabuntalan were first entered into the canvass of the National Canvassing Center at the Philippine International Convention Center. The second entry of the same votes was made during the hearing of the petition for annulment of Mastura's proclamation by Ibay at the Comelec central office. Ibay filed the case upon learning that the returns from Barira and Buldon were not included in the original canvass.

newal of the bases' lease when it expires in 1991. A renewal must be approved by the new Congress, where opponents of the bases occupy powerful positions.

**Armacost**

passed that Michael Armacost was not seen with Imelda Marcos. They danced together in Malacanang; at Leyte they sang World War II GI ditties. He once held a parasol for her. That seemed to be the metaphor for it all. He was dubbed *Armaclose* and *Ourmarcos*, according to Raymond Bonner in his book, *Waltzing with a Dictator*.

All was to change dramatically and for Armacost painfully. The turning point was the assassination of Ninoy, and as the pervasiveness of Marcoses' corruption sank in, Armacost, erstwhile friend, became an enemy of the Marcos couple, one they could not afford to have. Armacost has always been tops — All-American college boy, scholar, accomplished pianist, top athlete in baseball (batter with the most extra base hits), in rack, golf, swimming... but best in basketball for which he was offered a scholarship in UCLA, and awarded one of the 'AA's 25th anniversary. He was Phi Beta

Kappa, a Rhodes finalist, a Fulbright scholar, a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at Columbia. Armacost, class president, learned to play the piano because he was dating a girl musician. She was also the queen of the Winter Carnival, he was the king and later they were married. Truly a Renaissance Man, Armacost was given his first ambassadorial post in the Philippines. He was close to Marcos because that was what his assignment required. That's what the Kirkpatrick doctrine was all about: support pro-American regimes, no matter how authoritarian, without naive notions of human rights.

The day after Ninoy's murder, Reagan announced that he would go ahead with his planned trip to the Philippines. Six weeks later, he canceled the visit upon advice of his domestic counselors, but he went to such lengths to make sure Marcos would not be offended: "Our friendship for you remains as warm and firm as does our feeling for the people of the Philippines."

Asked if the double entry was deliberate to ease out Enrile from the winning column, Felipe said the error was inadvertent. In another development, 25th placer Augusto "Bobbitt" Sanchez dispelled impressions that his pending petitions with the Comelec and the Supreme Court for a recount would involve all of the country's 101,551 precincts. Sanchez said in a press conference yesterday that if his petition were granted the first set of precincts to be targeted for a recount would involve only 6,000 precincts where Sanchez followers said the Sanchez votes were not properly credited to him (Bobbitt).

lite, forced smile he turned away. She persisted; he kept resisting. Finally she nuzzled closer, sticking the microphone in his face. "One hears a few groaning noises that are a bit like music — as Bosworth turns redder and redder," remembered an embassy officer. "The Americans did not want to depose Marcos, they wanted him to reform. But their emissaries simply did not get the message across forcefully: CIA Director William Casey and Senator Paul Laxalt who merely succeeded in assuring Marcos that Reagan was still his friend. But Marcos was rapidly losing control. In spite of the fact that the State Department opposed an election, on Nov. 3, 1985, Marcos dropped a bombshell on American TV. He announced a Snap election with outside observers to make sure it is fair and clean. Richard Holbrooke, now an investment banker, came back to the Philippines to advise the opposition to avoid being portrayed as anti-bases or soft on communism. Holbrooke also confused and irritated Cory

Another way of going about the recount issue, said Bobbitt Sanchez, is to credit him with Gil Sanchez's 45,854 votes which the latter ended up with despite his disqualification by the Comelec last April 8. Sanchez said that the crediting of a disqualified candidate's votes for the official candidate with the same surname was earlier upheld by the Supreme Court in a decision on a similar case. The crediting of Gil Sanchez votes would bring Bobbitt Sanchez a mere 25,000 votes away from 24th placer Enrile. Sanchez also said that the recount would cost only about P2 million.

Aquino, by talking as if he did not want her to run. The professionals in the department, Armacost, Abramowitz, James Nach, moved to convince their superiors to abandon Marcos. "The question is not whether he's corrupt or not," said a senior State official. "The question is whether he had political control. They did not ease him out because he was corrupt. They eased him out because he lost control of the country." It was Richard Green Lugar, Republican senator from Indiana, who delivered the blow to Marcos, from which there was no recovery. Lugar, leading a bipartisan US delegation to observe the election, found out that the Makati returns he witnessed were not tabulated in the Comelec, that he was being lied to. But the turning point was the dramatic moment when computer workers, weeping and tearful, walked out of the Comelec, data disks in hand, to make the charge that the election was being rigged. That was it. Lugar, friend of Reagan who was friend of Marcos,

**Repeal**

initial study made by senators and congressmen revealed there are more than 1,000 "unjust, unnecessary and irrelevant" presidential decrees, letters of instructions and general orders issued by Marcos. According to the study, Marcos issued laws that gave his cronies and close political supporters almost unlimited access and franchises to the country's natural resources and the export and import business. Through laws pur-

portedly designed to tighten national security, Marcos muzzled the legitimate rights of the political opposition, organized labor, students and other sectors of society. Laws giving Marcos limitless powers to contract foreign loans helped ruin the economy, according to the study. Pimentel said Marcos issued harsh labor laws that prevented workers from airing their legitimate grievances and curbed their constitutional right to strike. Pimentel said relaxing labor rules would not jeopardize the government's efforts to attract foreign investments. "Look at the fo-

reign companies treating their workers well. They are strike-free," Pimentel said. Senate President Jovito Salonga recently told a workshop of the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference (BBC) that repealing the "unjust" laws issued by the previous government is one of the priorities of the Senate. The Marcos-issued laws were used for political and economic repression, said Salonga. Also at the forum, Pimentel pressed for the review of the debt-repayment arranged with the country's foreign creditors and announced he plans to draft bills to help bring peace to troubled Muslim Mindanao. Pimentel is chairman of a regular committee on Mindanao problems and insurgency. Other developments related to the affairs of the legislature: Sen. John Osmena will disclose today details of the body's P182 million yearly budget. Salonga is consulting with colleagues over who will head 13 Senate committees. National and Economic Development Authority Director General Solita Monsod and key NEDA officials briefed senators on the short and long-term economic plans of the Aquino administration. Sen. Ernesto Maceda held a press conference exclusively for television reporters. "The print people shall be issued press statements," said his press office spokesman Pearlle Morales.

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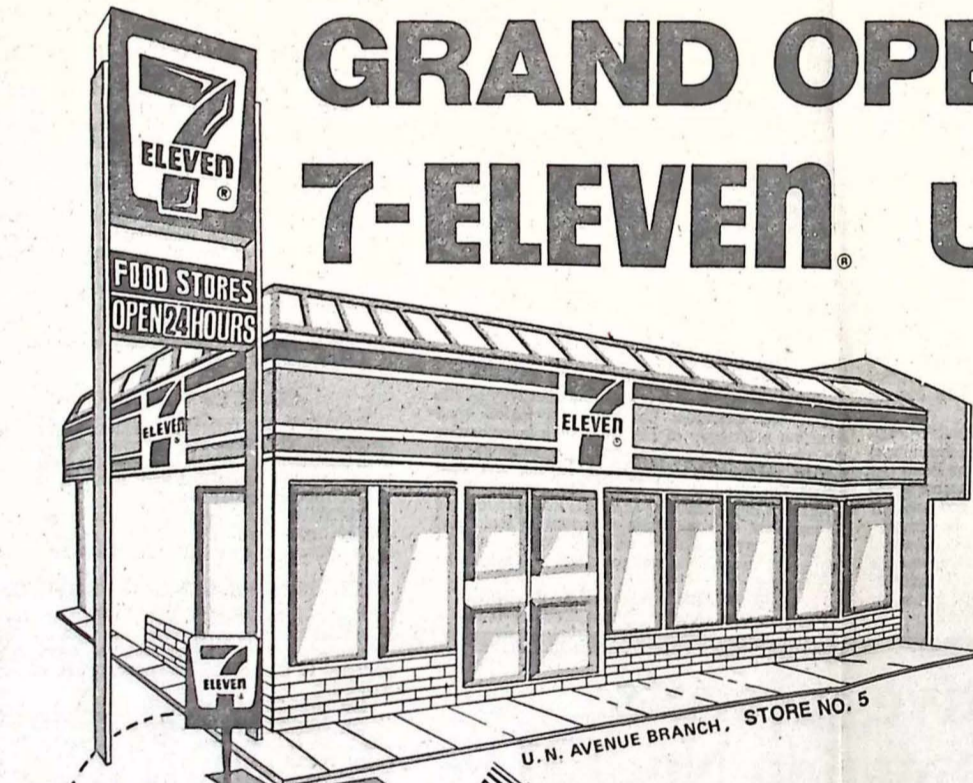
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ANTHONY GURKA is also the Marketing Director for Hong Kong, Macau, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore and Indonesia.

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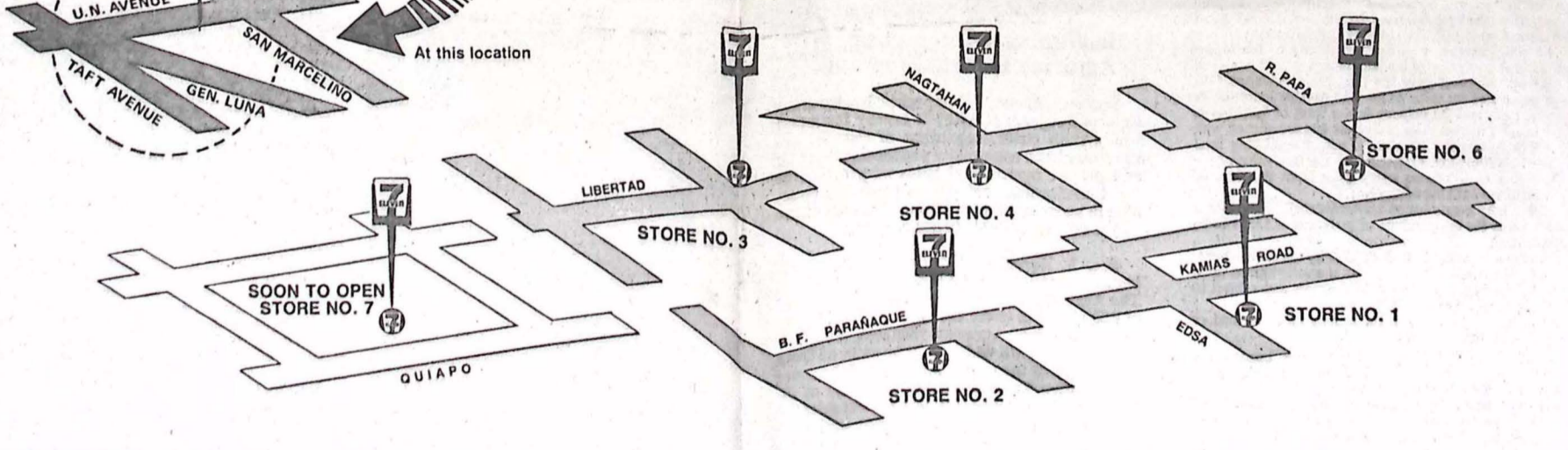
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