

ASIA COLLECTION
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII LIBRARY

AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE FILIPINO HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN NORTH AMERICA

As members of the health sector in the Philippines, we would like to share with you, the Filipino health community in North America, our deep concern over the serious and deteriorating conditions of health in our country.

Consider for example, the following indicators:

- * Infant mortality accounts for 25% of all deaths in the Philippines
- * The Philippines has the highest or one of the highest cases of TB, polio, schistosomiasis, whooping cough, diphtheria, rabies, leprosy and blindness in the world
- * Most of the causes of mortality and morbidity are communicable but preventable diseases
- * 70% of the Filipinos are malnourished with children being the hardest hit
- * 60% of Filipinos die without ever receiving any medical attention

In seeking solutions to the health problems in the Philippines, some of us have chosen to work in the deprived areas, promoting primary community-based self-reliant health care among our people. Some of us have chosen to organize among or have become leaders of health sectoral organizations struggling for decent wages and improved working conditions for health workers. All of us believe that quality health care is a basic right for all Filipinos.

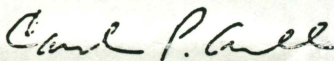
We are aware that for a variety of reasons, including low wages and unemployment, 60% of Filipino doctors and 80% of Filipino nurses are working abroad, most of them in North America. Knowing that many overseas Filipino health workers desire a more just health care system in their homeland, we ask the Filipino health sector in North America for support of our work.

This support work can come in many ways: distribution of educational materials, sponsorship of resource speakers from the Philippines or of educational fora on health and importantly, financial and material contributions for our community-based health programs and other health projects and, international solidarity with our struggles. We also recognize the need for support from the American health community. We, therefore, ask that the Filipino health sector reach out to their North American counterparts.


We will be directly coordinating our efforts with the North American-based Philippine Health and Medical Campaign (PHMC) to develop and publicize ongoing campaigns, raise funds, reproduce materials, arrange


exposure trips, itinerate speakers, etc. We invite Filipino and American health professionals to come to the Philippines under exposure trips to observe our work first hand and to study directly the health situation and the working conditions that health workers face.

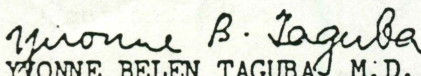
We urge all Filipino health professionals in the US and Canada to support our struggles for improved health and health care for all Filipinos by participating in the Philippine Health and Medical Campaign.

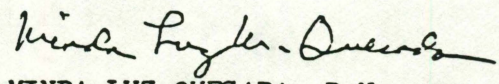

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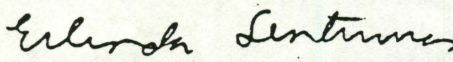

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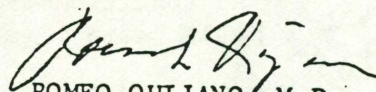

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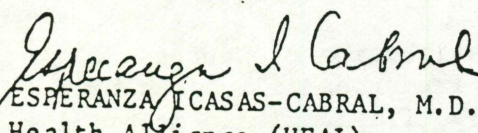

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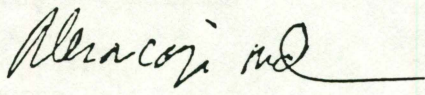

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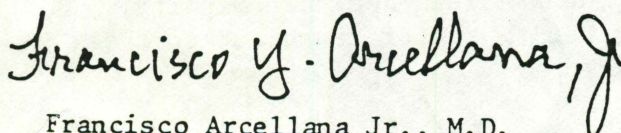

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