

## FOREWORD

The Asian Center is putting out a series of annotated bibliographies on various topics of academic interest and national issues of current concern. These bibliographies are meant primarily to assist faculty and the students in their academic pursuits. It is our hope that the public in general and government officials, policy planners and researchers in particular will find these publications as valuable sources of ready reference.

The dawning of the "computer age" has made advanced research and data retrieval an easy and even a pleasant task. The fast transmission of information through fax machines and the satellites hovering in space now provide instant linkage across continents and countries. Networks for information sharing are gradually developing among the centers of information that are within nations or across the globe such as data banks, public and private school libraries, archives, etc.

The "computer age" has dawned on us of course. It is exemplified by the presence of all brands of "peeces" in almost every office and on every table in many offices. Our own University is moving fast into a stage of total computerization. Yet, we face in our midst the paucity of such organized data and sources of information as well as the perennial problem of monumental retrieval delay. We need to reorient fast our mental make-up and our will to organize information flow and data retrieval systems to one that will enhance the research capacity and productivity of every faculty member, professional researcher, graduate student on the one hand and provide valuable assistance to decision-making in the government and private sectors on the other.

Often, we seek out such ready references as bibliographies for sources of data and information in our regular day-to-day work and especially when facing deadlines under time pressure. Recognizing the need to fill such gap, even in a modest way, in the existing research facilities in the University, the Center initiated the annotated bibliography series, their publication, and dissemination on a continuing basis. Initially, three compilations were undertaken including this one on the US Military Bases in the Philippines. The other two bibliographies are on Philippine bureaucracy and on Philippine external relations. Both are in the process of being finalized and hopefully they will be published soon.

Some time this month, the exploratory diplomatic talks between the governments of the Republic of the Philippines and the United States of America are expected to start. These talks will most likely lead to a more substantive negotiations between the two governments that will ultimately determine the future of the American military presence in the Philippines. A great deal of ideas and opinions have been expressed and written about the various issues concerning the future prospects of these military facilities beyond 1991. The contentious debate on this sensitive issue is raging on both sides of the Pacific, yet nothing

seems certain on the outcome at this stage. This public debate is likely to pick up greater momentum as the formal negotiations get underway. We therefore consider the publication of this bibliography timely. We hope that the participants in the on-going national debate, the media persons, and the officials involved in the planning and conduct of the forthcoming talks and negotiations on the military bases issue will find this modest volume a source of information.

The two compilers of this bibliography, Ms. Elizabeth T. Urgel and Miss Mamerta Caguimbal have done a creditable job in putting together complex data through careful and meticulous effort. It is a selected bibliography because it was not possible to make a comprehensive one, given the various practical considerations. It is a good start and we hope to publish a sequel to include data on the debates in the print media which are enormous and deserve to be carefully documented. We shall do it in due time.

We are aware of the drawbacks in this first attempt. We shall make the necessary improvements in the subsequent issue/s of this bibliography on the bases. We expect the readers to communicate with us their comments and observations that will help improve the publication in the future.

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## INTRODUCTION

Constituting as they do the centerpiece of Philippine-U.S. relations, the American military bases are one of the most sensitive national issues for the Filipinos. The approaching deadline in 1991 for the termination of the Military Bases Agreement heightens sense of urgency in the country's ruling circles and opinion-makers of all political persuasions. Recent initiatives by the USSR and by the Philippines' fellow-ASEAN members have also tended to give an international dimension to the bases issue. Never before in the Philippine Republic's history, in effect, have these bases been such a focal point of discussion.

It is essential that the debate be conducted intelligently and within the framework of Philippine national interests. In this regard, the inevitable questions of nationalism, external pressures and political will are certain to be brought up with greater acuity. Hence, the need to be well-informed.

As its modest contribution to the conduct of this debate, the Asian Center's Office of Research and Special Studies offers this annotated bibliography of more than 1,000 entries. While it is non-exhaustive, this work reflects a consistent desire to take into account the most serious contributions to the discussion.

In any event, we would like to think that our contribution will have helped in the search for a valid solution to the bases issue.

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