

MALACAÑANG
RESIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE PHILIPPINES
Manila

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROCLAMATION NO. 261

MAKING PUBLIC THE GENEVA CONVENTION RELATIVE TO THE TREAT-
MENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR OF AUGUST 12, 1949.

WHEREAS, the Geneva Convention Relative to the Treat-
ment of Prisoners of War of August 12, 1949, which was opened
for signature until February 12, 1950, was signed by the
authorized representatives of the Philippines and of other
countries;

WHEREAS, the Convention provides, among others, that
prisoners of war shall at all times be humanely treated and
may be interned only in premises affording every guarantee
of hygiene and healthfulness; that complete latitude in the
exercise of their religious duties, including attendance at
the services of their faith, shall be guaranteed to prison-
ers of war; that their utilization for labor purposes
although authorized shall be limited to those who are phy-
sically fit, taking into account their age, sex, rank and
physical aptitude, and with due consideration to their phy-
sical and mental health; and, that each of the parties to
the Convention shall be required to institute an official
Information Bureau for prisoners of war who are in its
power in order that a belligerent may be apprised of the
whereabouts of its missing soldiers;

WHEREAS, the present Convention replaces the Convention
of July 27, 1929, and in the relations between the
Powers which are bound by the Hague Convention relative to
the Laws and Customs of War on Land, whether that of July 29,
1899, or that of October 18, 1907, and which are parties to
the present Convention, this last Convention shall be com-
plementary to Chapter II of the Regulations annexed to the
above-mentioned Conventions of the Hague;

WHEREAS, the Senate of the Philippines, by its Resolu-
tion No. 89 adopted on May 19, 1952, concurred in the rati-
fication of the aforesaid Convention in accordance with the
Constitution of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the instrument of ratification of the Republic
of the Philippines was signed by the President on August 20,
1952, and deposited on October 6, 1952 with the Swiss Govern-
ment; and,

WHEREAS, the said Convention entered into force for the
Philippines six months after the said deposit of its instru-
ment of ratification, in accordance with Article 138 thereof;

Art. 20 Treatment of P.O.W.

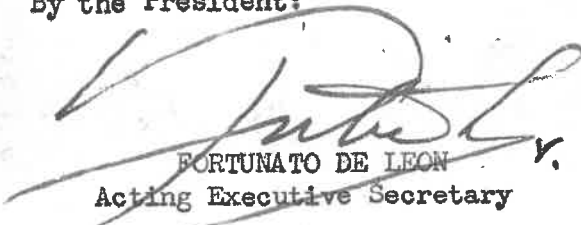
NOW, THEREFORE, be it known that I, RAMON MAGSAYSAY, President of the Philippines, do hereby proclaim and make public the said Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of August 12, 1949, a copy of which is hereto attached, to the end that the same and every article and clause thereof may be observed and fulfilled with good faith by the Republic of the Philippines and the citizens thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the seal of the Republic of the Philippines.

Done at the City of Manila, this 16th day of February, in the year of Our Lord, nineteen hundred and fifty-six, and of the Independence of the Philippines, the tenth.



By the President:



FORTUNATO DE LEON
Acting Executive Secretary