EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
Second Regular Session  

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez  

House Res No. 1220  

A RESOLUTION  
FOR CONGRESS NOT TO ALLOW THE SALE OF THE FOUR PHILIPPINE PROPERTIES IN JAPAN AND URGING THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT NOT TO SELL THE SAID PROPERTIES  

WHEREAS, under the Reparations Agreement entered into by the Philippines with Japan on May 9, 1956, the Philippines acquired from properties in Japan;  

WHEREAS, these properties are the Roppongi property, the Nampeidai Property, the Kobe Commercial Property, and the Kobe Residential Property;  

WHEREAS, there have been previous attempts to sell these properties which led to the Supreme Court of the Philippines ruling, in Laurel vs Garcia (G.R. No. 92013, July 25, 1990), that the Roppongi property is correctly classified under paragraph 2 of Article 420 of the Civil Code as property belonging to the State and intended for some public service;  

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court also ruled stated that “the Roppongi property is valuable not so much because of the inflated prices fetched by real property in Tokyo but more so because of its symbolic value to all Filipinos — veterans and civilians alike. Whether or not the Roppongi and related properties will eventually be sold is a policy determination where both the President and Congress must concur. Considering the properties' importance and value, the laws on conversion and disposition of property of public dominion must be faithfully followed” ;  

WHEREAS, it is clear in the decision of the Supreme Court that any such conveyance must be authorized and approved by a law enacted by the Congress and that it requires executive and legislative concurrence;  

WHEREAS, it now appears that there are attempts again to push for the sale of these properties solely for monetary gain, guised under the need to fund the payment of veterans’ pension;  

WHEREAS, the Honorable Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin, Jr. revealed an alleged "plot" to use proceeds from the proposed sale of these properties as a "retirement fund of last resort" for government officials "who've run through the budgets of their own agencies";  

WHEREAS, as clearly stated by the Supreme Court, the value of the Roppongi property, and by extension the 3 other properties in Japan, is its symbolic value to all Filipinos.  

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives for Congress not to allow the sale of the four Philippine properties in Japan and urging the Executive Department not to sell the said properties  

Adopted,  

RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ