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PRESS RELEASE OF 8 FEBRUARY 1994 ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PHILIPPINES

The attached text of the press release of 8 February 1994 issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines on the issue of inspections of nuclear sites in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is being circulated to Member States at the request of the Permanent Mission of the Philippines. PRESS RELEASE

PHILIPPINES CALLS FOR CONTINUED DIALOGUE ON DPRK ISSUE

Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto R. Romulo today stated that the Philippine Government supports calls for the Republic of Korea (ROK), the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), and the United States of America to continue their dialogues on the inspection of suspected nuclear sites in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Secretary Romulo made his statement amid rising pressure for international sanctions against the DPRK if it fails to allow International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections of its seven nuclear sites before a scheduled IAEA Board of Governors' meeting February 21. China, Russia and Japan have all cautioned that sanctions could drive the isolated DPRK into an unpredictable response.

The Secretary welcomed the ROK's call for calm and continued dialogue in spite of reports that DPRK had stepped up training for its ground troops and air force, as well as built up its defenses around the Yongbyon nuclear facility and underground military installations.

Secretary Romulo said that, as part of the region and as a member of the Board of Governors of the IAEA, the Philippines views with serious concern the developments in the Korean peninsula but was hopeful that a just, peaceful and meaningful resolution of the issue would be achieved. He added that the Philippines will continue to watch these developments very closely.

8 February 1994, Manila