

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

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SENATE

P.S. R. No. 982

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**INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS**

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE CLAIM OF A "GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT" INVOLVING THE ADMINISTRATION OF FORMER PRESIDENT RODRIGO DUTERTE AND THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT THAT EFFECTIVELY RESTRICTED THE FORTIFICATION OF THE BRP SIERRA MADRE IN AYUNGIN (SECOND THOMAS) SHOAL**

**WHEREAS**, on March 28, 2024, former Palace spokesperson Harry Roque bared that former Pres Rodrigo Duterte accepted a "gentleman's agreement" that would limit the resupply mission to the BRP Sierra Madre, grounded at Ayungin (Second Thomas) Shoal, to only food and water;

**WHEREAS**, by virtue of the said agreement, the Philippines effectively agreed to desist from bringing in construction materials to fortify the rusting and dilapidated Sierra Madre;

**WHEREAS**, without repairs to the BRP Sierra Madre, a World War II era warship, the vessel would soon collapse and, in the words of former Justice Antonio Carpio, "end our presence in Ayungin Shoal;"

**WHEREAS**, the National Security Council (NSC) itself, through its Assistant Director General Jonathan Malaya said that it was not aware of such an agreement and encouraged Atty. Roque to explain the circumstances of the deal and how it was brokered, considering its implications to national security;

**WHEREAS**, the NSC also stated that an agreement, if existing, "infringes and violates our sovereignty as a nation;"

**WHEREAS**, the "gentleman's agreement" would explain the relentless harassment via water cannons of our resupply missions by Chinese forces;

**WHEREAS**, if confirmed to be true, this "gentleman's agreement" would be tantamount to a surrender of the Philippines's sovereignty and, in the words of former Philippine Navy flag officer-in-command Eduardo Santos, the Navy Chief who in 1999 ordered that the BRP Sierra Madre be run aground to serve a naval outpost in the Shoal, "an act of treason;"

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the claim of a "gentleman's agreement" involving the administration of former President Rodrigo Duterte and the Chinese government that effectively restricted the fortification of the BRP Sierra Madre in Ayungin (Second Thomas) Shoal.

*Adopted,*

*Risa Hontiveros*  
**RISA HONTIVEROS**  
*Senator*