



Mr. George W. Bush
President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

2nd August 2002

Dear Mr. President,

As President of the *Association Mondiale des Amis de l'Enfance* (the World Association of Children's Friends) founded by Princess Grace of Monaco, my mother, it has been brought to my attention by our Philippine chapter that thousands of Filipino families, and more particularly Filipino children, have been affected by, and continue to be exposed to and affected by, toxic waste contamination from former U.S. military bases in the Philippines.

The Alliance for Bases Clean-up in the Philippines informs us that the operations of the American military over several decades have resulted in the leakage of waste materials and the dumping of hazardous and poisonous materials which have contaminated the aquifers and territorial lands and waters, including the former, and very large, U.S. military base at Subic Naval Base in Olongapo City and the Clark Air Force Base in Angeles City, Pampanga.

It emerges that the American military left the Philippines in 1991 without undertaking any remediation processes and without cleaning-up the contaminated waters and lands throughout these territories. In the wake of this departure until the present time tens of thousands of Filipino citizens have died from toxic waste contamination.

Pregnant women exposed to this toxic waste contamination are giving birth to children with serious defects and disabilities and a shortened life span. Hundreds of thousands of children will die within the next decade as a result of this exposure.

We are informed that Admiral Eugene Carroll, former Commanding Officer of USS Midway, (now retired), testified before an international forum that the American military under his command dumped their toxic refuse into Subic Bay and the territorial lands within the Subic Naval Base.

We are aware that U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, speaking on behalf of the American government, has admitted moral responsibility for this alarming state of affairs.

Neither *AMADE Philippines* nor the *Alliance for Bases Clean-up* wish Filipino children to continue to be born diseased and crippled as a result of this tragic failure by the American military to clean up their bases prior to their departure in 1991.

I would like to request your intervention to expedite the necessary countermeasures to redress this critical and life-threatening situation and to provide much needed humanitarian aid and compensation to the victims and their families.

May I rely on your careful examination of my request and your appreciation of the gravity of the plight of these families and their children and trust to your prompt instigation of procedures to remedy the dangerous conditions in which they are forced to live.

Yours sincerely,

The Princess of Hanover