WHEREAS, Section 1, Rule I, Part V of the POEA Rules and Regulations Governing the Recruitment and Employment of Landbased Overseas Workers provides that the Administration shall determine, formulate and review employment standards in accordance with the market development thrust and welfare objectives of the overseas employment program and the prevailing market conditions;

WHEREAS, under the present system, Overseas Filipino Workers are limited to a self insurance scheme where the OFWs are provided life and accident insurance coverage as part of the package of benefits from their contribution to the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA);

WHEREAS, there is an increasing demand for professional, skilled and semi-skilled Filipino workers to Iraq;

WHEREAS, despite the current situation in Iraq, Filipino workers have manifested their desire to be deployed to Iraq;

WHEREAS, the POEA sees the need to provide better protection to Filipino workers employed therein, through additional life and accident insurance coverage in the amount of P200,000, on top of the regular insurance coverage provided by the OWWA;

NOW, THEREFORE, the POEA Governing Board, in a meeting duly convened hereby resolves to adopt a policy requiring all employers/principals of Iraq-bound Filipino workers to provide life and accident insurance in the amount of two hundred thousand (P200,000) at no cost to the workers.

The POEA shall issue the appropriate implementing guidelines to implement the Resolution. The Guidelines shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

The POEA is further directed to conduct an immediate review of the adequacy of the insurance coverage comparable to those provided by other labor sending countries to Iraq and submit its recommendation to the Governing Board for approval.
Done in Metro Manila, this ____ day of 23rd of December 2003.

DANilo P. CRUZ
Undersecretary of Labor and Employment and
And Designated Chairman of the Governing Board

GREGORIO S. OCA
Member

ALEXIS P. CRUEL
Member

ISIDRO Q. ALIGADA
Member

GUILLERMINA T. GABOR
Member

ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ
Member