

CAIRNS COMMITMENT
ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT
CONCERNING THE NEUTRAL REGIONAL TRUCE MONITORING GROUP
(TMG) FOR BOUGAINVILLE

Recalling and reaffirming the agreements and recommendations embodied in the Burnham Truce, signed at Burnham Military Camp, New Zealand, on 10th October 1997 ("the truce");

Acknowledging with appreciation the willingness of States in the region to respond positively to the invitation to contribute personnel and other forms of support to a neutral Regional Truce Monitoring Group for the purpose of monitoring compliance with the truce; and

Committed to co-operating in ensuring respect for the letter and spirit of the Agreement establishing the Truce Monitoring Group ("the Agreement"), including legislation giving the Agreement the status of municipal law

The Parties to the Burnham Truce ("the Parties"), meeting in Cairns, Queensland, Australia, hereby declare:

1. The bodies and groups represented will

- (a) comply with the letter and spirit of the Agreement establishing the Truce Monitoring Group;
- (b) respect the mandate, the international and neutral character, and the personnel including support personnel, together with the premises, equipment, supplies and lines of communication of the Truce Monitoring Group;
- (c) ensure that the Truce Monitoring Group is safe at all times from attack, interference or hindrance;
- (d) provide all possible assistance to the Truce Monitoring Group in the performance of its mandate; and
- (e) urge all other bodies, groups and persons under their authority to do the same.
- (f) maintain consultations should the need for any supplemental arrangements to the TMG Agreement be required;

2. Consistent with the Agreement establishing the Truce Monitoring Group, the parties agree to establish the Peace Consultative Committee provided for in the Agreement in order to facilitate consultation and liaison -

- among themselves;
- through the Truce Steering Committee, including the Commander, with the Truce

Monitoring Group; and

- at the local level.

3. The parties recognise that the role of the Peace Consultative Committee is to review and assess implementation adherence by the signatories to the Truce. The Peace Consultative Committee will receive regular reports from the Truce Monitoring Group on the implementation, progress and success of the Truce. The Peace Consultative Committee will have no direct involvement in the command or the deployment decisions made by the Truce Monitoring Group;

4. The Peace Consultative Committee will have the following composition:

(a) Core members:

National Government- 3

BTG - 2

BIG - 2

BRA - 2

Resistance - 2

(b) The Chairman will be elected from among the core members.

(c) The Committee will determine its working arrangements including frequency of meetings.

5. The Peace Consultative Committee may, by unanimous consent of its members, invite representatives of other groups or bodies or person to become members.

This Commitment shall take effect as of the date of signature, and shall be reviewed when the leaders meet in January, 1998.

Signed in Cairns, Queensland, Australia, on this 24th day of November 1997.