

GRP AND MILF JOINT PRESS RELEASE

MAJOR GENERAL JOSELIN B. NAZARENO AND ATTY. LANANG ALL CHAIRMEN OF THE GRP-MILF COORDINATING COMMITTEES ON THE GENERAL CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES HELD AN URGENT MEETING TODAY, OCTOBER 21, 1997, IN COTABATO CITY IN CONNECTION WITH RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN BARIRA, BULDON, MATANOG AND ADJACENT AREAS BROUGHT ABOUT BY INCIDENTS WHICH MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT THE ONGOING PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

AFTER THE MEETING, THE GRP AND THE MILF PANELS HAVE NOTED THE MILF ASSURANCE THAT THERE WILL BE NO DEATH EXECUTION BEFORE THE NOVEMBER 12-13, 1997 GRP-MILF PEACE TALKS IN MARAWI CITY AND THE SAME ISSUE SHALL BE THE SUBJECT OF FURTHER DISCUSSION DURING THE SAID TALKS.

BOTH CHAIRMEN LIKEWISE AGREED TO REFER THE INCIDENT INVOLVING THE ATTACK AT CAMP SIONGCO, AWANG, DATU ODIN SINSUAT, MAGUINDANAO ON OCTOBER 14, 1997 TO THE INDEPENDENT FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY FR. ELISEO MERCADO, OMI FOR INQUIRY.

THE GRP AND MILF COMMITTEES ARE CLOSELY MONITORING THE SITUATION IN THE AREA WITH THE VIEW TO EASING THE TENSION THEREAT SPECIALLY IN MAGUINDANAO AND ITS ADJACENT PROVINCES. THE GRP PANEL HAS ASSURED THE MILF OF THE REPOSITIONING OF THE AFP FORCES TO ITS OCTOBER 16, 1997 POSITIONS.

THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR CONTINUING ADHERENCE TO THE SPIRIT AND INTENT OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE GENERAL CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AGREEMENT SIGNED BY THE GRP AND MILF IN CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY ON JULY 18, 1997. FURTHERMORE, THEY AGREED TO CONTINUE THE TALKS AS PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED ON NOVEMBER 12 AND 13, 1997 IN MARAWI CITY.

SIGNED IN THE CITY OF COTABATO THIS 21ST DAY OF OCTOBER, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY SEVEN.

For the GRP:


MGEN JOSELIN B. NAZARENO
GRP Panel Representative

For the MILF:


ATTY. LANANG S. ALI
MILF Panel Representative