JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

THE GRP AND MILF SUB-COMMITTEE ON CESSIONATION OF HOSTILITIES CONVISED AT THE NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY IN COTABATO CITY ON SEPTEMBER 2, 1997 TO RESOLVE THE PEACE NEGOTIATION PURSUANT TO THE AGREEMENT ON THE GENERAL CESSIONATION OF HOSTILITIES SIGNED BY THE GRP AND MILF PEACE PANELS ON JULY 18, 1997 IN CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY.

RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO FURTHER GIVE MEANING AND SUBSTANCE TO THE GENERAL CESSIONATION OF HOSTILITIES BY HASTENING THE RETURN OF THE EVACUEES IN PIKUT, NORTH COTABATO AND PAGALUNGAN, MAGUINDANAO, THE GRP-MILF SUB-COMMITTEE ON CESSIONATION OF HOSTILITIES AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. THE GRP WILL GRADUALLY REPOSITION ITS FORCES IN RAJA MUDA AND ITS ENVIRONS TO THEIR ORIGINAL POSITIONS BEFORE JUNE 15, 1997 AND WILL CONTINUE TO SECURE THE COTABATO CITY-DAVAO CITY HIGHWAY TO INSURE THE SAFETY OF TRAVELERS. THE GRADUAL REPOSITIONING OF THE GRP FORCES SHALL BE COMPLETED WITHIN FIFTEEN (15) DAYS AFTER THE SIGNING OF THIS AGREEMENT;

2. THE GRP AND MILF SHALL ENCOURAGE THE RETURN OF EVACUEES TO THEIR RESPECTIVE RESIDENCES. MILF ELEMENTS WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF THE AREA SHALL BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES IMMEDIATELY, HOWEVER, THEY WILL NOT ESTABLISH MILITARY OUTPOSTS/POSITIONS OR DISPLAY FIREARMS;

3. LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THE AFOREMENTIONED AREAS SHALL BE PRIMARILY UNDERTAKEN BY THE GRP AUTHORITIES, PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT BEFORE THE CONDUCT THEREOF, PRIOR COORDINATION/CONSULTATION SHALL BE MADE WITH THE NEAREST MILF DESIGNATED LIASON IN THE AREA.

THIS AGREEMENT SHALL TAKE EFFECT ON THE 4TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1997.

THE DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENT WHICH SHALL DEFINE THE IMPLEMENTING GROUND RULES WERE FURTHER DISCUSSIONED BY BOTH PANELS DURING THE MEETING. THE GROUND RULES SHALL BE finalized DURING THE SCHEDULED MEETING ON A LATER DATE.

DONE ON 02 SEPTEMBER 1997 AT NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY, COTABATO CITY.

For the GRP:  
For the MILF:

[Signatures]

IN THE NAME OF GOD  
THE MOST COMPASSIONATE, THE MOST BENEFICENT

IMPLEMENTING ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES OF THE GRP-MILF AGREEMENT  
ON THE GENERAL CESSIONATION OF HOSTILITIES

RULE I  
TERMS OF REFERENCE

The GRP-MILF Agreement on the General Cessionation of Hostilities (AGCH) signed on July 18, 1997 sets the terms of reference of this Implementing Guidelines and Ground Rules and the structure to implement these rules.

RULE II  
COORDINATING COMMITTEES  
AND OTHER BODIES

Sec. 1. The GRP and MILF shall each create a monitoring body to be known as the COORDINATING COMMITTEES ON CESSIONATION OF HOSTILITIES (CCCH) to implement this Administrative Guidelines.

Sec. 2. An independent fact-finding body shall be jointly created by the GRP and the MILF to make inquiries on matters referred to it for appropriate action.

Sec. 3. A coordinating body shall be jointly created by the COORDINATING COMMITTEES to be known as the GRP-MILF COORDINATING COMMITTEES SECRETARIAT.

RULE III  
COMPOSITION, MEETINGS, POWERS  
AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEES ON CESSIONATION OF HOSTILITIES

Sec. 1. The COORDINATING COMMITTEES ON CESSIONATION OF HOSTILITIES shall be initially composed of six (6) members each from the GRP and MILF, namely:

GRP
a. MDEN JOSELIN B. NAZARENO, AFP  
b. CRUFT FRANCO M. CAUDA, PNP  
c. CAPT. ROLANDO T. GARCIA, PNP  
d. COL. JUSE Q. CORALES, PA  
e. LTCOL. RUDYR. SO. PA  
f. COL. MANUEL B. BANEX, JR., JAGS

MILF
a. SULTAN SAPODENI TOMAWAS  
b. BADAWI HASHIM  
c. DAN DIMAENAL  
d. JERRY ABURAK  
e. ABU MUHAMAD PAILAWAN  
f. MILF Legal Counsel

Sec. 2. The GRP and the MILF may change their respective memberships in the CCCH upon the recommendation of their respective...