JOINT STATEMENT

THE 8TH GRP-MILF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING WAS HELD ON SEPTEMBER 12, 13, 14, 1998 AT THE DA’WAH CENTER, CROSSING SIMUAY, SULTAN KUDARAT, MAGUINDANAO.

FOLLOWING ARE THE SALIENT POINTS DISCUSSED AND AGREED AT THE MEETING:

1. THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE QUICK RESPONSE TEAM (QRT) RELATIVE TO ITS FIELD INVESTIGATION IN UPPER MINABAY, BULDON, MAGUINDANAO.

2. ADHERENCE TO THE FEBRUARY 6, 1998 AGREEMENT TO SUSTAIN THE QUEST FOR PEACE, SPECIFICALLY WITH REFERENCE TO THE REPOSITIONING OF GOVERNMENT FORCES PURSUANT TO THE FIVE KILOMETERS DISTANCE FROM BANGANAN RIVER IN UPPER MINABAY AS PROVIDED IN THE SAID AGREEMENT. THE FIVE KILOMETER DAYS FROM TODAY, THE QRT SHALL REPORT THE COMPLIANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT ON THE REPOSITIONING TO THE GRP-MILF SUB-COMMITTEE ON CESSION OF HOSTILITIES (SCCH) BEFORE ITS MEETING ON OCTOBER 6, 1998. LIKewise, THE GRP WILL GUARDS FROM UPPER MINABAY.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEES ON CESSION OF HOSTILITIES OF BOTH SIDES.

AT THE MEETING, THE MILF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE SUBMITTED A LISTING OF ITS MAJOR AND OTHER CAMPS AND AGREED TO PROVIDE THE GRP WITH THE PARAMETERS THAT THEIR RESPECTIVE SUB-COMMITTEES ON CESSION OF HOSTILITIES (SCCH) SHALT MEET ON OCTOBER 6, 1998 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE MATTER, AT A VENUE TO BE DETERMINED LATER.

THESE MATTERS WERE TAKEN UP IN ORDER TO PAVE THE WAY FOR THE SMOOTH DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE FORMAL PEACE TALKS.

BOTH SIDES AGREED TO HOLD THE NEXT EN BANC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED ON OCTOBER 22-23, 1998, AT A VENUE TO BE DETERMINED LATER.

For the GRP:

USEC ALMA R. EVANGELISTA
Chairperson, GRP Technical Committee

MGEN SANTOS B. GABISON JR.
Chairperson, GRP Sub-Committee on Cessation of Hostilities

For the MILF:

SHEIKH MONER RAJUNAID
Chairperson, MILF Technical Committee

USAMU LAYANG ALI
Chairperson, MILF Sub-Committee on Cessation of Hostilities

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2

A RESOLUTION CREATING A JOINT MONITORING CONTINGENT (JMC) TO OVERSEE THE PEACE SITUATION IN UPPER MINABAY, BULDON, MAGUINDANAO

WHEREAS, the Agreement for General Cessation of Hostilities was signed by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) on July 18, 1997 in Cagayan de Oro City;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the implementation of the February 6, 1998 Agreement, a joint meeting of the GRP-MILF Sub-Committees on Cessation of Hostilities (SCCH) was held on October 15-16, 1998 at the Da’wah Center, Crossing Simuay, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao;

WHEREAS, during the said meeting, the Quick Response Team (QRT) submitted its reports dated September 27, 1998 and October 3, 1998, regarding its discussions and findings on encounters and skirmishes between the GRP and the MILF in the Buldon area;

WHEREAS, incorporated in the aforementioned QRT Reports are recommendations addressed to the GRP and MILF intended to remove and prevent confrontational situations which may adversely affect the current momentum in the quest for a just and lasting peace in Mindanao;

NOW, THEREFORE, the GRP-MILF Sub-Committees on Cessation of Hostilities (SCCH) do hereby resolve the following:

1. The GRP shall reposition its forces by five (5) kilometers air distance from Banganan River at a reference point to be jointly established by the GRP-MILF SCCH and the QRT. The MILF shall not occupy the said vacated area.

2. The GRP shall implement paragraph 2 of the Agreement (To Sustain the Quest for Peace) entered into between the GRP and MILF on February 6, 1998 in Manawi City regarding the suspension of logging operations by Cotabato Timber Company, Incorporated (CTCI) in the vacated area.

3. The GRP and MILF shall establish a Joint Monitoring Contingent (JMC) at Sultan Base, Upper Minabay, Buldon, Maguindanao composed of twenty-three (23) personnel each from the GRP and the MILF to be selected by the QRT. Furthermore, the QRT shall