

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 21ST GRP-MILF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

The 21st GRP-MILF Technical Committee Meeting was held on March 6 to 7, 2000 at the Estosan Garden Hotel, Cotabato City.

1. At the meeting, it was agreed that respective Technical Working Groups (TWGs) shall be immediately organized according to the six (6) clusters of agenda items presented by the MILF. Each TWG shall be composed of one (1) Chairman, four (4) Members, and one (1) Secretary. The TWGs shall prepare their respective position papers on their assigned agenda items which shall serve as the bases of their discussions to establish points of consensus. Contentious points shall be elevated for discussion at the Technical Committee level before submission to the Peace Panels.
2. Both sides agreed to hold a joint meeting of their respective TWGs on 27 March 2000 to establish specific procedures and to adopt a timetable to complete their tasks. It has been agreed that these tasks should be completed within one (1) to two (2) months from the date of the initial joint meeting (see attached Timetable).
3. At the Technical Committee meeting it was also agreed that the MILF proposals for an Agreement on Safety and Security Guarantees and for a Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Laws shall be discussed by the Peace Panels during its 3rd Round of Formal Talks on 8-9 March 2000.
4. The Technical Committees took note of Joint Resolution No. 001, Series of 2000, from the Coordinating Committees on Cessation of Hostilities (CCHs), Independent Fact-Finding Committee (IFFC), and Quick Response Team (QRT) and adopted Recommendation No. 4 of the resolution, stating the following: "That the members of the three bodies, as far as it is applicable, be allowed to attend formal meetings of the Peace Panels, subject to the pleasure of the Chairmen or the nature of the matters taken during meetings."

Done this 7th day of March 2000 at the Estosan Garden Hotel, Cotabato City.

FOR THE GRP:


EDIR. ALMA R. EVANGELISTA
Chairperson, GRP Technical Committee

FOR THE MILF:


PROF. MONER M. BAJUNAID
Chairperson, MILF Technical Committee