

duce, and representation in the people's councils and other decision-making bodies.

2. *Lands under TNC control.* All lands currently under the control of transnational corporations must revert back to Filipinos and their ownership and management transferred collectively to the direct producers.

3. *Fisheries.* Small fisherfolk must be assured of greater access to and management over water resources.

4. *Lands of Indigenous Communities.* In line with the concept of self-determination and autonomy, the systems of landownership and land use and modes of settling disputes of all indigenous communities must be recognized and respected.

5. *Logging and mining concessions and pasture lands.* Suitable areas in logging, mining and pasture areas must be opened up for agrarian settlements whose beneficiaries will be required to undertake reforestation and conservation production methods.

#### IX. Administrative Structures and Mechanisms

There are three key actors in agrarian reform, namely (a) the government; (b) the People's Agrarian Reform Councils (PARC); and (c) non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

To ensure the success of agrarian reform, the three

actors must have their own distinct structures independent of each other. The appropriate mode of interface shall be mutually worked out at all levels

#### X. Funding

The guiding principle on agrarian reform funding is the use of local resources in implementing agrarian reform. At the same time, no additional burdens must be imposed on the Filipino people such as increased taxes or through resulting inflationary effects.

#### XI. Transitory Measures

1. All laws, executive issuances, rules, and regulations inconsistent with the principles and accompanying policies of agrarian reform must be repealed.

2. Safeguards and corresponding penalties must be instituted against pre-emptive actions by landowners or other parties to defeat the purposes and intent of agrarian reform.

3. In areas where, for administrative reasons land transfer cannot be immediately undertaken, a drastic and substantial reduction in land rents must be carried out. In farms under wage labor, substantial wage increases as well as safeguards for the protection of the rights of workers must be instituted.

# NDF's Withdrawal from the Ceasefire Negotiations

The Government Negotiating Panel  
Attention: Mr. Teofisto Guingona Jr.  
AIT Building, M. Marcos Avenue  
Quezon City

Subject: withdrawal from the peace negotiations

Sirs:

This is to inform you that the National Democratic Front Negotiating Panel, in consonance with the decision of its principals, is formally withdrawing from the peace negotiations. Under present circumstances, continuing the talks would be an exercise in futility.

We had started out with the hope that the negotiations would eventually unite our two sides in a common pursuit of durable and just peace. But the developments that intervened between then and now have clearly drawn the line that divides the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front.

The 60-day preliminary ceasefire agreement which we signed, hoping that it would establish good faith and mutual trust, only engendered further distrust and animosity because the Armed Forces of the Philippines acted in bad faith from the very beginning.

Because the GRP has not deigned to act on our three formal and documented protests over the AFP's bad faith

and fundamental breach of agreement, we cannot find any justification for extending the ceasefire that ends on February 8, 1987.

More importantly, we cannot find justification to resume the peace negotiations because, according to your public pronouncements, you are asking the NDF to "compromise" and submit to your condition that the negotiations be limited to the framework of the 1986 Constitution. This condition violates the original premise of the negotiations to address the root causes of the popular armed resistance.

Notwithstanding the majority "Yes" votes on February 2 - acknowledged by most quarters as more an endorsement of President Aquino than of the draft charter - this constitution remains, to us, a document that essentially preserves the interests of US imperialism and the traditional local elite, whose domination precisely lies at the root of the popular armed resistance. For the NDF to use the 1986 Constitution as the framework for the negotiations towards a political settlement, therefore, would be to betray the basic interests and the revolutionary gains of the Filipino people.

Additionally, the GRP is determined to launch on February 25 its P2.1-billion "rebel-returnee rehabilitation program" which we rejected when you first put it forward as part of your agenda for the substantive discussions. What then, is there to negotiate on this matter?

Sadly, sirs, we have come to the conclusion that the GRP, no matter its persistent avowal of wanting to pursue the peace negotiations, is not serious about negotiating a durable and just peace. As far as we can see, the GRP aims merely to set back politically - and to cripple militarily - the revolutionary movement by means of surface or peripheral reforms that do not disturb the unjust socio-economic and political structures keeping our people poor and oppressed.

For as long as this remains the GRP's objective, for as long as this remains its concept of peace, there can be no ground for negotiation. And there can be no genuine peace.

As you urge us to reassess the situation and our position, we urge you to do the same seriously. We hope that eventually you shall come to share our point of view. Then we shall be eager to talk again.

Accept, sirs, our warmest personal greetings.

Very truly yours,

SATUR C. OCAMPO  
ANTONIO ZUMEL  
RODOLFO C. SALAS

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## BULLETIN

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