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 trans-
ferred 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 res-
pected.
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 pro-
duction 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 mutual-
ly 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   agrarian reform must be repealed.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 nego-
tiations. 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 designed to sit 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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