



PRESS STATEMENT
On the outcome of the meeting of the
Commission on Security Arrangements (COSA)
Banda Aceh, 24 November 2005

Congratulating the parties on the continuing steady progress, the Head of the Aceh Monitoring Mission today chaired the 20th meeting of the Commission on Security Arrangements (COSA).

Delegations from Government of Indonesia and GAM attended. The GoI mission was headed by Gen. Bambang Darmono. The GAM delegation was led by Mr. Irwandi Yusuf.

The parties congratulated each other with the progress in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and all parties were strongly motivated to continue the peace process in the spirit of the Helsinki agreement.

Head of Mission, Pieter Feith, was pleased to report that the third phase of the decommissioning in Aceh was successfully completed on 22nd November. With the completion of the third phase, GAM has handed over a total number of 856 weapons, of which Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) accepted 698 weapons. Whilst 67 weapons are disputed, the total number of accepted weapons has now reached 631. This means that all parties agree that GAM has fulfilled its commitment for weapons collections in November. The fourth and final decommissioning will take place in December, where GAM will hand over the rest of their weapons to AMM.

By 23 November the Government of Indonesia had withdrawn 4108 military troops as part of phase three. A total of 5596 troops and 1350 police / Brimob are scheduled to leave during this phase.

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All parties are strongly committed to the planning of the final fourth phase of decommissioning and relocation in December. They agreed that an early solution has to be found with regard to the weapons disputed by the GoI.

Government of Indonesia and GAM have successfully completed the distribution of the second instalment of economic facilitation for the 3,000 former combatants. On October 31st, the Governor of Aceh transferred a total of three billion Rupiah to 15 locations in Aceh. Each district head then transferred the money to GAM commanders. AMM district offices monitored the transactions. However in a few areas it took longer time than expected to finish the transaction. The parties will continue discussions about modalities and timeframe for the third instalment of Economic Facilitation Packages in order to optimize the process. These arrangements should include registration of former GAM fighters who are willing to do so.

The parties are making progress in the work related to disputed Amnesty cases and will continue discussions.

GAM representatives confirmed that the 4th December commemoration will be conducted in a peaceful manner in conformity with the Helsinki MoU.

The next meeting will take place Wednesday 30th November 2005 at 10.00 am.

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