

**Speech by AMM Head of Mission
At
Last Weapon Ceremony**

**Blang Padang sports field, Banda Aceh
21 December 2005**

First of all I would like to welcome the Governor of Aceh, the Kodam Commander, representatives of the Government of Indonesia, Kapolda, the Speaker of DPRD and the Rektor of Syiah Kuala University.

I would also like to welcome the Thai Defence Chief, General Songkitti, who is here with us today, as well as representatives of GAM: Mr. Yusuf Irwandi, Mr. Bakthiar Abdullah, Mr. Munawarliza Zain and Mr. Kamaruzzaman.

You are all welcome to the Blang Padang sports field which is where we started with decommissioning on 15 September 2005.

The Helsinki MoU has clear targets and timelines. Numbers are not really as important as the process of confidence building and reconciliation. Nevertheless, AMM certifies that 840 qualified weapons have been handed in by GAM.

In addition, we have received written confirmation from the GAM leadership that, in accordance with article 4.3 of the MoU, all arms, ammunitions and explosives held by the participants of GAM activities have been decommissioned.

The letter is now in the hands of the Government of Indonesia. Therefore, there should be no more speculation or negative comments: GAM has complied with its decommissioning commitments, and no controversy should cloud the important step that has been taken towards reconciliation and reconstruction.

When I met the President of Indonesia in July, he suggested that we store the decommissioned weapons with 3 keys – one for the Government of Indonesia, one for AMM and one for GAM. I suggested that it would be better to destroy the weapons – publicly – so that the people could witness it, gain confidence and feel more secure.

I would like to congratulate GAM for complying with its commitments, and in particular Mr Irwandi for taking bold steps and managing the process.

I would also like to congratulate the Government of Indonesia for its constructive and long-term approach to this process by overstepping the issue of disputed weapons.

In addition, I would like to congratulate the decommissioners: General Jaakko Oksanen (DHoM), General Kalle Liesienin (Chief Decommissioning) and the four Team Leaders of the Mobile Decommissioning Teams - Mr. Bror Gevelt from Norway, Mr. Raimo Tapio Rastas from Finland, Mr. David Sexton from Ireland and Mr. Chaiyo Rodthong from Thailand – for their professional, neutral and good-humoured commitment to the AMM objectives.

This afternoon there will be a medal parade at AMM headquarters where your contribution will be recognised.

I wish you a safe journey home – and for Finns in particular: God Jul! [Merry Christmas in Swedish/Finnish]

Thank you.