

PRESS RELEASE

Department of Foreign Affairs

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Office of the President

PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON THE VISITING FORCES AGREEMENT

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CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS AFTER RECEIVING REPORTS OF THE INCIDENT AND THE CORRESPONDING ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION

14 NOVEMBER 2005, MONDAY

1400H The Commission received the initial report of DSWD which highlight the activities undertaken by their representatives

10 NOVEMBER 2005, THURSDAY

0930H Undersecretary Paredes, together with three other staff of the VFA Commission met with the six US servicemen who are facing charges of rape.

Undersecretary Paredes stressed the Philippine Government's resolve to pursue the case with vigor and ensure that justice will be done in accordance with Philippine laws and treaty obligations.

1000H Undersecretary met with US Charge d' Affaires Paul Jones who assured the Commission that the US Government will cooperate with Philippine authorities.

1100H The Commission sent a Memorandum for the Chairman informing him of the visit, and reiterating the Commission's position to secure under Philippine authorities the custody of the six US personnel.

1500H The Commission issued a press statement assuring the public that the six suspects are still in Philippine territory.

09 NOVEMBER 2005. WEDNESDAY

1100H A letter requesting for transportation assistance from DND

08 NOVEMBER 2005, TUESDAY

0800H The Commission received additional documents from the IIO: Memorandum for Preliminary Investigation, Sworn Statements of witnesses, Evidence/Property Custody Receipt, and, Photographs of the evidences.

- 1000H** A memorandum was sent to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Commission to inform him of the Commission's actions.
- 1100H** Usec. Paredes met with Fiscal Prudencio Jalandoni and General Calimlim.
- 1700H** Usec. Paredes met with SBMA Chairman Feliciano Salonga.
- 1800H** Subpoena, through DipNote No.05-2579 was delivered to the US Embassy.

07 NOVEMBER 2005. MONDAY

- 1000H** The Commission sent a letter to the SBMA urging Chairman Salonga to safeguard the victim from unnecessary interviews.
- 1430H** Acting Secretary Rafael Seguis convened a meeting with the Executive Director of the VFA, and other DFA officers.
- A press statement was released.
- 1700H** Usec. Zosimo Jesus Paredes II went to SBMA to meet with Administrator Arreza, the DSWD representatives and the officers of the IIO.
- 2100H** Usec. Paredes presided over the meeting in SBMA and met the victim afterwards.

04 NOVEMBER 2005, FRIDAY

- 1100H** Usec. Zosimo Jesus Paredes met with Secretary Ermita to discuss case. Secretary Ermita enjoined the Commission to formulate a media plan.
- 1700H** The Commission communicated with DSWD. It was agreed that the victim must be protected from unnecessary interviews. A letter to the SBMA Chairman was drafted

03 NOVEMBER 2005, THURSDAY

- 0100H** The Commission received verbal reports from the US Embassy that a Filipina filed a rape complaint against six US servicemen in SBMA.
- 0700H** The Commission initiated contact with the SBMA who confirmed that indeed there was a rape complaint filed against five US servicemen.
- The Commission requested for a fax copy of the Spot Report by the SBMA Intelligence and Investigation Office (IIO).
- 0800H** The Commission discussed the case with legal officers of the DFA legal office.
- It was gleaned from the provisions of the VFA on Criminal Jurisdiction that the Philippines have the right to custody **unless** the United States requests for custody.
- 1030H** The Commission received the Spot Report from the IIO. The Commission immediately sent its initial report for H.E. the President to inform her of the incident and to recommend that Philippine authorities should assert full

jurisdiction and custody until the Philippine government receive and approves the request of the US Embassy.

As well, the Commission, through separate memoranda informed the Chairmen of the Commission - Secretaries of Foreign Affairs and National Defense, that a Filipina file a rape complaint against five U.S. servicemen.

1200H The Commission received copies of the criminal complaint, medico-legal examination, and sworn statements of the complainant and the witnesses. The Commission gave copies to the Office of the Secretary.

1500H The Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Commission released a press statement on the alleged rape case.

1400H The Commission received a report from SBMA that the DSWD officers arrived at SBMA to provide counseling to the victim and her family.

END.