

October 15, 1997

**AGREEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT COMMISSION
FOR BILATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE UNION OF MYANMAR**

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Union of Myanmar, hereinafter referred to as the "Contracting Parties";

DESIROUS of expanding and enhancing bilateral relations and cooperation on a lasting and long term basis;

CONVINCED of the necessity of lasting and effective cooperation in the interests of both countries;

CONFIRMING their interests in the strengthening of bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries; and

GUIDED by the desire to strengthen the existing friendly relations and to promote the expansion of bilateral cooperation between the two countries based on the principles of equality, mutual benefit and full respect of sovereignty;

HAVE AGREED as follows:

ARTICLE I

The Contracting Parties shall establish a Joint Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission") to facilitate consultation and cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the economic, trade, social, cultural and other fields of mutual interest.

ARTICLE II

The Commission shall consider ways and means to promote consultation and cooperation and to ensure the proper coordination and implementation of its decisions

ARTICLE III

The Commission shall be at the level of Foreign Minister and its composition shall be determined by the Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE IV

The Commission shall determine its rules and procedures and may establish working groups to deal with specific subjects brought before it.

ARTICLE V

The Commission shall meet once a year or at the request of either Contracting Party at any time mutually agreed, alternately in the Republic of the Philippines and in the Union of Myanmar. The meeting of the Commission may be preceded by a meeting at Senior Officials level.