

Our National Security Strategy

A Reference Paper prepared by the Office of the National Security Adviser and the National Security Council Secretariat

September 1999

Restricted: For Official Use Only



The President on National Security

“The Philippines will continue to view national security not only in terms of the traditional concerns over territorial integrity and external peace. Our way of life, our fundamental values and our institutions can flourish and find true expression only if we enjoy socio-political stability, cultural cohesiveness, moral consensus, economic solidarity and ecological balance, at home and with our partners in the world.”

President Joseph E. Estrada's policy statement at the Opening Ceremonies of the 31st ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Manila, July 24, 1998



Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
National Security Council

Preface

This document, entitled: "Our National Security Strategy," is a reference paper prepared by the Office of the National Security Adviser (NSA) and the National Security Council (NSC) Secretariat as a tool for policy-making and information-enhancement among the departments, agencies and instrumentalities of the Government.

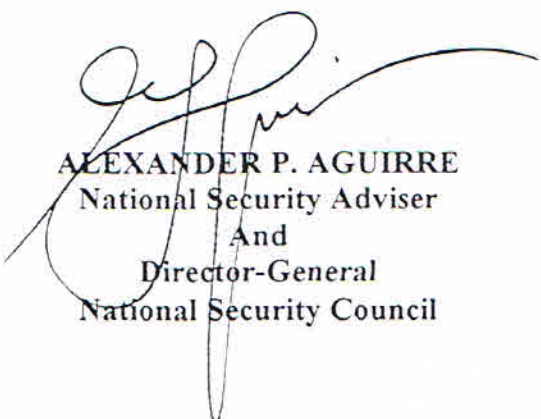
The document presents the nature and impact of current national security issues and concerns vis-a-vis the strategies and policies of the Government within the emerging realities of a globalized milieu. In turn, these strategies and policies are drawn from the letter and spirit of the Constitution and relevant laws impinging upon our national security, Presidential statements and issuances, declassified National Security Council decisions and Cabinet Cluster "E" proceedings as well as unclassified or open official papers dealing in defense, law and order, and various political and socioeconomic programs.

The need for this document arises from two important reasons.

The first is the growing complexity of the meaning of national security in terms of internal and external threats. The confluence of increasing domestic pressures and the specter of globalization has given rise to new variables impinging upon our political and socioeconomic stability, of which we in Government must be informed.

The second is to hopefully establish, through on-the-job study and active discussion among our public officials and employees, an enlightened approach to national security that is as clear and comprehensive as possible. The multifaceted nature of national security problems demands broad, multidisciplinary and effectively coordinated solutions.

It is anticipated that by generating broader awareness of our national security strategy within the Government, this paper will enrich our innate vision and capability to work with the people in resolving the formidable challenges ahead in the road to the next millennium. We must constantly aim for greater teamwork for national security.



ALEXANDER P. AGUIRRE
National Security Adviser
And
Director-General
National Security Council

What are the strategies embodied in this paradigm?	11
<i>Socioeconomic</i>	
Poverty eradication	
Global competitiveness	
<i>Angat Pinoy 2004</i>	
Agricultural modernization	
Agrarian reform	
Human resource development	
<i>Political</i>	
Constitutional reform	
Good government	
Communication Program	
Executive-legislative partnership	
Peace process	
Muslim Autonomy	
Enlightened Democracy	
<i>Defense-law enforcement</i>	
Self-reliance	
Citizen-based	
External defense	
Internal security	
Crisis Management	
AFP modernization and professionalization	
Anti-crime campaign	
Law enforcement alliances	
What are our most important security concerns today?	20
<i>Peace process with MILF</i>	
<i>CPP-NPA-NDF</i>	
<i>Illegal drugs</i>	
<i>Poverty eradication</i>	
<i>Graft and corruption</i>	
<i>Disaster mitigation</i>	
<i>RP Interests in KIG/EEZ</i>	
<i>Y2K readiness and contingency planning</i>	
<i>Other crisis situations</i>	
The mandates of the Constitution	23
<i>Popular sovereignty</i>	
<i>Definition of national territory</i>	
<i>Renunciation of war</i>	
<i>Supremacy of civilian authority</i>	
<i>Armed Forces as protector of the people and state</i>	
<i>Independent foreign policy</i>	
<i>Freedom from nuclear weapons</i>	
<i>Citizen army</i>	
<i>One police force</i>	
Conclusion	23

Diagrammatic ANNEXES

Annex A: Our National Security Paradigm

Annex B: National Security Framework, 1999-2004

Our National Security Strategy

"I am pleased to report that our nation is rising, growing and strengthening."

President Joseph E. Estrada¹

Introduction

We live in a world of rapid change and dynamism, a world fraught with uncertainty and opportunity, of progress for some and poverty for many. Few nations are spared from internal tensions or open conflict arising from economic disparities or ethno-religious discord; almost all are under some degree of threat from transnational crime and terrorism. This unpredictable milieu commands our close vigilance, and infuses our everyday decisions with complex and seemingly disparate, yet ultimately interwoven variables in the political and socioeconomic environment. It impels us to be more global in our approach, even as we have to face domestic pressures.

Nowhere are these imperatives more compelling than in the field of our national security, which we must now view not only in terms of the traditional concerns over territorial integrity and external peace, but in terms of our way of life, our fundamental values and our institutions. "For these can flourish and find true expression, only if we enjoy socio-political stability, cultural cohesiveness, moral consensus, economic solidarity, and ecological balance, at home and with our partners in the world. Our national security demands that we actively advance the internationally-shared goals of freedom, openness, peace, prosperity, and justice".²

¹ State of the Nation Address (SONA) before Congress, July 26, 1999

² President Joseph E. Estrada: Speech before the 31st ASEAN Ministerial Meeting: Manila: July 24, 1998

What is our national security?

It is high time for every Filipino to think of the relevance of his everyday life in terms of our national security. This awareness must be developed in our schools, in our homes and in our places of work. It must enable us to grasp the reality that our national security is no longer the sole concern of Government, but the common concern of all Filipinos, here and abroad.

Our national security is a state or condition where our most cherished values and beliefs, our democratic way of life, our institutions of governance and our unity, welfare and well-being as a nation and people are permanently protected and continuously enhanced.

There are **seven fundamental elements** that lie at the core of, and therefore further amplify our definition of national security. At the same time, they constitute the most important challenges we face as a nation and people.

The first and foremost element is **socio-political stability**. We must achieve peace and harmony among all Filipinos, regardless of creed, ethnic origin or social station. The government and the people must engage in nation-building under the rule of law, Constitutional democracy and the full respect for human rights.

The second is **territorial integrity**. We must ensure the permanent inviolability of our national territory and its effective control by the Government and the State. This includes the preservation of our country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and its protection from illegal incursions and resource exploitation.

The third is **economic solidarity and strength**. We must vigorously pursue a free-market economy through responsible entrepreneurship based on social conscience, respect for the dignity of labor and concern for the public interest. We must perpetuate an economic regime where the

people take command of their own lives, their livelihood and their economic destiny.

The fourth is **ecological balance**. National survival rests upon the effective conservation of our natural environment in the face of industrial and agricultural expansion and population growth. We must promote sustainable development side by side with social justice.

The fifth is **cultural cohesiveness**. Our lives as a people must be ruled by a common set of values and beliefs grounded on high moral and ethical standards, drawn from our heritage and embodying a Filipino identity transcending religious, ethnic and linguistic differences.

The sixth is **moral-spiritual consensus**. We must be propelled by a national vision inspired, and manifested in our words and deeds, by patriotism, national pride and the advancement of national goals and objectives.

The seventh is **external peace**. We must pursue constructive and cordial relations with all nations and peoples, even as our nation itself must chart an independent course, free from external control, interference or threat of aggression.

Our National Security Environment

Our national security environment is infused with four important dimensions. **Internal threats to our national security** make up the *first dimension*.

The main internal threat arises from the **Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)** which, in open rebellion against the government, has the avowed objective of establishing an independent Islamic state in southern Philippines. While the government has engaged the MILF in constructive peace negotiations, the armed activities of the group continue to be a source of serious concern, particularly the build-up of its defensive and offensive capabilities. Hopefully, the peace negotiations

would succeed in persuading the MILF and allied groups to join the autonomy within the framework of the Republic. Hand in hand with this security problem is the threat from the **Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG)**, a small band of highly mobile terrorists with suspected links to international networks.

The Communist Party of the Philippines/New Peoples' Army/National Democratic Front (CPP/NPA/NDF) continue to pose a serious threat to national security, although presently weakened in comparison with their peak strength in the 1985-87 period. During the past two years, there has been an incipient increase of underground activities in the urban areas and a slight upward trend in isolated terrorist acts in the countryside.

Organized crime is a national security concern. The challenge of illegal drugs, in particular, has grown into a major threat to the national community. Of the 42,979 barangays nationwide, about 12 per cent are affected in varying degrees. The anti-drug campaign is a major cornerstone of the government's law and order drive, involving the police, the Local Government Units and the private sector, and focusing on a tripartite strategy of reducing drug supply and demand as well domestic and international cooperation. Drug use among the youth has risen alarmingly over the past three years. The national crime rate is also exacerbated by the drug trade, which involves a number of crime syndicates.

Grave incidence of poverty is also a serious threat to national security, especially to the extent that it breeds and abets rebellion, crime and dissidence. Poverty incidence affects about one-third of Filipino families nationwide. Consequently, the distribution of wealth has been skewed in favor of a wealthy minority.

Economic sabotage undermines the market economy, the financial system and the nation's resources.

Under this category are underground activities such as counterfeiting, money laundering, large-scale smuggling, inter-oceanic poaching and commercial dumping. This is being met through vigilant economic intelligence and the strict enforcement of maritime and trade laws.

Graft and corruption has become another threat to our national security by virtue of the huge scale by which it saps public resources, undermines the morale of the civil service and affects the delivery of quality basic services. It has also become a disincentive to investment. The Estrada administration has waged a vigorous campaign against graft at all levels in line with the dictum that every peso stolen from the public coffers is a peso withheld from the upliftment of the poor.

Severe calamities cause serious food shortages, abet hoarding and profiteering and cause hunger, disease and deprivation. Over the past ten years, the disaster toll stands at more than 13,000 lives lost and P179 Billion worth of property destroyed. The National Disaster Coordinating Center (NDCC) ensures the focused, coordinated and systematic application of government and private manpower and resources to the tasks of disaster mitigation, and community rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Persistent environmental degradation poses a long-term security threat. The attrition of forests and watersheds, air-land-water pollution and the proliferation of toxic substances are a cause of sickness, death and the diminution of national productivity and well-being. Environmental protection has assumed a high priority in defense and law enforcement concerns and is an institutional area of emphasis in the educational system.

The growing uncertainties that lie in the regional and global milieu make up the *second dimension* of our national security environment, even as the threat of external aggression against our country remains in the remote horizon.

The multilateral dispute over the Spratlys Islands is a source of intermittent tensions, owing to the buildup of structures, believed to be militarily-oriented, by some claimant countries in the area. This is a clear encroachment into the Philippine EEZ which is being met through a comprehensive package of diplomatic measures.

The smuggling of firearms and contraband, illegal migration and the occasional movement of foreign terrorists through the porous borders of our southwestern frontier have elicited transnational concern. Philippine law enforcement agencies work closely with international police organizations, bilaterally and multilaterally, to check these activities.

The lingering effects of the currency crisis affecting the countries within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are a cause of regional anxieties, which tend to aggravate political instabilities and socio-economic dislocations involving the poorest peoples.

The conflict in the Korean peninsula, the India-Pakistan nuclear race and tensions in the Taiwan strait generate anxieties that have spilled over the entire Asian neighborhood.

The serious economic disparity between rich and poor nations keeps the world in a state of instability and virtually on the brink of war in many places. Local or regional shortages of fresh water, arable land, food, fisheries, and energy are already causing tensions.

Ethnic, religious and cultural conflict pervades many regions and nations, including our own. It is constantly exacerbated by mass poverty, limited access to resources, denial of human rights, lack of national integration and international issues.

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) is a threat to global security. Nuclear materials and technologies are more accessible now than at any other time in history. The relative ease of production of both chemical and biological weapons has made these attractive to terrorists.

Transnational organized crime has proliferated in the era of globalization. The International Monetary Fund estimates that global drug trafficking now accounts for two percent of the world economy, excluding illicit capital flight and money-laundering activity. There are links among drug trafficking, terrorism, smuggling of illegal aliens, massive financial and bank fraud, arms smuggling and political corruption.

Natural disasters and environmental issues will continue to pervade the global security agenda. Mankind's global activities - particularly population growth, resource consumption, pollution, urbanization, industrialization, desertification and deforestation - will increasingly impact on climate and weather patterns, strain fragile ecosystems, and put more pressure on health and social support systems.

Cybernetic crime is a growing global threat, as experienced with computer viruses such as *Melissa* and *Chernobyl*, which have attacked isolated or networked information systems through the internet or through software carriers and devices. Many vital decision-making processes of our Government are now electronically-based and therefore vulnerable to this threat.

The Y2K phenomenon is also a corollary problem which threatens to destabilize information systems in the advent of the year 2000 due to an inherent flaw in current computer operating systems. While the problem has been largely contained in the country, the computerized systems that may fail as a result of the

millennium bug could affect the community, the same way that natural or man-made disasters affect people. The Y2K problem could possibly cause disruptions in our community life and in some critical sectors such as banking and finance, food production and distribution, health care, telecommunications, public service and utilities. These may impact on our normal way of life and our source of livelihood, and may cause inconveniences to the public.

The imperative of a longer planning horizon to safeguard our most vital interests make up the *third dimension* of our national security environment. The multiplicity of threats demand **integrated solutions** that take time to formulate and to validate in terms of their viability and cost-effectiveness. The resources we need are severely limited, impelling **graduated implementation**. We also need time to **consolidate the political will** behind our national security programs.

The opportunities that abound in the global and domestic setting comprise the *fourth dimension* of our national security environment.

Vanguard of Democracy

An opportunity lies in upholding our country as a **vanguard of democracy**. We have proven through the decades that our abiding faith in democracy is the best guarantee against crisis. Our historical struggle against colonialism, our experience in the second world war and in the contemporary milieu, the peaceful overthrow of dictatorship through the EDSA Revolution, have deeply forged our democratic way of life. This unique position of our country places us at a diplomatic vantage point. The United Nations has hailed the Philippine **peace process** as an international model for the resolution of conflict. Our experience in peacefully resolving insurgency and rebellion has implications on our political stature as a mature democracy and as a haven for

international goodwill and investment. We are mustering the full cooperation of our government branches and institutions to implement, to a successful and logical conclusion, the peace agreement we forged with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in September 1996. We consider this endeavor a crucial aspect of our national security.

Security hub

The Philippines is a **security hub in the Asia-Pacific**. The leadership we have demonstrated in forging regional and multilateral consensus on various security issues, combined with our strategic location, makes our country a prime security hub in the Asia-Pacific. We must pursue this advantage to strengthen our alliances and joint defense activities with other countries in the region. Through the Visiting Forces Agreement, we have strengthened RP-US relations based on mutuality and common interest, particularly the need to promote peace and stability in the region.

Strategic location

The Philippines is imbued with a **strategic geographical position that is conducive to investment and diplomatic opportunities**. We must take maximum advantage of our geographical attributes and natural resource endowments. Our archipelago lies along the sea lanes and air routes of east-west trade. Moreover, we must find ways to fully preserve and develop the rich diversity of our biological and marine environment.

Free market stability

The Philippines has a good track record in **maintaining economic stability through the free market**. We have weathered the regional financial crisis along with our neighbors. We must continue to aggressively pursue economic diplomacy and offer the

unique advantages of our economic environment in our bid for more trade and investments. We also derive a strategic advantage from the millions of overseas Filipinos who contribute much to our nation's resources and are a wellspring of goodwill and diplomacy in other lands.

What is our national security paradigm?

The wide range of our most vital national interests, the varied dimensions of our national security environment and the broad spectrum of national security threats and opportunities—all demand a multifaceted and versatile approach that effectively and simultaneously addresses the political, social, economic and cultural aspects of the situation. This indicates a need to construct a working paradigm that will enable the entire government machinery and instrumentalities, backed by full public support, to pursue a robust, decisive and coordinated campaign to preserve our national security.

Our national security paradigm is therefore depicted as a triangular model reflecting the interdependency, interfacing and synergy of three major components that collectively give rise to our national security.

The base of the triangle is the **socioeconomic component**. It consists of determined efforts to alleviate and eradicate poverty through the totality of government policies and programs. This involves, among others, livelihood and employment generation and the delivery of basic services, including basic infrastructure facilities, to grassroots communities. There is a preferential bias towards food security. The social amelioration aspect encompasses measures to promote social justice and human rights as well as the enhancement and preservation of cultural heritage.

One side of the triangle is the **political component**. This consists of measures to promote democratic, Constitutional governance through the synergy of the three great powers of Government—the executive, legislative and judicial and through the devolution and decentralization of political power and responsibility

to local government units. With respect to the resolution of insurgency and rebellion, close attention is given to the comprehensive peace process involving peace negotiation, advocacy and networking; the establishment of meaningful autonomy for Muslim constituencies; and in general; the pursuit of good government, clean and orderly elections, and broader political participation among the people.

The third side of the triangle is the **defense-law enforcement component**. This involves the preservation of national sovereignty and territorial integrity, the protection of the people and their communities, and the maintenance of law and order. At the operational level, the security program is bolstered by domestic and foreign intelligence, transnational cooperation and civil-military activities, including public information and communication efforts.

The strategic integration of, and effective implementation of the programs within, these components ensure the strength of this national security framework, which is, in turn, **embedded in the larger structure of regional and international security**.

What are the strategies embodied in this paradigm?

Each component in the national security paradigm is reinforced by a set of strategies.

SOCIOECONOMIC STRATEGIES

Our **socioeconomic strategies** are founded upon the promotion of sustained, broad-based and non-inflationary economic growth to create jobs, reduce absolute poverty and promote the equitable distribution of wealth and opportunities.

Poverty Eradication

“The policy of the government is not merely the alleviation of poverty but its ultimate eradication. The war against poverty is not just one program of government. It is the overriding business of

government itself. It is built into and embedded in our total economic and social programs. It defines and drives the substance, the content and the heart and soul of our entire strategy of government.”³

Direct government intervention may be called for in extraordinary circumstances to push families above the poverty line. This includes massive education, health, housing and special sector programs. This social orientation, however, must be balanced with an outward orientation that would enable us to seize the opportunities that abound in the open markets. Emphasis has been placed in labor-intensive industries to create more jobs.

Global Competitiveness

We must also identify our global niches and specialize in areas where our comparative advantages and strengths lie, as we nurture the growth and influence of constructive global aggrupations to promote our own interests. This strategy is embodied in the government’s “developmental diplomacy” strategy which seeks to enhance our trade relations with the international community in order to secure new markets and opportunities for Philippine exports. The government hopes to achieve the country’s economic goals through generating international support for trade expansion, inflow of investments, and the generation of needed financial resources.

Our economic security also rests upon the steady development of a 21st century infrastructure and harnessing emerging technologies for development, especially in the fields of communications and information systems.

³ SONA; July 26, 1999

Angat Pinoy 2004

Structural impediments must be removed from the path of progress. Hence, our Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP) for 1999-2004 (*Angat Pinoy 2004*) emphasizes the need to reduce financial intermediation costs, to promote greater competition and efficiency in the banking sector, to expand the rural finance sector, to mobilize domestic savings and to spur capital market development.

Agricultural Modernization

Philippine agriculture must be rendered globally competitive and technologically advanced to increase national income while enabling us to feed the growing population, improve rural livelihood and meet the demands of ecological balance. This involves the full implementation of the Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization Act (RA 8435); the setting of a zero tariff for the importation of equipment, machinery, fertilizer and other inputs of agriculture; and the emphasis on the construction of more farm-to-market roads.⁴

Agrarian reform continues to be the keystone of development and social justice. The government has set the objective of completing the implementation of the agrarian reform law by 2004.

Human resource development

The definitive goal of progress is the improvement of the well-being and quality of life of the citizenry. The people as a capital resource will always be the key element in any successful development strategy. Conditions should therefore be provided so that skills and capabilities are developed to enable better access to

⁴ SONA: July 26, 1999

productive resources and broader participation in national development. Human resource development through expanding opportunities for education and middle-skills development, technological progress (R&D), protection of worker's rights and welfare will ultimately raise productivity and national competitiveness, in order to mitigate the likely adjustment costs resulting from the streamlining of the economy.

POLITICAL STRATEGIES

Our political strategies rest upon forging a common national vision and healing the many rifts that divide the nation.

Constitutional Reform

Constitutional reform continues to be an important agenda, especially amendments to our Fundamental Law that would enhance and strengthen our economy through upgrading our global competitiveness, generating more direct investments and creating more jobs for our people.

Good Government

We are for **good government** which enjoys the public trust and consistently enforces the rule of law and respect for human rights. **Honest, orderly and peaceful elections** are the key to strong democratic institutions.

Communication Program

A **broad consensus on national security issues** is also indispensable. This entails a National Security Communication Program that addresses the need to inform the people of the most vital problems and challenges affecting their lives, their livelihood and their future. The entire communication program of the government also plays an indispensable role in this effort.

Executive-legislative Partnership

While recognizing the executive and the legislative as co-equal and independent branches of government, an effective **executive-legislative partnership** for national security must be established. We need to tackle vital legislation to address new and emerging challenges to our political and socioeconomic stability.

Peace Process

The **comprehensive peace process** is another important strategic area. We must not only continue to address the implementation of peace accords that have already been reached with rebel groups, but to expand peace negotiations where they can be feasibly pursued. Autonomy and reforms constitute viable solutions to conflict. Peace building must also include protection of the rights and welfare of indigenous peoples, peace education and advocacy, community-based peace and development programs, amnesty and livelihood for former combatants.

Muslim Autonomy

The **grant of meaningful autonomy for Muslim Filipinos is a vital national concern as it is a mandate of our Fundamental Law.** Their right to effective self-governance, to the preservation of their cultural heritage, and to determine their own destiny within the context of our overall national vision and the Constitution, should be continually upheld and enhanced.

Enlightened Diplomacy

Our **diplomatic strategies** are based on three pillars: “the preservation of our territorial integrity and national security, the promotion of development

through economic diplomacy and the protection of the rights and welfare of our overseas nationals.”⁵

The Philippines is geared towards bolstering regional security arrangements to achieve the mutually reinforcing goals of collective peace and security. Our twin approaches are **preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution**. We must accord East Asia a higher priority in our foreign relations by deepening ties with our neighbors, even as we pursue a higher level of economic and military relations with the United States.

In resolving disputes affecting the **South China Sea**, we shall continue to seek **multilateral solutions** in line with the **ASEAN Declaration on the South China Sea** and our shared aspiration of a **Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN)** in this part of the world. This includes our collective struggle against the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region. We must continue to spearhead the evolution of the **Asian Regional Forum (ARF)** into an effective mechanism in order to establish a venue for regional conflict resolution.

Our participation in **ASEAN, APEC, ASEM, the UN** and other forums are aimed at promoting stability, peace, free and fair trade, and other beneficial arrangements for the country, the region and the world.

DEFENSE-LAW ENFORCEMENT STRATEGIES

Our **defense-law enforcement strategies** are designed to check the direct threats to the territorial integrity, the sovereignty and the political and socioeconomic stability of our nation, whether these emanate from without and within, or are ideologically or criminally motivated.

⁵ SONA, July 26, 1999

Self-reliance

National defense is based on the principle of **self-reliance**, which means that this is our sole responsibility that should not be predicated on the assurance of support from other countries. There will be instances when the help of other countries may be needed, but this assistance must not dilute our exclusive responsibility for our national defense.

Citizen-based

Our national defense must be **citizen-based**. It is important that all our citizens play an active role in the country's defense. Our vast manpower is a strategic advantage, and it must signal potential aggressors that in attacking the Philippines, a high price shall be paid in contending not only with our Armed Forces but the entire Filipino people. The **civil defense sector** must be effectively integrated into the regular force for peacetime tasks and during times of crisis or war.

The defense establishment shall constantly strive to **enable our national government agencies, local government units and non-government organizations in the implementation of civil defense and socioeconomic development programs** requiring defense and military assistance. It shall also act as an **advocate for defense-related social and economic development concerns**, including resource and environmental protection, emergency preparedness and mitigation, soldiers and veterans welfare and other similar concerns.

External Defense

At the frontline of our external defense strategy is **the pursuit of friendly and constructive relations with all nations**, especially among our neighbors. We shall maintain effective security relations with other countries,

such as the United States, on the basis of common interest and mutuality. The **RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty** shall continue to provide our external defense umbrella as we move towards self-reliance through the steady modernization of our Armed Forces.

Internal Security

Resolving the **internal security problem** is our foremost concern. We will continue to conduct military operations as necessary to protect and defend communities and the people from harm and violence and as bound by our obligations to various peace agreements. At the same time, we will address with the appropriate measures the **terrorist** and criminal activities of other armed groups, in coordination with law enforcement agencies. The military must also support law enforcement agencies in campaigns against **organized crime**. As such, defense resources are made available for operations against drug-trafficking, smuggling, illegal fishing, poaching and illegal migration.

Crisis Management

The military must be continually tailored to respond to **crisis situations** in conjunction with civilian agencies and local government units. Natural calamities threaten lives and property and we must be able to provide a prompt and effective response to protect and rescue communities as well as rebuild and rehabilitate them. We must also be prepared to respond to man-made calamities arising out of terrorist actions and other forms of violence; to help Filipinos caught in crisis in wars abroad, especially in providing emergency assistance and evacuation, if necessary; and to support civilian agencies, NGOs and civic organizations engaged in emergency relief missions.

AFP Modernization

We must prepare for the future, through **modernization and further professionalization** of our Armed Forces. Modernization does not necessarily mean only the acquisition of state-of-the-art weapons and equipment. It is also important that technology matches our operational strategy, which in turn must take into consideration the limited resources for defense. The professionalization of our defense force involves not only the transformation of management systems but more importantly, a change in the professional orientation of soldiers.

The defense and military establishment must likewise participate in **regional confidence-building measures** such as information and observer exchanges as well as joint military training and exercises. On some occasions, we shall be called upon to be involved in **international peacekeeping operations** and we must do our share as much as our operational requirements and resources would allow.

Anti Crime Campaign

The effectiveness of our **anti-crime strategy** is vital to national security. The close coordination of the entire criminal justice system, consisting of the police, the prosecution, the courts, the corrections and the community to prevent crime, solve them and deter recidivism-- must be unrelentingly pursued. This strategy also calls for a sustained, relentless and dedicated campaign to **minimize organized and syndicated crimes** as well as to neutralize their protectors. Effective intelligence and counterintelligence work is at the core of the campaign. Hence, the creation of the Presidential Task Force Against Organized Crime (PTFAOC) which aims to bring about focus and substantive results in the campaign against criminality. Likewise, the anti-drug campaign is given priority attention. Efforts are currently underway to launch an integrated and comprehensive drive against drug trafficking and abuse

Law Enforcement Alliances

At the same time, we must keep faith in our **law enforcement alliances with other nations** in the effort to mitigate and eradicate the mobility of criminals as well as the flow of drugs, contraband, laundered money and other resources that abet transnational crime and terrorism. An integral part of this responsibility is to strengthen our **border patrol agreements** with our neighbors. The Philippines has already started cooperating with the international community on global security concerns such as transnational terrorism. We are considered part of a planned international network/campaign to fight international terrorism.

What are our most important security concerns today?

Foremost among our security concerns today are sustaining the **peace process with the MILF**, meeting the renewed threat of **leftist terrorism**, combating the **drug problem**, alleviating and eradicating **poverty**, **eradicating graft and corruption**, disaster mitigation, protecting our interests in the **Kalayaan Island Group** and in our **Exclusive Economic Zone**, **Y2K readiness**, and in general, the various crisis situations that have an impact on public safety and welfare.

The peace process with the MILF is a vital security program, which must be pursued in tandem with the implementation of the peace accord with the Moro National Liberation Front. **Moral suasion should be used and developed** through intensified peace advocacy, dialogue and consultation among civic leaders, peace advocates and local officials. **Socioeconomic development must take place or be undertaken side by side with meaningful autonomy** to improve the quality of life of our Muslim brethren. Government must be steadfast in its stand to confront lingering grievances and unresolved issues brought about by long-standing patterns of political, economic and cultural discrimination. It is hoped that effective autonomous

governance shall prove to be the permanent solution to the decades-old conflict in the area.⁶

Meeting the renewed threat of instability in the aftermath of the collapse of peace negotiations with the CPP-NPA-NDF is a priority security concern of the nation, especially in the face of persistent terrorist acts of the underground movement. This threat will be met with constant vigilance in terrorist-affected areas and the opening of local peace dialogues with field units of the movement. Such peace efforts of the government are now focused on **addressing specific issues at the local level that would strike at the roots of insurgency in a given area.** This effort will be pursued through local peace forums, which shall encourage insurgents and the community-at-large to engage in constructive **problem-solving activities towards the efficient resolution of commonly-identified problems.** The peace forums shall also serve as advocates of peace-related issues and facilitators in bringing these issues to the attention of public authorities up to the highest levels of government.⁷

The war against illegal drugs is a foremost security issue. This menace to peace and order, to our human resources and to the moral fiber of our society will continue to be met with our three-pronged strategy of drug supply reduction, demand reduction and international law enforcement cooperation.

The alleviation and eradication of poverty is a prime concern. Government is determined to lend immediate and sustained priority to the most depressed communities in the country, which are also the most vulnerable to terrorist incursions, even as the totality of government programs are brought to bear upon this objective.

The eradication of graft and corruption continues to preoccupy the highest levels of government. Higher pay scales

⁶ Consensus point; National Security Council Meeting; January 20, 1999

⁷ Executive Order No. 115; June 21, 1999: Providing for the Mechanics and Operational Structure for the Localization of Peace Efforts to Address the Communist Insurgency

and more incentives for deserving public servants are in the pipeline, while there is consistent transparency in public transactions and management. Punishment with fairness and consistency shall continue to be applied for malfeasance in public office.

Disaster mitigation remains a high priority. All available military and civilian resources shall continue to be coordinated and mustered for relief and rehabilitation measures in event of natural calamities.

Protection our interests in the Kalayaan Island Group is an overriding concern. On the Spratlys dispute, we will continue to pursue confidence-building measures in accordance with the ASEAN Declaration on the South China Sea, the Joint Statement of the RP and China; as well as through bilateral and multilateral diplomacy. We shall continue to safeguard our sovereign rights and territorial claim in the area under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and generally-recognized principles of international law.

Y2K readiness and contingency planning continues to be a significant security concern. It is important to ensure that all information systems used in critical public services utilities are rendered impervious to this cybernetic problem as we transit through the new millenium. For this purpose, we have tasked the Y2K Commission to monitor the efforts of critical sectors; and the Contingency Task Force to come up with a **comprehensive blueprint** that would effectively respond to the possible adverse effects of this problem at all levels of the national community

The Government has in place specific contingency plans to respond to crisis situations that have an impact on public safety and welfare. These plans are designed to counter or alleviate the effects of situations such as **attacks on vital government or industrial installations, hostage-taking by terrorists, food or power shortages and other sudden or rapidly evolving short-term threats.**

The mandates of the Constitution

In the final analysis, our national security derives its strength first and foremost from the Constitution, which states that “The Philippines is a democratic and republican State. **Sovereignty resides in the people** and all government authority emanates from them.”

Aside from this prime mandate, other Constitutional provisions assert and define various aspects of our national security. Among them are the **definition of the national territory** in line with new international covenants; **the renunciation of war** as an instrument of national policy; and **the supremacy of civilian authority** over the military.

The Constitution also adverts authoritatively to the redefined role of **the Armed Forces of the Philippines** as “**the protector of the people and the State**”; the pursuit of **an independent foreign policy** based on national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interest, and the right to self-determination and the **freedom from nuclear weapons**.

Finally, there is the overriding mandate governing the concept of a **citizen army**; and the maintenance of **one police force**, national in scope and civilian in character.

Conclusion

Beyond anything else, we want every Filipino, rich or poor, to feel that the safest place in the world for him is his own country. We hope to bring all Filipinos together so as to achieve that power of common purpose that will enable us to achieve our centennial dream.

National security means having a safe haven or sanctuary, a home for all Filipinos. It speaks of harmony and cooperation towards a common welfare, and mutual respect and shared values.

National security means mustering the resources and means to defend and preserve this sanctuary-- through a common vision, a responsive government, a vigilant citizenry, a solid defense capability, through enlightened diplomacy and alliance-building and most of all, through the eradication of poverty, ignorance and injustice.

As a centennial dream, national security becomes the apex of a hundred years of struggle -- for freedom, democracy and self-determination -- as the Filipino enters the globalized paradigm of a new millennium.

The domestic, regional and global situation, while rife with uncertainties and instabilities that tend to challenge our national security, are also filled with abundant opportunities for gaining national strength and resiliency. It is hoped that by forging a consensus on the most vital concerns affecting our nation, our citizens and institutions will imbibe the will and sense of purpose to work towards a common vision of one nation, undivided, democratic and productively and peacefully engaged in the changing and dynamic world. ■

Diagrammatic ANNEXES

Annex A: *Our National Security Paradigm*

Annex B: *National Security Framework, 1999-2004*

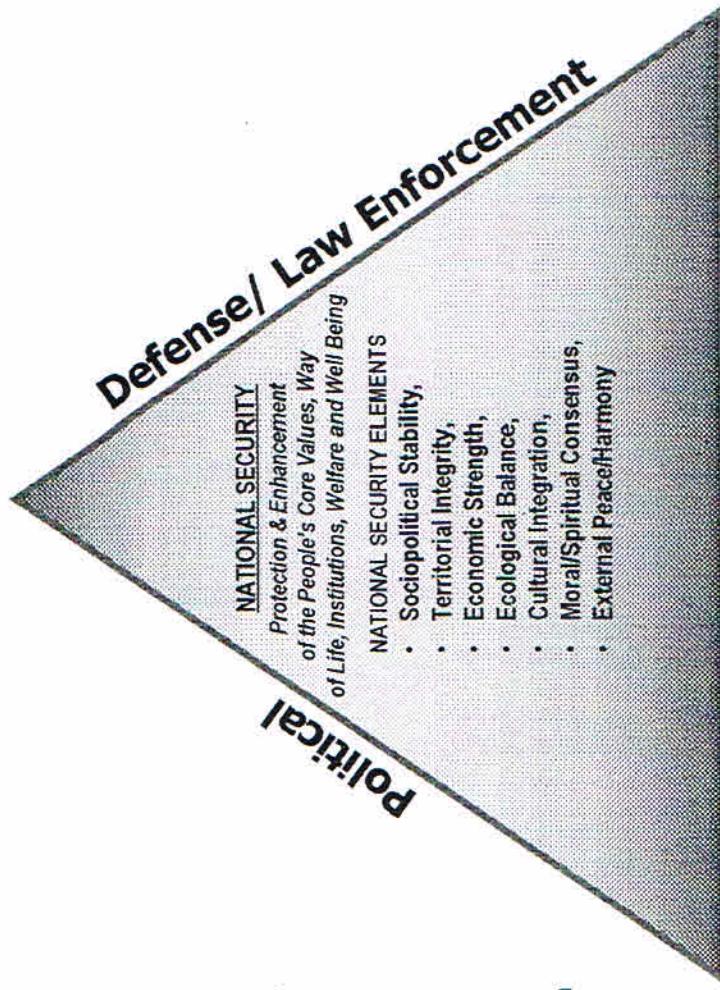
National Security Paradigm

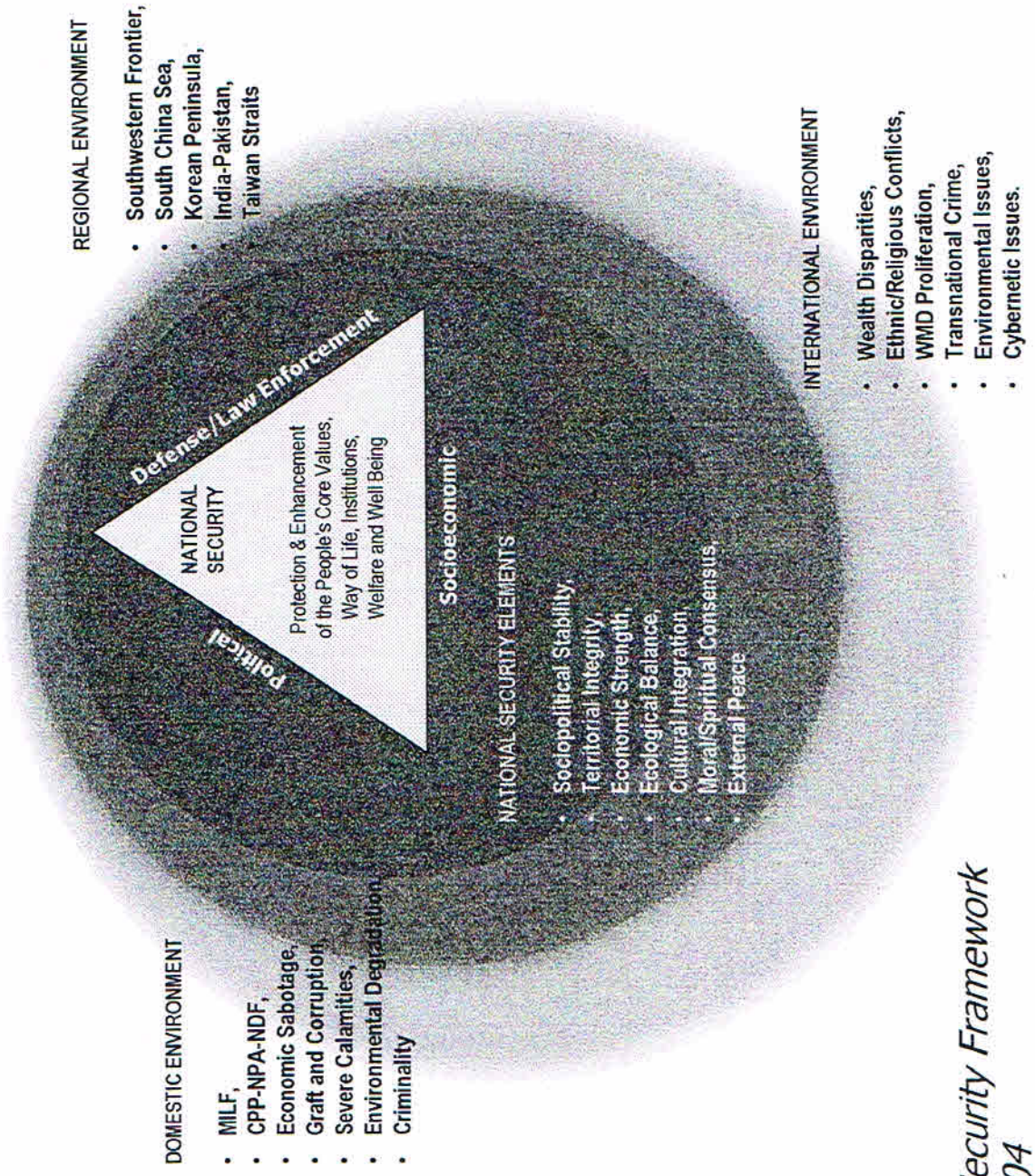
Our *national security paradigm* is depicted as a triangular model reflecting the interdependency, interfacing and synergy of three major components that collectively give rise to our national security.

The base of the triangle is the **socioeconomic component**. It consists of determined efforts to alleviate and eradicate poverty through the totality of government policies and programs. This involves, among others, livelihood and employment generation and the delivery of basic services, including basic infrastructure facilities, to grass-root communities, with a preferential bias towards food security programs. The social amelioration aspect encompasses measures to promote social justice and human rights as well as the enhancement and preservation of cultural heritage.

One side of the triangle is the **political component**. This consists of measures to promote democratic, Constitutional governance through the synergy of the three great powers of Government -- the executive, legislative and judicial through the devolution and decentralization of political power and responsibility to LGUs. With respect to the resolution of insurgency and rebellion, close attention is given to the comprehensive peace process involving peace negotiation, advocacy and net-working; the establishment of meaningful autonomy for Muslim constituencies; and in general, the pursuit of good government, clean and orderly elections and broader political participation among the people.

The third side of the triangle is the **defense-law enforcement component**. This involves the preservation of national sovereignty and territorial integrity, the protection of the people and their communities, and the maintenance of law and order. At the operational level, the security program is bolstered by domestic and foreign intelligence, transnational cooperation and civil-military activities, including public information and communication efforts.





*National Security Framework
1999 - 2004*