

**A worried Arroyo sends word to Mahathir:**

# Help end revolt

**SUN 24 NOV 2001**

**KUALA LUMPUR, Fri: Manila wants Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta to help end a fresh Filipino Muslim revolt in the southern Philippines that has left more than 100 people dead.**

"I have already sent word to him (Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) and I also talked to (Indonesian) President Megawati," Philippine President Gloria Arroyo said in Manila today.

She has just returned from the United States armed with a US\$100 million (RM380 million) military and economic package to face a nation in trouble.

On Monday, Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) leader Nur Misuari declared war on the government, a week before Muslims in the southern Philippines elect a new regional governor.

Breaking a peace agreement signed five years ago, Misuari launched several well-coordinated attacks on military outposts on Jo10 island at dawn.

Arroyo did not elaborate on the specific help she wanted but said the rebel-

lion will end with the arrest of Misuari, whom she suspended as governor of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao.

Malaysia and Indonesia are both members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) committee that monitors the progress of a peace deal signed between Misuari's MNLF and the government in 1996.

Arroyo said authorities have not yet confirmed military intelligence reports that Misuari has fled to Sabah. But if Misuari had indeed sought refuge there, she said there "are many options" on how he would be brought back to face charges.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said Philippine authorities have already touched base with their Malaysian counterparts to verify the report of Misuari's purported entry into their territory.

"We have already coordinated with the Malaysian authorities and the indication is that the Malaysian authorities will help us effect the arrest of Misuari to turn him over in case he is there in Malaysia," Golez said. Agencies