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**Verses About the So-called Pocket Rebellion  
in Northern Mindanao, 4- 6 October 1990**

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*In the early morning of Thursday, 4 October 1990, a renegade colonel long wanted by law enforcement agencies came out from hiding in Agusan hills, entered Cagayan de Oro City with a convoy of some 300 armed followers and occupied the military camp while the regular army garrison retired to the periphery. His men had in the meantime seized the army camps in Butuan and Iligan. For two days the situation was tense. But shortly after 2 A.M. on Saturday, 6 October, Col. Alexander Noble surrendered.*

Miguel Bernad, S.J.  
Kinaadman Vol. XIV

**October the Fourth**

Like a cyclone  
of fire  
Mindanao is  
set ablaze.

The bushes  
of Butuan are  
shaken anew

as the cry  
of the black  
eagle erupts

echoing its  
embattled shriek  
sending psychological  
shock in the air

and Cagayan  
the next landing  
bough of its talons  
is set into a quagmire  
of police.

Those  
like gossipy  
leaves exaggerate-  
who is who?  
what is what?  
why is why?  
how is how?

Those seasoned  
enough  
are no longer  
surprised;  
they do not  
forget the  
real flow  
of the river.

But people  
remain like  
confused leaves  
disrupted by  
the strange wind  
that sweeps  
here and there.

### **October the Fifth**

Iligan  
remains  
Iligan

but the  
atmosphere  
moistens  
arbitrary,

for the sun  
is beclouded  
by dark ascending  
news.

That is when  
the insurgents  
from Camp Pintoy  
parade to  
the pueblo.

The roads  
above the rivers  
are converted  
into a threshold  
of no man's road.  
The Iliganons  
have to cross  
below down  
the murky river  
leading to Tambacan  
towards the bay.

The vigil  
for peace  
is as strong  
as prayer;  
the hazy  
moon greets  
the night's  
shaky dream.

### **October the Sixth**

The cocks  
crow victoriously  
this dawn.

After two  
continuous days  
of lament

the sun  
rises anew  
radiating  
triumphant rays  
to days of gloom.

Calmly  
those shaken  
boughs have rested  
anew.

Slowly  
the rivers  
of Mindanao  
return to their flow.

The black  
eagle has accepted  
the superiority  
of space  
over flight.