

# 'NICOLAU LOBATO EXPRESSED THE MOST PROFOUND ASPIRATIONS OF THE MAUBERE PEOPLE': SAMORA MACHEL



**PRESIDENT NICOLAU DOS REIS LOBATO**

PRESIDENT SAMORA MACHEL of the Peoples Republic of Mozambique, on behalf of the people and Government of Mozambique and of FRELIMO, issued the following statement on learning of the death of President Nicolau Lobato:

"Our people learnt to admire the courage, political clarity and revolutionary dedication of Nicolau dos Reis Lobato, President of Fretilin and of the Democratic Republic of East Timor, and believe him to be an heroic leader and combatant, totally devoted to the people's struggle for liberation from colonial domination and imperialism.

"In his life as a militant, Nicolau dos Reis Lobato expressed the most profound aspirations of the Maubere people in its secular struggle against foreign domination. His revolutionary firmness and intransigence in front of compromises with the enemy and its agents, lit the way for the people of East Timor, in the present phase of armed combat against foreign domination, annexation, subjugation and negation of the personality.

"The evolution of the armed liberation struggle of the people of East Timor, led by Fretilin, and its resistance by all means against the enemy, against even massacres, manoeuvres of divisionism, desertion to enemy, has led the enemy to use its most perfidious weapon: the murder of the beloved leader of the people Nicolau dos Reis Lobato. The enemy thinks by this means to crush the spirit of resistance of the Maubere people.

"Having fallen on the battlefield, the blood of Nicolau dos Reis Lobato, combatant of the armed

people's struggle for national liberation and guide of the people of East Timor, will fertilise the final victory, peace, liberty, independence and progress of all peoples.

"Frelimo and the Mozambican people who have lived through the same bitter experience and difficult moments in the armed struggle for national liberation, unite with Fretilin and the East Timorese people in this moment of the struggle and manifest their firm certainty that the people of East Timor and the Fretilin Central Committee will be able to transform their sorrow into popular determination in renewed struggle against the enemy, into an immense force which will result once more in glorious victories towards the expulsion of the Indonesian invaders and the total liberation from colonialism and imperialism.

"The Frelimo Central Committee, the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique and all the Mozambican people express their respect and veneration for the memory of Nicolau dos Reis Lobato, hero of liberty, and present their sincere condolences and reaffirm to the Fretilin Central Committee, to the Government of the Democratic Republic of East Timor and to the Maubere people, their total solidarity with the just struggle for the inalienable rights for independence and liberty.

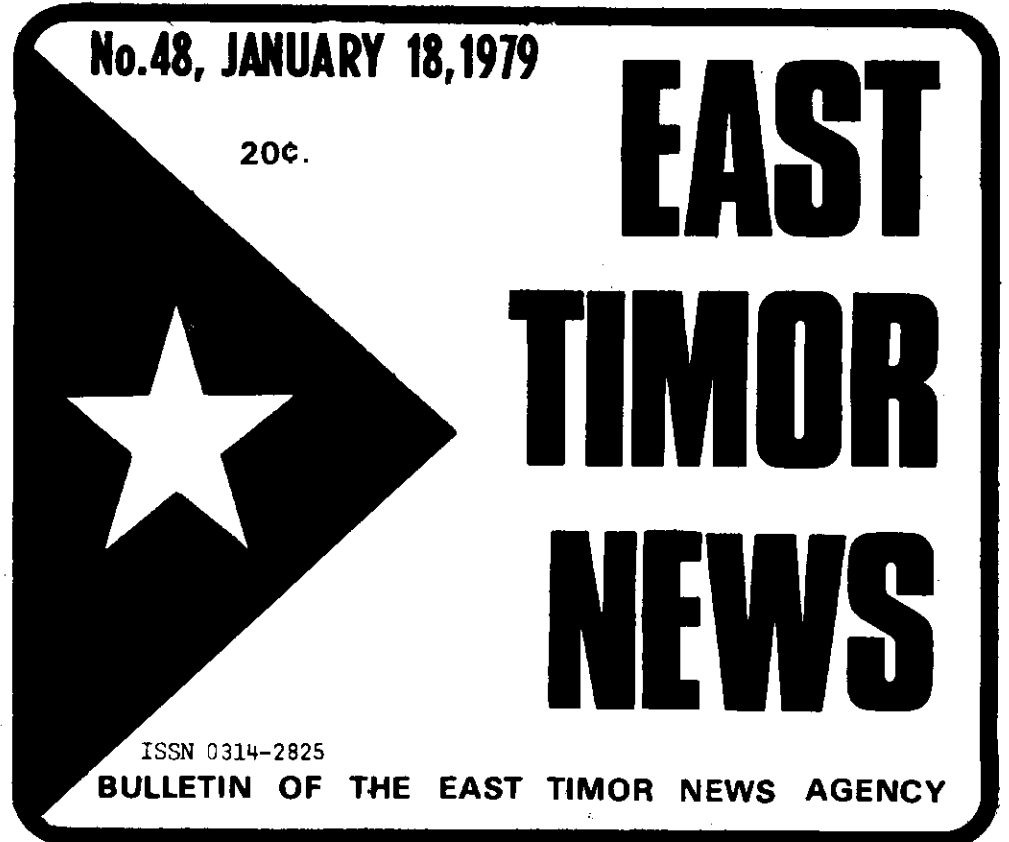
The struggle continues!

SAMORA MOISES MACHEL,  
President of Frelimo and  
President of the People's Republic  
of Mozambique.

Maputo, January 3 1979. "

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## FRETILIN DIPLOMATIC FRONT THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED IN MAPUTO ON JANUARY 3, 1979:

It is the sad duty of the Permanent Representation of Fretilin in the Peoples Republic of Mozambique to inform all patriots and citizens of East Timor living outside their country, all comrades in arms and allies, and all those who solidarise with the just struggle of the Maubere people, that the uncontested, unforgettable and much beloved leader of the Maubere Revolution, Nicolau dos Reis Lobato, President of Fretilin Central Committee and President of the Democratic Republic of East Timor, Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces -- Falintil -- has fallen in the field of honour and glory, in the struggle for the intransigent defence of the noble and sacred cause of the liberation of the people of East Timor.

In the cause of the liberation of the East Timorese people, always in the leadership of the struggle by his own example, President Nicolau Lobato has heroically fallen in struggle. He was the living symbol of the determination of the Maubere people. His example is and will be forever an unending fount for the continuation of the struggle. His teachings are an indestructible weapon in the hands of the whole Maubere people, mobilised and organised by the glorious and intrepid Fretilin Central Committee. His life emerges as a powerful and majestic lesson, like Mount Ramelau so long sung and celebrated in the hymn of the Maubere Revolution.

The enemy think that by killing Nicolau Lobato they have ended the struggle of the Maubere people. But, day by day, each leader, each cadre, each combatant, each element of the Maubere people always keep engraved in their minds those who have died in battle, who gave their blood their blood for their homeland, who defy the enemy plague, and know how, each time, to restrengthen the unshakeable foundations of the Maubere Revolution.

As did the brother peoples of Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau and the

Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, the Maubere people know how to revenge the death of their most distinguished leaders, treasures trapped by enemy -- Eduardo Mondlane, Amilcar Cabral and El Ouali respectively. The Maubere people know how to implacably revenge the horrifying crime carried out by the enemy, in a way to honour the memory of their great leader, continuing the immortal work carried out by President Nicolau Lobato.

Faithfully and unshakeably interpreting the determination of the Maubere people to continue the struggle until victory, President Lobato said: "Each blow delivered by the enemy gives birth among us anew the certainty of victory."

Three years of people's war waged by the Maubere people against its enemies led by the Fretilin Central Committee, have forged genuine leaders who at each moment know how to keep high the flag of liberty, defending with intelligence, determination and courage the most sacred interests of the Maubere people: national independence and sovereignty, territorial integrity, patriotic unity, each time making the victory of the Maubere people more certain.

Under Fretilin's Statutes, the Presidential Council is now composed of Mau-Lear, who presides over the National Political Commission, Vicente dos Reis (Sa'he), and by one other person to be chosen by the Permanent Committee of the Fretilin Central Committee, and will assume the Presidency of Fretilin. In terms of Article 44 of the Democratic Republic of East Timor Constitution, the Fretilin Central Committee will temporarily assume the functions of the Head of State.

Honour and glory to President Nicolau Lobato!  
Long live the heroic and glorious Fretilin Central Committee!  
The struggle continues!  
Homeland of death!  
We will win!

Maputo, January 3, 1979  
Permanent Representation of Fretilin

# TIMOR YEAR IV: FROM RESISTANCE TO REVOLUTION

## AN ETNA BACKGROUNDER

In the previous issue of *East Timor News*, we began this article by outlining the revolutionary process that had begun from the earliest days in the liberated areas of East Timor, and which was confirmed by a series of turning points in the history of Fretilin.

We concluded by noting that the big Indonesian offensives which began in September 1977 had helped speed up the revolutionary process and that that process in turn had been decisive in defeating the Indonesian offensives particularly in the border sectors.

We now continue this article ..

This speed up of the revolutionary process drove the counter-revolutionaries around Alarico Fernandes to desperation, which was heightened by their inability and unwillingness to engage in a total mobilisation of the masses when the enemy launched massive offensives in the one area they were -- then -- dominant: the Centre-North Sector.

As a result, the Suharto forces were much more successful in the Centre-North Sector than anywhere else. Threatened from two sides -- by the speeding up of the revolutionary process and by the success of the Indonesians -- Fernandes precipitatedly announced his "Operation Skylight" and broke all contact with Falintil and Fretilin headquarters.

From that it was only a small step to total capitulation.

IT IS CRYSTAL CLEAR FROM THE SECRET AND PUBLIC MESSAGES OF FERNANDES IN THE TWO MONTHS BEFORE HIS SURRENDER THAT THE LIBERATED AREAS HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCING A PROFOUND REVOLUTION WHICH HAS BEEN THE FACTOR WHICH HAS ENABLED THE MAUBERE PEOPLE TO SUCCESSFULLY RESIST THE MASSIVE OFFENSIVES LAUNCHED IN THE PAST YEAR.

IT IS THIS PROFOUND REVOLUTION IN THE LIBERATED AREAS WHICH IS ALSO THE GUARANTEE OF THE FINAL VICTORY OF THE MAUBERE PEOPLE.

## REVOLUTIONARY TRANSFORMATION

All liberation movements that have undergone such a struggle have passed through similar transformations. It is inevitable that a broadly-based liberation movement, which attracts many opportunist or weak elements, and even reactionary persons who are "nationalist" but for racist or ambitious reasons, should go through a revolutionary transformation, even if only to meet the rigours of the resistance. It is inevitable that a movement such as Fretilin should shed its opportunists, careerists, ambitious and reactionaries. It is inevitable, to wage a protracted people's war, that the liberation movement should be transformed into a revolutionary party, practising revolutionary democracy and discipline, carrying its political line deeply among the masses, and able to mobilise them for the difficult struggle.

Fretilin began as a liberation movement. Membership cards were in fact given to all those who were supporters -- they were a means of identification with the movement, at a time when the masses were emerging from the long colonial night.

The Central Committee of Fretilin was not only the vanguard of the Maubere people, but also was the core of the political organisation.

However, as the struggle grew in intensity, and as the opportunists and reactionaries surrendered to the invaders, the need for a full party structure, with branches right down to the grassroots, and equipped with a revolutionary ideology, has become a pressing necessity. It has also

been, we can assume, necessary to give the new revolutionary and politicised cadres at the grassroots a means of political advancement and selection.

The process pushing to the transformation of Fretilin into a fully structured revolutionary party was also naturally opposed by the opportunists and reactionaries, such as Xavier do Amaral and Alarico Fernandes. Because within such a party, their position as "notables", as "veterans", would have been challenged by the cadres from among the Maubere, and particularly the youth, who would judge them not on their self-given status as "veterans", but on their political and moral steadfastness in continuing the struggle.

President Nicolau Lobato has in the past spoken out strongly against "veteranism" -- the claim lodged by founders of Fretilin for preferential treatment because they were among the small group who began Fretilin. He quite clearly stated that "veterans" can only expect respect and a leadership role if they progress along with the Maubere Revolution.

There can be little doubt that a similar process has been in force inside Falintil -- the armed forces of the Maubere people.

The counter-offensive in August and September 1975, launched against the reactionary UDT coup attempt, had its foundations among the rank-and-file conscripts of the Portuguese colonial army. Only a handful of the Timorese non-commissioned officers took an active role in preparing the counter-offensive. It was only under the pressure of the rank-and-file that these sergeants moved into the ranks of Falintil.

Today, the big majority of these sergeants remain faithful to the Maubere people. However, as with the political opportunists and reactionaries, so too among the Falintil commanders (former non-commissioned officers) there have been betrayals and surrenders. Some surrendered in the first weeks of the invasion, while others betrayed in the past year, as the Revolution deepened in the liberated areas, and became supporters of the coup attempts of first Xavier do Amaral and then of Alarico Fernandes.

Again, there is nothing surprising in this. The former Timorese non-commissioned officers in the colonial army were particularly indoctrinated by the Portuguese fascists. They were used to a certain prestige and physical comforts. The same processes that occurred among the Fretilin leaders such as Xavier do Amaral and Alarico Fernandes also occurred among them.

They also faced the pressure of the Maubere people, particularly the youth, who had grown up in the three years of war, and through experience could begin to challenge those who politically or otherwise were not living up to their responsibilities.

## ATTEMPTED COUPS

That said, it remains a fact that the big majority of the former political and military leadership have remained faithful to the Maubere people, and have progressed along with the Revolution.

What is remarkable is that the attempted coups of Xavier do Amaral and Alarico Fernandes have attracted so little support among those political and military leaders who were in place when the Indonesian fascists invaded in December 1975.

The big majority of the leaders of that period remain steadfast in their determination to fight to

final victory. The successful resistance of the past three years has developed into a Revolution, which is the guarantor of that final victory.

## ESTABLISHING RADIO CONTACT

The betrayal of Alarico Fernandes, while having minimal effect inside the liberated areas, where he was already neutralised, has posed problems, of course, for communication with the outside world.

Fernandes, as Minister for Information, concentrated all communication by radio in his own hands. In fact, over three years, it was very seldom that even his aides at the radio spoke to the Darwin listening post. Other Fretilin leaders such as President Nicolau Lobato only spoke over Radio Maubere on occasions when they were at the radio, or by tape recording on occasions such as May 20 or November 28.

But claims that the radios Fernandes had were the only ones able to communicate with the outside world, are absurd. In fact, there are dozens of radios in the hands of the revolutionary forces. The question of establishing contact with the revolutionary forces is only a question of time. It is a technical problem.

In the meantime, the struggle continues inside East Timor. In the other six sectors into which Fretilin has divided the country, the resistance continues with even greater possibility of resisting for a long time, because of the deepened revolutionary process taking place. In the Centre-North Sector, as was clear just prior to Fernandes' surrender, the revolutionary forces are re-establishing bases for continuing resistance.

## MOCHTAR MAKES POOR EXCUSES

Observers in Australia noted that during Suharto's Foreign Minister Mochtar's visit, he refused to allow parliamentarians or journalists into East Timor. Mochtar's excuses were particularly lame. Roads, he said, were almost non-existent in East Timor, while the Indonesian forces did not have enough helicopters.

Of course, roads have always been "non-existent" (at least by Australian standards) in East Timor. Yet during the period after April 1974, and particularly after August 1975, journalists and other observers managed to travel widely throughout the country, by one means or another. We can assure Mochtar that there are many journalists and others who would be quite prepared to walk or go by pony through the mountains if the roads are really that bad!

Mochtar's excuses are patently nonsense. No one can travel by road in East Timor because the roads are controlled by Fretilin. And the helicopters are being used to massacre the civilian population not to "rescue" them as Mochtar wants us to believe.

It should be noted also that at the time Fernandes was preparing his "Operation Skylight", Suharto's Defence Minister was simultaneously ordering his troops to capture or kill the "six leaders" of Fretilin in the mountains.

These "six leaders" (who with a few other additional names were also on Fernandes' assassination list) remain at liberty. The dead-

line set by Suharto for their capture has long since past.

There is no doubt that Suharto hoped that "Operation Skylight" would achieve what his 40,000 troops have failed to achieve in three years -- the physical assassination of the vanguard of the Maubere Revolution. The failure of "Operation Skylight" means that the surrender of Fernandes is not a victory for Suharto -- in fact it is a defeat. Short of Fernandes' arrest by Fretilin, his surrender was the next best "solution" for the East Timorese people.

## FOOD IN LIBERATED AREAS

Finally, a word of the food situation in the liberated areas. Just as total revolutionary mobilisation of the Maubere people is necessary for military resistance, so, too, is it necessary for the winning of the battle for food production against Suharto's attempts to starve the East Timorese people into submission. Growing enough food in the conditions of a protracted people's war is above all a political question. It is not surprising then that it was in the Centre-North Sector that the crisis in food was the greatest. Given the attitude of Alarico Fernandes, total mobilisation of the masses for food production, using co-operative labour, was "communism". Rather he installed a regime of food confiscation from the Maubere people, to feed his gang, as opposed to a political mobilisation for overall increase in production, based on necessary heightened political consciousness, which could enable the overcoming of traditional ways of agriculture.

We do not want to minimise the problems faced in the other sectors in relation to winning the battle to feed the people. But the new wave of revolution that has swept these sectors in the past year means that these problems can be kept within bounds, and starvation avoided.

The East Timorese Revolution has many profound lessons and these lessons can only confirm the slogan of Fretilin Central Committee:

VICTORY IS CERTAIN AND ONLY A MATTER OF TIME.

It has been our conviction over the past three years that this victory will be won as it was in the former Portuguese colonies in Africa: that after a protracted people's war, the fascist-military regime in Jakarta will be overthrown, when the discontent of the broad and oppressed masses of Indonesia, is joined by the discontent and heightened political awareness of the ordinary soldiers of Suharto's army and their junior officers. These soldiers will tell Suharto: "Enough, we refuse anymore to die in this unwinnable war; in this war of aggression that has brought discredit on the Indonesian Nation."

1979 will be a very testing year for Suharto. After the turbulence of the first half of 1978, an apparent calm has been restored.

But beneath the surface, the forces and the contradictions which led to the turmoil of the first half of 1978 remain. A major new factor is the very steep rise in prices that has followed the 50% devaluation of the rupiah. Wages remain frozen, while prices soar -- a sure formula for greater troubles than ever in 1979.

From Teheran to Jakarta is not a great distance -- at least politically. The similarities are in fact striking.

— EAST TIMOR NEWS AGENCY

# AFTER COMRADE PRESIDENT LOBATO

COMRADE PRESIDENT NICOLAU LOBATO died a heroic death on December 31 1978 after a six hour battle with Indonesian forces in the Maubesse area, 60 kms south of Dili, and near Turiscai.

The ambush began at 5.45 in the morning, after the Indonesian forces had laid an ambush for the Falintil forces accompanying President Lobato. Twenty two comrades fell with comrade Lobato in the battle, while many of Suharto's soldiers were also killed. The ambush was laid after Indonesian military forces had received information that the Falintil party was travelling through the area.

The Indonesians claimed that comrade Lobato was armed with a M-16 assault rifle, and that his group was well armed with G-3s and Mausers. They also claimed that President Lobato had a two-way radio transmitter with him.

The East Timor News Agency believes that comrade President Nicolau Lobato was probably in the Maubesse area in an attempt to reorganise and remobilise Fretilin forces and the Maubere people in the Centre-North Sector, following the betrayal of Alarico Fernandes and Xavier do Amaral. Their betrayals had allowed the invaders to make substantial progress in the Centre-North Sector.

The Maubesse area is right on the edge of the Centre-North Sector, and was also named by President Lobato as one area infected by the treason of Xavier do Amaral. We do not exclude that President Lobato was betrayed to the Indonesian forces by counter-revolutionary elements of Xavier do Amaral and Fernandes still existing in this area.

The Indonesian propaganda machine was jubilant at the death of comrade Lobato. A special broadcast was made on Indonesian national television on January 1, announcing his death. Indonesian Defence Minister Yusuf flew immediately to Dili to inspect the body and to decorate the soldiers who had killed him. Suharto sent a special message to the troops. The story was front page lead story in SINAR HARAPAN on January 2, with a photo of Indonesian officers looking at the alleged body of comrade Nicolau Lobato. The photo of the body is of very poor quality, and all we can state is that it could be that of President Nicolau Lobato.

The jubilation of Suharto at the murder of President Lobato and the widespread propaganda given to this "victory", shows the urgent need felt by Suharto to boost the morale of Indonesian forces in East Timor, and the Indonesian people,

in face of a war of aggression which has provided him with very few "victories" in the past three years.

But Suharto's jubilation will be short-lived. Already reports from Dili confirm that the struggle continues as strongly as ever.

A letter smuggled out of Dili speaks of fierce fighting taking place in the Railaco area, 30 kms south-west of Dili, last month.

Another speaks of Indonesian helicopters flying into Dili daily from the mountains, carrying Indonesian dead and wounded.

## CENTRE NORTH SECTOR

It is our belief that Suharto forces have only won any "victory" in the Centre-North Sector, and that this was due to the betrayal of Xavier do Amaral and Alarico Fernandes and the reactionary political line they followed for three years in this sector. It was because of the bad situation in this sector, that, we believe, comrade Nicolau Lobato, with heroism and dedication entered what was perhaps the most dangerous area in the whole country, in an attempt to rally the revolutionary forces.

The death of comrade President Nicolau Lobato is undoubtedly a sorry and heavy blow for the Maubere people. But we believe that his heroic example, his political clarity and his unbending determination to fight to final victory, are a legacy that will provide inspiration and guidance for the Maubere people in the years of struggle still ahead before final victory is won.

Within Fretilin Central Committee and among the tested revolutionaries among the Maubere people, there exist the human resources to carry on the struggle.

## COMRADES IN ARMS MAU LEAR & SAHE

Comrade Vice-President Mau-Lear and National Political Commissioner comrade Sa'he, are leaders of the Maubere people, who, from the very beginning, have been intransigent opponents of opportunism, rotten compromises, and upholders of the revolutionary mass line of Fretilin, of prolonged people's war for total liberation of the Maubere people.

Comrades Mau-Lear and Sa'he have been comrades-in-arms with comrade Nicolau Lobato in fighting the treason of Xavier do Amaral and Alarico Fernandes. The three of them have together encompassed the

revolutionary traditions and policy of the Maubere people. All three were named, with Ministers Hamis Basserwan and Helio Pina, and Commissioner Carlos Cesar, Lere and others, by traitor Fernandes as the intransigent leaders of the revolutionary majority of Fretilin.

Comrades Mau-Lear and Sa'he, after their return from Lisbon shortly after the formation of ASDT, were, with comrade Lobato, among the main initiators of the transformation of ASDT into Fretilin and the vigorous implementation of the mass line of Fretilin, turning to the Maubere people in the mountains. They, with comrade Nicolau Lobato, were the main forces behind the revolutionary determination to fight a prolonged peoples war, decided at the Supreme Council of Struggle and Fretilin Political Committee meeting in Soibada in May 1976.

## SAHE & HAMIS ESCAPE AMBUSH

Indonesian press reports claim that Sa'he (Vicente dos Reis) and Minister Hamis Basserwan, were with President Nicolau Lobato when he was ambushed on December 31 in Maubesse but that they escaped and were being hunted in the Sui River area. The Sui River begins in the Maubesse area and flows south to the sea. As there have been no other claims made, we can assume that comrades Sa'he and Hamis have escaped the Indonesian search.

Claims by Indonesian apologists that the death of President Nicolau Lobato marks the end of the resistance are simply untrue. The leaders of the Maubere people remain intact despite the great loss of their most outstanding member.

## THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

The East Timor News Agency collective extends its deepest sympathy to all East Timorese in Australia, Portugal and Mozambique and those fighting inside the country, and shares their grief.

At the same time, we strongly assert that the struggle continues, that the heroic example of comrade Nicolau Lobato lives on, and that the Fretilin Central Committee has the capacity to continue to follow his unforgettable example

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

-- EAST TIMOR NEWS AGENCY

# ANGOLA SUPPORT PLEDGE

The following message was sent to Fretilin Central Committee by President Agostinho Neto, President of the MPLA - Workers' Party, and of the People's Republic of Angola:

"On behalf of the Central Committee of MPLA - Workers Party, of the Government of the People's Republic of Angola, of the Angolan people and in my own name, I present our most sincere condolences for the sad event of the physical disappearance of the President of Fretilin and the Democratic Republic of East Timor, comrade Nicolau dos Reis Lobato.

"The physical elimination of leaders and cadres by imperialism, instead of silencing the will to fight, helps develop a greater determination among the peoples to fight against all forms of oppression for progress and for the well-being of the peoples.

"In this sad moment through which the Maubere people are passing, we wish to reaffirm our militant solidarity of our Party, Government and people with Fretilin, the Government of the Democratic Republic of East Timor and the brother people of East Timor.

AGOSTINHO NETO  
President of the MPLA-Workers' Party  
and President of the People's  
Republic of Angola

Luanda, January 4, 1979.

## MESSAGE FROM ZANU PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT ROBERT MUGABE of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) sent a message of condolences to the Fretilin Central Committee on the death of President Nicolau Lobato, in which he stated in part:

"The struggle of the East Timorese people, under your great party, Fretilin, is a source of pride and inspiration to revolutionaries and freedom fighters everywhere.

"As comrades in struggle, we are confident that under comrade Lobato's leadership, a firm revolutionary foundation was laid, guaranteeing further resistance until all the forces of aggression have been thoroughly annihilated. His death shall no doubt inspire the East Timorese people to redouble their efforts to achieve total independence.

"On behalf of my party, ZANU, the Central Committee, our ZANLA forces and the struggling masses of Zimbabwe, I wish to express our deepest condolences and join with the East Timorese people in mourning the death of this illustrious revolutionary."

And alter this year, Peacock and Fraser plan to publicly grovel at Suharto's feet, if and when the dictator accepts their invitation to come on a State Visit to Australia.

But such a visit is unlikely, as Peter Rogers comments in the National Times (week ending January 20, 1979): "Australian officials want the visit to take place soon, but Indonesian officials are worried about the possibility of demonstrations against the President."

Let us assure Jakarta and the fascist Suharto that there will indeed be demonstrations against him in Australia — and they will be much bigger and militant than he or anyone could expect.

# SUHARTO KICKS FRASER

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT announced its de jure recognition on December 15 of Indonesian claims to East Timor, and a few days later Indonesian Foreign Minister showed his contempt for Fraser and Peacock by announcing that Indonesia would take a hard line on the seabed border between East Timor and Australia, to begin as the first act involving de jure recognition, soon.

Reliable sources state that Peacock was livid with anger at the latest sign of contempt by Suharto.

After all, Peacock could have reasonably asked, had not his Government made all the concessions demanded by Indonesia, in the hope that Jakarta would agree to a rapid settlement of the seabed border, similar to the agreement made in 1972 concerning the border between Indonesian (West) Timor. That agreement clearly favoured Australia as it was drawn more than three-quarters of the way to Timor, and not halfway as is common practice.

After all, Peacock could have complained, he and Fraser risked the condemnation of the big majority of the Australian people in backing Suharto's claim to East Timor, mainly to try to get hold of the oil-rich

seabed. How could Mochtar now spurn him?

Peacock's anger could lead to a much greater worsening of relations with Indonesia than ever. After all, 100,000 East Timorese lives can be waved aside with a few hypocritical words. But oil — that's realpolitik and worth a blue with Suharto.

And now the Americans have got in the act. Oceanic Exploration of Denver had made a deal with the former Portuguese colonialists and got from them big leases overlapping leases granted by the Australian Government. And now Oceanic has got the wink from Jakarta — on terms (and bribes) undisclosed.

Peacock and Fraser are beginning to realise that even in their own imperialist and dollar-hungry terms, a servile and cringing foreign policy in relation to military dictatorships does not pay off. They have been literally kicked in the backside while on their knees to Suharto!

Even the very small concession Suharto gave to Peacock and Fraser in allowing 99 persons come to Australia from Dili turned out more an embarrassment than a gift, to help their public image in Australia. The old, the crippled hobbled off the

plane, with stories of having bribed their Indonesian captors with sums up to \$5000 to let them go. Naturally most of those (with only three exceptions) were from the wealthy Timorese-Chinese community. Only one was a Timorese ethnic and two were Portuguese. We do not deny the right of Chinese residents in Dili to be reunited with their families in Australia, and do not condemn their attempts to escape the hell-hole that Suharto has made in Dili. But all pretence by the Australian and Indonesian Governments that this release showed their "humanity" is nakedly exposed for all to see.

And the Australian Government was directly involved — its officials "processed" the immigrants and so went along with the bribery that took place.

Finally, there has been the exposure of "Operation Bird of Paradise" — the operation to destabilise Papua New Guinea for the eventual integration of that country into Indonesia. This was ignored by Peacock — but there could be no clearer sign of the real intentions and goals of the Indonesian military dictatorship.

# UREN TO OPEN NATIONAL CONFERENCE

FORMER LABOR MINISTER, Tom Uren MHR, will give the opening address at the National Conference on "EAST TIMOR, AUSTRALIA AND THE REGION", at Adelaide University on January 27. Tom Uren has been one of the most outspoken supporters of the East Timorese people in Australia. The opening session will be chaired by Mr. Peter Duncan MLA, Attorney-General in South Australia.

Jim Hyde, author of "Australia -- the Asia Connection" will then speak on "Australia's Role in the Region", followed by Kate Short who will speak on "Multinational Corporations and Big Power Interest in the Region."

The conference will then divide into workshops to study the questions of foreign bases in Australia and the Region; foreign economic interest in South East Asia; foreign economic interests in the Pacific and the Pacific Rim Strategy.

## EAST TIMOR & WEST PNG

After lunch, Denis Freney will speak on the East Timorese People's Struggle for Independence; Nonie Sharp will speak on "West Papua - New Guinea -- another cause for Australian Shame", while Keith Suter will speak on Indonesia's role in East Timor and West PNG.

Carol Jobson will then lead a workshop giving her personal experiences in East Timor in November 1975. Other workshops will cover strategic and economic interests in East Timor (led by Bill Tully of Canberra CIET); West PNG led by Mike Parsons and Military Aid to Indonesia led by George Preston.

Liz Elliott, chairperson of the Sex Discrimination Board in South Australia will chair the Saturday afternoon session.

The conference resumes on Sunday morning with papers delivered by Ian Bell on ASEAN -- the Nature of the Regimes, and by Professor Bruce McFarlane on "Movements in Asia since Vietnam."

Workshops will then be held on Human Rights in ASEAN Countries (Jeff Richards); Indonesian Foreign Policy (Laurel Black); Australia's relations with ASEAN (Brendan O'Dwyer) and "Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea since 1975 (Bev Smith).

## VANUAAKU & PALIKA SPEAKERS

The Sunday afternoon session will concentrate on the situation in the South Pacific. Fred Timikata Vice-President of the Vanuaaku Pati,

will speak on "Movements for Independence in the Pacific", while a representative of the South Pacific Action Network (SPAN) will speak on "Imperialism in the Pacific." Fred Timikata will lead a workshop on Vanuaaku, while Dewe Gorodey of PALIKA will lead a discussion on New Caledonia. Peter Pinnington will lead a workshop on "Land Rights for Australian Aborigines", and Ashley Campbell will speak on the Nuclear Free Pacific Campaign.

## AUSTRALIAN ROLE

The Monday morning session will cover "What Australia's Role should be in the Region." Alistair Fisher from the Economics Department at Adelaide University will speak on what Australia's economic role should be; Ritchie Gunn former MHR will speak on its diplomatic role; and workshops will then take place on the role of "Aid and Trade" led by Steve Keen and Sarah Sargent from the Freedom From Hunger Ideas Centre; the role of trade unions (Ted Gnatenko AMWSU); role of Community Groups, (Neil Fogarty and Beth Mylius from Action for World Development); and role of Solidarity Groups led by Brian Manning from CIET Darwin and the Radio Listening Post).

A final plenary session will decide on resolutions to be adopted.

The conference will provide a unique opportunity to gain an overview of the situation in the region around Australia and of the detailed situation in particular countries.

Those who wish to attend are asked to contact the conference, care of Andrew Alcock, World Workshop, 112b Gays Arcade, Adelaide, South Australia. In particular, those requiring accommodation are asked to contact Andy Alcock immediately.

## A NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING IN MOZAMBIQUE FOR PRESIDENT LOBATO

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE and FRELIMO declared January 4 a nationwide Day of Mourning for comrade President Nicolau Lobato. Flags throughout the country were flown at half-mast on all Government and party buildings, while many Embassies including those of Zambia, Tanzania, Somalia, China, the Soviet Union, Portugal and Brazil, also flew their flags at half mast as a sign of respect for comrade Nicolau Lobato.

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE adelaide

january 27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> 1979

This important national conference will aim to put in perspective the struggles in East Timor, West PNG, Vanuaaku and in the region in general. It will look at Australia's role in the region and the role of multinational corporations and other Powers.

For further details on the Conference and registration forms please contact: EAST TIMOR, AUSTRALIA AND THE REGION NATIONAL CONFERENCE, c/- ANDREW ALCOCK, WORLD WORKSHOP, 112b GAYS ARCADE, ADELAIDE SA 5000

AUSTRALIAN, 19/12/78

By PHILIP CORNFORD

AUSTRALIA and Indonesia have reached a stand-off on the vital question of who will eventually own what is known as the Timor Gap -- 28,800 sq km of seabed potentially rich in oil and gas.

As oceans go the Timor Gap is about 240km across -- is a drop in the bucket. But to Australia and Indonesia it holds out the promise of saving billions of dollars in oil and energy bills. The trouble for Australia is that it has always regarded the Gap as its own, a contention the Indonesian Foreign Minister, Professor Mochtar, challenged when he told reporters before leaving Canberra on Sunday: "We won't be done this time."

The attitude was grim news for at least four major exploration companies -- Woodside, Aquitaine, Getty and Pelsart -- all of which have Australian-granted exploration rights in the Timor Sea and Joseph Bonaparte Gulf.

All have conducted extended seismic surveys of the area and regard it apart from exploration work now underway in the Exmouth Plateau -- as Australia's last chance of finding valuable reserves of oil on its north-western continental shelf.

All four companies are on standby to begin exploration drilling at short notice. But as the exploration manager for Aquitaine Australia Minerals Pty Ltd, Mr Claude Alliot, said in Sydney yesterday: "No one will drill until they know who is going to own the oil."

Australia and Indonesia will begin thrashing out that question in about three months. In the meantime, Professor Mochtar left Foreign Affairs officials in no doubt that Indonesia will take a tough stand.

He made it clear that Indonesia wants control of the area, which includes almost all the potential oil and gas-rich seabeds.

The area has been in dispute since Australia defined its borders in 1971-72 with Irian Jaya in the east and West Timor in the west.

Because it could not reach agreement with Portugal, which then controlled East Timor, a 240km gap was left opposite East Timor.

Australia's position is that the most logical new border is a straight line across the Timor Gap, which would place the border about 400km north of the Australian coast.

But Indonesia wants the border to be drawn along the median line between Australia and Timor. This would bite 120 km south in waters Australia considers its own -- and gobble up with it the oil exploration areas.

# PNG grab plotted on paper

MELBOURNE AGE, 19/12/78

From TONY WALKER, our Defence Reporter

CANBERRA. -- A document claiming to be an Indonesian military plan for the destabilisation of Papua New Guinea is being circulated in Canberra.

Circulation of the document -- whether genuine or a fake -- appears to be deliberately timed to coincide with the visit by Indonesia's Foreign Minister, Dr. Mochtar.

The plan outlined in the document calls for a two-stage campaign of subversion within Papua New Guinea, leading to a popular uprising in favor of integration with Indonesia by 1984.

Dr. Mochtar at the weekend vigorously denied that any such plan was ever considered. He said Indonesia had no designs on PNG.

"We've got enough real estate," he said.

Australian intelligence experts refused to rule out the possibility that the document could be genuine but said it could also be a fake or a hypothetical intelligence exercise.

The document, which purports to be the work of Indonesia's Department of Defence and Security, gives details of an operation code-named Bird of Paradise.

According to the document the destabilisation option was first discussed on December 9, 1975, two days after the invasion of East Timor.

The document carries a seal which

purports to be that of the department of Defence and Security, and is stamped "Sangat Rahasia" (Very Secret).

Describing Indonesia's action in East Timor as a "wise move" the document says: "It would be wiser also to take the same decision towards the territory bordering Irian Jaya, that is the area that was the former protectorate of Australia and the UN, namely PNG."

Under the plan outlined in the alleged military document, 200 operatives would be recruited from the intelligence community to be sent into Papua New Guinea to promote the destabilisation process.

According to the document: "The target of the operation will be especially the village people, high school and university students and local political party members."

This campaign was designated the "short-term" operation.

The aims of the "short term" campaign would involve:

Raising awareness among local people of the benefits that could be achieved by close contact with the people of Indonesia.

Developing a nationalistic fervor among the people for integration.

Cultivating local cadres sympathetic to Indonesia.

The document says the aim of the long-term operation "is the integration of the entire territory of PNG into the territory of the Republic of Indonesia by peaceful and constitutional means."

## MELB. AGE, 16/12/78 (extract) Prai's rebels in \$1m talks

From MARK BAKER

PORT MORESBY, Dec. 15. -- The Irian Jayan guerrilla movement was negotiating to buy military equipment worth as much as \$250,000 a month before the capture of rebel leader Jacob Prai.

The arms deal involved the purchase of 500 Armalite rifles, a substantial quantity of ammunition and five VHF radio transmitters.

Senior security sources have confirmed that a European arms dealer from the West African State of Senegal met officials of the Free Papua Movement (OPM) at a motel in Madang, on PNG's northern coast, on August 23, to finalise arrangements.

Under the plan, the equipment was to be shipped to a point inside PNG near Irian Jaya and airlifted to the border by light plane.

It is understood the Senegalese Government, long sympathetic to OPM, was prepared to sign the necessary "end-user" certificates for the weapons.

The scheme was uncovered after a PNG security official infiltrated the negotiating group.

Preparations for the shipment had reached the stage of only requiring final approval of Mr. Prai, who had been in regular contact with the negotiators until his capture.

## CONTACT ADDRESSES FOR INFORMATION ON EAST TIMOR SUPPORT ACTIONS

CAMPAIGN FOR INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR (CIET), fourth floor, 232 Castlereagh St., Sydney, NSW. 2000. Phone: (02) 61.7089.

AUSTRALIA EAST TIMOR ASSOCIATION CENTRE, 33 Smith St., Fitzroy, Vic. 3065. Ph: (03) 41.6318.

CIET (ACT), PO Box 514, Manuka, ACT.

CIET (NT), PO Box 1014, Darwin, NT.

CIET (SA), C/- Plumbers Union, Trades Hall, South Terrace, Adelaide, SA. Phone: 332.1914.

CIET (Newcastle), C/- Trades Hall, Union St., Newcastle. 2300.

CIET (Tas), C/- 67 Pedder St., Newtown, Hobart, Tas. Phone: 28.2736.

FRIENDS OF EAST TIMOR, GPO Box T1810, Perth, WA. 6001.

TIMOR INFORMATION SERVICE, first floor, 183 Gertrude St., Fitzroy, Vic. 3065.

DRET Information Office, C/- AETA Centre, 33 Smith St., Fitzroy, Vic. 3065. (temporary address).

BRITAIN: British CIET, 40 Concanon Rd., London, SW2, England.

USA: East Timor Defense Committee, PO Box 251, Old Chelsea Station, NY, NY 10010. USA.

NEW ZEALAND: NZCIET, 126 Vivian St., Wellington.

CIET, Epicentre, PO Box 5890, Auckland.

CIET, PO Box 348, Christchurch.

HOLLAND: Indonesia Committee, Postbus 4098, Amsterdam.

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similar publications as we must subsidise a large overseas airmailing to over 100 addresses.

East Timor News was founded by Australian journalist Roger East in November 1975. Roger East was murdered by Indonesian troops in Dili on December 8, 1975.

Other media may reproduce material from East Timor News. We would, however, appreciate acknowledgment.

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