

NEW MANOUVRES BY SUHARTO: XAVIER IN PUPPET GOVERNMENT

XAVIER DO AMARAL, who surrendered to the Indonesians in August 1978, has been appointed puppet "Vice-President" in the "provincial Government," of East Timor.

Xavier do Amaral betrayed the East Timorese people, when, as President of Fretilin he attempted to seize power from the Fretilin Central Committee in the liberated areas in August 1977. He was arrested in September 1977 by Fretilin.

The "new" Provincial Government is headed by G Goncalves, the Rajah of Atsabe, who from the beginning was a leader of the puppet APODETI group. Goncalves is "President".

Former "Vice-President", Francisco Lopes da Cruz is now "Prime Minister." Lopes da Cruz was a UDT leader who early in the struggle became an agent of Suharto.

Former puppet President, Arnaldo Araujo has been kicked upstairs to serve Suharto in the powerless Jakarta "parliament."

The re-make of the puppet Government only has significance as a sign that Suharto wants to give it an appearance of representing all former parties. This cosmetic surgery on the puppet regime is aimed mainly at the outside world. No doubt Suharto also hopes that with Xavier do Amaral as "vice-president", the Maubere people may accept "integration."

The appointment of Xavier do Amaral is official: a Government publication circulated by a team of visiting Indonesian Information Department officials in Australia which included the puppet "Prime Minister's" older brother, Mariano Lopes da Cruz, spelt this out.

FERNANDES EXECUTED

In contrast with the promotion of Xavier do Amaral, two independent reports reaching Australia, one quoting a high puppet official in Dili, state that in March this year, the Indonesian secret police in Dili executed Alarico Fernandes, former Fretilin Information Secretary, along with Afonso Redentor, Cornelio Esposto, and Leopoldo.

According to these reports, the four former Fretilin leaders were taken from Sang Tai Hoo prison in central Dili late at night and told they were going to "fight Fretilin." However, a short distance outside Dili on the road to Aileu, they were all summarily executed.

The executions were part of a plan by the Indonesian generals to execute all Fretilin supporters who had surrendered. Xavier do Amaral was exempted because he was totally compliant and because he had wanted to surrender from the very beginning of the invasion.

As we have outlined in detail in previous editions of *EAST TIMOR NEWS*, Alarico Fernandes surrendered to the Indonesians on December 3, 1978, after the failure of his "Operation Skylight" which aimed at the assassination of President Nicolau Lobato and other revolutionary Fretilin leaders, to be followed by a ceasefire and negotiations with the Indonesians, aimed at forming a puppet "independent" government.

Fernandes had illusions that the Suharto regime would agree to such a scheme -- a fatal illusion which cost him his life.

Alarico Fernandes' surrender resulted in the end of radio contact between Darwin and the liberated areas. It also helped the Indonesians penetrate the Centre-North Sector, near Dili, which was Fernandes' base.

But his surrender did not lead to the collapse of Fretilin resistance, which has over the past few months been reorganised, including in the Centre-North Sector.

The execution of Alarico Fernandes and the others occurred at the same time as Fretilin staged a spectacular ambush at Railaco, on the road between Dili and the coffee-growing centre of Emmera in which over ten trucks were destroyed.

Fernandes was particularly hated by the Indonesians during the years when he was Fretilin spokesman over Radio Maubere. Once he had told the Indonesians all he knew and was of no further use to them, Suharto's fascist troops took their revenge.

WHY EXECUTIONS

Alarico Fernandes paid with his life for the years during which, whatever his personal opinions, he reflected the struggle of the Maubere Revolution over Radio Maubere and in messages sent to Darwin.

It is also possible that Fernandes refused to totally capitulate to the Suharto fascists. Despite his reactionary anti-communist politics which led him to betray Fretilin and surrender, he had in the past been a strong nationalist.

However, the fact that Leopoldo was also executed, shows that the Indonesian fascists are unwilling to even accept complete capitulation as an excuse for past resistance.

Leopoldo had surrendered to the Indonesians very early in the struggle and had broadcast many times over Radio Dili, attacking Fretilin.

Leopoldo in particular had proven his credentials as a puppet many times over -- yet he too was executed because he did not surrender at the very beginning.

The Suharto fascists have shown their true colours -- and the cosmetic promotion of Xavier do Amaral is exposed as the superficial manoeuvre it is.

Suharto's agents -- and particularly Mariano Lopes da Cruz during his recent visit to Australia -- have been working overtime to try to persuade ex-UDT and other Timorese reactionaries in the outside world, to return to Dili to take positions in the new Government.

PUPPET INDEPENDENCE

However, Mariano Lopes da Cruz got only refusals from even ex-UDT reactionaries who support the puppet government in Dili. Even these Indonesian apologists favoured the security and comfort of Sydney or Melbourne to the dangers of life in Dili.

According to some ex-UDT reactionaries, Suharto is even prepared to give the new puppet Dili Government "independence". The "independent" government would "invite" Suharto's troops to stay in East Timor to maintain "security."

However, this hope seems to be more a carrot the Indonesians are dangling in front of some ex-UDT, to get them back to Dili.

Such a puppet "independence" could only occur if Suharto was desperate because of the continuing strong resistance from the Fretilin-led forces.

However, an "internal settlement" and puppet "independence" cannot be ruled out as a possibility in the future.

The new puppet "government" with the promotion of Xavier do Amaral shows already a new note of desperation on the side of Suharto. The high hopes he held for a speedy end to resistance in East Timor after the surrender of Alarico Fernandes and the death of President Nicolau Lobato -- have been dashed. Now he begins a new manoeuvre.

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BRIBES TO ESCAPE DILI

OVER 300 East Timorese who had escaped from Dili to Bali were ordered back to Dili last month, so that they could not upset the meeting between Suharto and Fraser.

The 300 East Timorese in Bali had paid up to \$2000 in bribes to senior Indonesian officials in Dili but had been stranded in Bali.

A further 200 were stranded in Jakarta.

The Timorese -- many of them ethnic Chinese -- had been sent the money by relatives already in Australia and Portugal.

However, they found it difficult to bribe their way further out of Bali and Jakarta. However, many had succeeded -- 300 have already arrived in Portugal, while 100 arrived in Australia.

The 300 in Bali were ordered back personally by puppet Dili president Goncalves.

The question of bribes paid to Indonesian officials to allow exit visas from Dili was raised before federal parliamentarians by Timorese refugee spokesman Joao Goncalves in Canberra. (See press reports inside).

However, the Indonesian "investigation" into these bribes will only affect the Timorese desperately trying to escape the fascist horror reigning in Dili. The Indonesian officials mainly concerned are at a high-level.

The Australian Government is as usual covering up for this scandal. Fraser during his visit to Bali told the media that the refugee program (reuniting families in Australia) was "going well."

VIVA INDONESIA!



Viva Indonesia is a documentary musical play written and directed by Richard Fotheringham and performed by the seven member cast of the Popular Theatre Troupe.

The songs for the and Portuguese, production were written by Richard Fotheringham, Jane Ahlquist, and Frank Millwood and the choreography for the dance routines were created by Bev Nevin.

Viva Indonesia! looks at the some of the major episodes in Indonesian history. Some of the highlights are:

*Indonesia under the colonial rule of the Dutch

Viva Indonesia is a vivid, *slides of Indonesia and funny, and musically rich Timor, entertainment with *11 original songs, *authentic film clips *a cast of seven all from the Timor conflict, singing, all dancing actor/musicians.

VIVA INDONESIA will be showing at THE STABLES, 10 Nimrod St., Darlinghurst, Sydney, from Wednesday May 30 to Sunday June 3, and from Wednesday June 6 to Sunday June 9.

The show begins at 8 pm. Bookings may be made by phoning 347-4602 (9am-4pm).

Admission: \$4 adults; \$2.50 concessions.

FROM THE PRESS

Geological survey pact

Melbourne Herald 14/5/79
 The memorandum was signed by the Australian Ambassador, Thomas Critchley, and the Director-General of General Mining, J. A. Katili.
 Australia agreed to provide \$6,823,000 for the project.

'200,000 Timorese murdered

Australian 22/5/79

Indonesia accused of raids with U.S. napalm

UNITED PRESS, LISBON, MONDAY

INDONESIAN occupation forces have killed up to 200,000 mountain people with United States-made weapons since they invaded East Timor 3½ years ago, an American social activist claims.

Mr Noam Chomsky, a linguist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, yesterday said Indonesian troops, varying in strength from 20,000 to 50,000, were using American planes, napalm and defoliants "in a war of annihilation" against Timorese guerrillas and refugees in the island's mountains.

Speaking at an international "solidarity" conference, he said his information was gathered from letters smuggled out of the former Portuguese colony, largely written by local church sources who initially supported the Indonesian invasion.

GIVEN GREEN LIGHT

Since the invasion on December 7, 1975, Indonesia has refused to allow independent observers, including the International Red Cross, to enter East Timor which had a pre-invasion subsistence-farming population of 600,000.

A Federal Opposition MP, Mr Ken Fry, earlier told the conference that Australia's ruling Liberal-National Country Party leaders had given Indonesia's President Suharto the green light to invade East Timor after meetings with his envoys.

Both speakers recalled that the former U.S. President, Mr Ford, and the former Secretary of State, Dr Kissinger, were in Jakarta only days before the invasion and that Dr Kissinger then

told reporters the U.S. understood the Indonesian position on East Timor.

Mr Chomsky said that despite the U.S. State Department's post-invasion claims that arms shipments to the Jakarta regime had been temporarily suspended, Washington had continued to provide it with sophisticated weaponry.

He claimed the U.S. was supplying Indonesia with OV-10 Bronco counter-insurgency planes, helicopters, napalm, herbicides and defoliants.

He told UPI before he addressed the two-day conference: "Indonesia had practically exhausted its arms supply by late 1977, but Washington and other western capitals have continued to fill all the regime's military needs."

He said that among others Italy provided helicopters and the Netherlands supplied corvettes which had been used for bombardments.

"Independent estimates indicate that between 100,000 and 200,000 of these simple mountain people have been slaughtered — either directly, or through starvation and epidemics caused by the use of defoliants and herbicides."

Indonesia invaded East Timor after Portuguese troops evacuated the territory when the left-leaning Fretilin nationalists seized power in a counter-coup against local rightist groups.

In 1976, despite Portuguese and United Nations refusal to recognise its right to do so, Indonesia annexed the 15,000 sq km territory after it organised and supervised a referendum among the Timorese under its control.

Australian yachtsmen, forced into Timorese waters for repairs, recently reported seeing extensive Indonesian military movements and hearing the sounds of explosions near the capital, Dili, which once boasted 30,000 inhabitants.

Sydney Morning Herald 5/5/79

Kerosene rise blow to poor

From PETER RODGERS, Staff Correspondent

JAKARTA, Friday. — A decision by the Indonesian Government to raise the domestic price of kerosene by almost 40 per cent has been soundly criticised in sections of the Jakarta press.

The importance of the rise which became effective on Wednesday, lies in the fact that kerosene is relied upon by many millions of poor Indonesians for their cooking and lighting needs. Kerosene had been exempted from a similar price rise for other petroleum products announced in early April. It will now cost about 4c a litre at official distribution points but could cost up to 7c a litre in market places.

In announcing the increase Indonesia's Mining and Energy Minister, Mr Subroto, said that it had been made necessary by a jump in the consumption of kerosene since the domestic price rise for other fuels combined with an increase in the international price of kerosene. Indonesia has to import about 25 per cent of its domestic kerosene requirements.

Jakarta's respected afternoon daily the Indonesian language Sinar Harapan said that while a price rise for kerosene could have been anticipated the

increase was too great. It would impose a heavy burden upon the people, especially those in the rural areas.

A similar line was followed by the Moslem-oriented morning newspaper, Pelita. It said that a month ago kerosene had been exempted from a price rise because the Government was aware of the need of the "small people", but what was valid a month ago had now changed and people would be confused.

The paper said that the small people could not do much about the price rise. They could not turn to alternative fuels. Creating a commotion would be of no use as it would be seen as a threat to stability. All that the people could do, said the paper, "is to pray to God to give them strength to bear this heavy burden."

The small circulation English language daily the Indonesian Observer used the kerosene price rise for a general attack on the Government's economic policies. In an editorial today it said that the decision had completely destroyed "people's trust in the Government to always protect the economically weakest."

The Observer said that the decision had strengthened a belief that the Government "had a penchant for radicalism in matters of prices and monetary value changes."

West Australian 21/5/79 extract

Five Indonesian journalists due in Perth this week were accused yesterday of being committed to subverting Press freedom in their country.

The chairman of the Indonesia action group of the Australian East Timor Association, Mr Ian Bell, made a call in Melbourne for WA journalists to boycott the visitors.

The five journalists—a newspaper editor and

four officials of the Department of Information—are finishing an Australian tour at the invitation of the Federal Government.

"I hope WA journalists will ask them why there is no criticism of the Government in Indonesian newspapers and why there is never any mention of corruption in high places," he said.

"They should be asked why the newspapers are never allowed to mention the Suharto family's wealth or why journalists are not allowed into East Timor."

Syd. Morning Herald 9/5/79

Army man accused of \$2.5m fraud

From PETER RODGERS, Staff Correspondent

JAKARTA, Tuesday. — Indonesian authorities have arrested an unidentified army colonel on charges of embezzling nearly \$2.5 million from State funds.

The arrest was revealed after Admiral Sudomo, the head of the current government anti-corruption drive, and Mr Sumarlin, the Minister for Administrative Reform, had reported to President Soeharto on the campaign's activities during April.

They said that an army captain had also been detained for fraudulent handling of fuel worth over \$300,000.



President Soeharto

Mr Sumarlin said that the current anti-corruption drive had dealt with a total of 85 cases during April, involving a sum of nearly \$3.5 million — about \$77,000 had been recovered so far.

Mr Sumarlin said that since the drive began in June, 1977, it had handled 3,419 cases of corruption, involving 5,196 people.

It was also announced that President Soeharto had ordered the security agency to crack-down on teachers who charged parents illegal school fees.



NOAM CHOMSKY (right) with Federal Opposition MP, Mr Ken Fry, (left) at the conference.

Timor bribe probe

MELBOURNE AGE, 14/5/79

From TONY WALKER

CANBERRA. — Indonesia has agreed to investigate claims that Timorese refugees seeking to come to Australia under the family reunion agreement are being forced to pay bribes of at least \$1000 to Indonesian officials.

The Indonesian investigation follows an official approach by Australia after the Federal Government was given evidence about alleged bribes.

Authorities in Jakarta have said they would take action if necessary.

A senior Australian Government source said last night: "While the evidence was not conclusive it was sufficient for us to raise it with the Indonesians".

The Australian Government is believed to have received evidence of bribery from several sources.

A spokesman for the Timorese community, Mr. Joao Goncalves, told a private gathering of parliamentarians in Canberra last week that the bribery was going on.

Mr. Goncalves said the payments were channelled to senior Indonesian military officers in Dili through a Jakarta business house.

The Timorese spokesman named two officers as recipients of bribes. The convenor of the Parliamentary group, Tasmanian Liberal Mr. Hodgman, said last night: "If the allegations are true it exposes a disgraceful trade in human flesh".

Mr. Hodgman said he would take up the bribery allegation with the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Mr. MacKellar.

"I think it would be fair to say that all the members were concerned by what Mr. Goncalves told us," Mr. Hodgman said.

"For my own part I can only say I was shocked." There were about 12 parliamentarians at the private briefing, representing all parties.

Mr. Hodgman said they had been told of a woman resorting to prostitution to raise the money.

A senior immigration official said last night "there was probably some truth" in the allegations.

The Timorese community has been most reluctant to talk publicly about the bribes for fear that family reunions would be jeopardised.

The Australian and Indonesian Governments agreed last year to a limited family reunion programme.

So far about 200 of the 600 Timorese eligible for entry to Australia have been allowed out of East Timor.

Australian immigration officials say the programme is "moving slowly".

It has been alleged that Timorese of Chinese origin are finding it easier to get out of East Timor than indigenous Timorese.

Meanwhile, a background document circulating among Federal parliamentarians quotes a senior Indonesian official admitting that more than 100,000 people died during the war.

The document, prepared by the director of the foreign affairs group in the parliamentary legislative research service, Mr. Jim Dunn, quotes the official saying that hundreds of villages had been "wiped off the face of the earth" in the bombing.

"Many names on the map of East Timor no longer exist," the official said.

Sydney Morning Herald 19/5/79

Security for Soeharto

From MARK BAKER

PORT MORESBY, Friday. — The most elaborate security precautions ever taken in Papua New Guinea are being prepared for next month's State visit by President Soeharto of Indonesia.

The visit, from June 4, will be an important mark in the improving relations between PNG and Indonesia in recent months. While preparations are well advanced, Government has still not made an official announcement.

Public servants have been instructed not to discuss details of the itinerary with the press.

The stringent security measures from concern that support for the separatist guerrilla movement in Irian Jaya may trigger test action. For the first

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ence in Lisbon. — UPI picture.

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people attending official engagements with President Soeharto will be required to wear photographic identification.

The visit is expected to cement the new accord between the two countries which began with last December's trip by the Indonesian Foreign Minister, Dr Mochtar Kusumatmaaja.

Border activity by Irianese rebels and preparations for a new border treaty are expected to be raised. Relations were strained last year after Indonesian troops made several incursions into PNG in pursuit of rebels.

Dr Mochtar promised to end anti-guerrilla raids and to follow a new policy of peaceful persuasion with the separatists.

President Soeharto was first invited to tour PNG after the PNG Prime Minister, Mr Somare, went to Jakarta in 1977.

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lb. Age 3/5/79

From MARK BAKER

MORESBY, May 2. — The US ambassador to the United Nations, Mr [unclear], tonight said he did not regard Indonesia as a threat to Papua New Guinea's sovereignty.

think Indonesia have all the they can handle on their own," he said in response to questions about threats to Irian

are not going to be anywhere for because there's too much (already).

are probably so worried about Vietnam they don't know what to do and why else in South-East Asia is worried about and the tensions between Vietnam and China. Irian in Asia's got to keep themselves

like Irian Jaya be resolved by means and the UN best forum to that

st Timor situation, erent to Irian Jaya, v regularly being the UN.

Canberra Times 15/5/79

East Timor 'resistance'

The people of East Timor were still suffering grave hardships from Indonesian military operations, starvation and lack of medical services, a Labor backbencher said yesterday.

The Member for Fraser, Mr Fry, said, "The strong revulsion to the brutality of Indonesian aggression against the people of East Timor will not disappear simply because it is convenient for the Fraser and Suharto Governments to 'bury the hatchet' which has killed so many Timorese people.

"Resistance still continues in East Timor and the people are still suffering grave hardships from Indonesian military operations, starvation and lack of medical services.

"Information coming in from Timor to Australia and Portugal confirms that all is not well, as the Suharto Government would have us believe".

He left Canberra yesterday to attend a conference on East Timor in Lisbon and a parliamentary mission to France.

Three face election scrutiny

From PETER RODGERS,
Staff Correspondent

JAKARTA, Wednesday. — Indonesian legal authorities have resumed their investigation into the alleged anti-Government activities of three prominent Indonesians during the period of the Indonesian presidential election in March 1978.

The three Indonesians, Professor Suny of the University of Indonesia, Mr Bung Tomo, a well-known nationalist figure, and Mr Muband Djunaedi, a prominent Moslem politician and journalist, were arrested in April last year. They were released earlier this month.

An official of the Jakarta Chief Prosecutor's office said yesterday that further investigation of Professor Suny's and Mr Bung Tomo's activities during the 1978 Presidential election was being carried out.

Further investigation of Mr Djunaedi has been delayed because he is ill.

Legal officials say that a decision on whether to try the three will depend on the outcome of the investigations.



Mr. Young

Antara chief

Jakarta, Thursday. — Major-General August Marpaung was installed today as the new general manager of Indonesia's Antara news agency, in a brief ceremony carried out by the Information Minister, Mr Ali Murtopo, on behalf of President Soeharto.

(AAP-Reuters)

Sydney Morning Herald 4/5/79

Melb. Age 8/5/79

Sydney Morning Herald 28/4/79

Discontent among the masses

From PETER RODGERS,
Staff Correspondent

JAKARTA, Friday. — The presentation of a confidential intelligence report to the Indonesian Cabinet last Wednesday, dealing with the situation in Indonesia during the next five years gave Jakarta newspapers a chance to make known their thoughts on the problems facing the country.

Details of the report prepared by Bakin, the national intelligence co-ordinating body, have not been revealed.

But General Yoga Soegomo, the head of Bakin, said after briefing the Cabinet that the next five years would be a difficult period for Indonesia.

General Soegomo admitted there was a feeling of "unrest" in the community which if not checked could develop into rebellion and said that all Indonesians should be concerned about the situation in the country.

Jakarta newspapers readily agreed that the period covered by the Bakin report, which coincides with Indonesia's third five-year economic development plan, would not be an easy one.

The strongly nationalist and frequently outspoken English-language daily, the Indonesian Observer, pulled no punches in telling its readers what it thought of the situation.

In an editorial today, the Observer said that the admission that there was discontent among the masses did not surprise anyone. It said that while no details were given about the cause of this discontent it was "not hard to see that the main cause of the growing unrest was the ever-widening gap between the rich and the poor."

Other press comment reflected a concern about the present and future situation in the country — but in a more restrained fashion.

An editorial in the widely respected independent Indonesian-language daily, Kompas, said there was something of a paradox in the situation.

Problems faced in the next five years needed to be dealt with in a disciplined and stable atmosphere. But this coincided with a feeling that the nature of the problems required greater participation by the masses which could in fact have an unsettling effect.

Sydney Morning Herald 4/5/79

Waldheim visit

JAKARTA, Tues., AAP. — United Nations Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim arrived here today for a four-day formal visit to discuss Indochina refugee problems and other regional international matters with Indonesian leaders.

Melb. Age 8/5/79

By MARK BAKER

Mr. Young, who was in Melbourne for five hours, was guest at an Australian-American Association lunch at the Hilton Hotel and later gave a Press conference.

He flew to Canberra last night where he attended a dinner given by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Peacock.

Mr. Young said the United Nations should not support efforts for independence in East Timor.

Attempts to re-draw colonial boundaries in areas like Timor could lead to "a century of warfare" in Asia.

It was more important to concentrate on building harmony within existing nations than to create new States for individual ethnic groups.

The Indonesian takeover of East Timor had been an extension of the colonial power exercised by the Dutch.

"Now, you have got problems like that all over the world, all over Africa," he said.

"You may have little pockets of discontent, but the problem is that if you start readjusting lines

according to tribal wishes and territorial claims, you do open the region to a century of warfare which, say, Europe went through in realigning its territories.

"Hopefully the UN would avoid that."

Mr. Young said Australia should not involve itself in attempts to bring independence to Irian Jaya.

"If Australia gets bound up in that it defeats the basic purpose of the UN decolonisation effort of trying to create nations out of very difficult circumstances," he said.

"I'm on the side of national unity wherever it is because I think ultimately people have got to learn to live together in groups larger than a single tribal unit."

The ambassador said he would not be "taking sides" in his meeting with Aboriginal leaders in Perth tomorrow.

"What I am trying to do is give people a hearing... and share my own experiences," he said.

"The situation is so diverse that there is probably no single Aboriginal problem."

Sydney Morning Herald 14/4/79

Haven for investors

JAKARTA, Friday. — The Indonesian Ambassador to Singapore, Mr Soedjatmoko, has said that Singapore has welcomed plans to develop Batam island into a tax-free, bonded, industrial estate.

The Indonesian Government has announced plans to turn Batam, 20km south of Singapore into a haven for investors. It has offered several incentives, including a tax-free holiday of up to six years and the freedom to determine management systems including the use of foreigners in positions that might not be permitted in other parts of the country.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with President Soeharto, Mr Soedjatmoko said Singapore was considering various investments in Batam.

From MICHAEL RICHARDSON in Bali

Tidy job in Asia

Melbourne Age 14/5/79

From MICHAEL RICHARDSON in Bali

As an exercise in regional diplomacy, the six-day visit by Australia's Prime Minister to the Philippines and Indonesia, which ended yesterday, was a tidying up operation.

Mr. Fraser was intent on smoothing over, if not altogether removing, some of the politically embarrassing litter in Australia's northern neighborhood, formed by the arc of five non-communist countries in the Association of South-East Asian Nations.

It is fair to say that he seems to have succeeded very well.

Of the five ASEAN members — Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand — it is obvious that in terms of proximity, size and potential influence, Indonesia is the most important to Australia.

Under Gough Whitlam's often inspired, but erratic guidance, Australian foreign policy became much more effectively Asia-oriented.

The Labor Prime Minister joust-ed verbally with Singapore's combative leader, Lee Kuan Yew, driving relations between the island-State and Australia to a record low.

But Mr. Whitlam added substance to Australia's links with ASEAN as a group. He nurtured ties with Indonesia and developed his own personal relationship with President Suharto with remarkable skill and sensitivity.

Mr. Fraser has been unable to emulate this feat of statesmanship — at least until now. It has affected his political ego and the credibility of his Government's claim to enjoy good relations with its neighbors.

Indonesia's armed intervention in East Timor in December, 1975, which coincided with elections that put the Fraser Government in power, ruptured relations between Canberra and Jakarta.

Not long afterwards, ASEAN countries, spearheaded by Malaysia and the Philippines, started a persistent campaign of agitation against the Fraser Government's import restraints on ASEAN manufactured and processed products.

Last year, a third difficulty arose — Canberra's international civil aviation policy and the vehement campaign within ASEAN, led by Singapore, against its restrictive aspects.

All three problems, Timor, trade and aviation, now appear to have eased to manageable proportions.

The application, belatedly, of professional diplomacy and political solutions, and better explanation of Australian policies have helped. So has Mr. Fraser's tour.

His presence in Manila and Bali has again demonstrated that in certain critical foreign policy situations the most effective factor is a Head of Government.

That is not an unflattering reflection on the Foreign Minister, Mr. Peacock, who can fairly claim to have laid a good deal of the groundwork that paved the way for the Prime Minister to move in.

It is simply acknowledgement of a reality: that in Manila and Jakarta Heads of Government, who have power to exercise decisive influence over foreign policy, respond most readily when dealing with a peer.

Mr. Fraser's four-day official visit to the Philippines at the invitation of martial law President

JAKARTA, Tuesday (AAP-Reuters). — Indonesia was expecting to take delivery of its first modern warship in September to replace the navy's outdated and obsolete fleet, a navy spokesman said yesterday. He said the ship was one of the three corvettes ordered by Indonesia from the Netherlands. The navy had also signed contracts to buy two submarines from West Germany and four rocket-carrying patrol boats from South Korea.

Ferdinand Marcos was a classic case of symbiotic diplomacy.

The President, hosting the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and keen to improve his own and his country's standing in the world, was clearly pleased that Mr. Fraser and Japan's Prime Minister, Mr. Ohira, found time to come.

For Mr. Fraser, it was a useful opportunity to pursue Australia's international economic interests in a major forum; it was also an ideal chance to catch the President in a receptive mood on problems affecting Australia's relations with the Philippines and ASEAN. Mr. Fraser and his advisers shrewdly capitalised on this.

Mr. Marcos was persuaded to authorise ratification of a trade agreement frozen since it was initiated in 1975 by Philippine unhappiness over a persistent trade deficit with Australia.

A five-page joint communique issued on Friday just before Mr. Fraser's departure for Bali described the talks between President Marcos and Mr. Fraser as "reflecting the important and expanding relationship between the Philippines and Australia".

It contained a reference indicating that Mr. Marcos personally endorsed the compromise package deal to settle the aviation row which Australian and ASEAN officials finally hammered out at a meeting that ended in Kuala Lumpur last Monday.

President Suharto of Indonesia expressed a similar view, according to Mr. Fraser.

Australian sources believe this will make it more difficult for Singapore to upset the tentative aviation package when ASEAN Economic Ministers meet in Manila soon.

The fact that Mr. Fraser was at last invited to drop in to Bali for informal talks with President Suharto will be read as a sign for final rapprochement between the two Governments after nearly three and a half years of strain, mainly over Timor.

However, informed Indonesian sources say the talks were a by-product of strenuous Australian efforts to persuade President Suharto to take up the Fraser Government's long-standing invitation to visit Australia to demonstrate that relations with Indonesia are good.

The President is being advised not to go to Australia for the time being in case he encounters hostile demonstrations that would sour the atmosphere between the two countries and upset the still-sensitive relationship.

He is going to Japan then Papua New Guinea in early June but, pointedly, no further south.

When this became known in Canberra some months ago, it was suggested the President might like to include Australia in his tour. This was declined. So Mr. Fraser proposed a meeting in Manila if the Indonesian leader was going to attend the UNCTAD session.

He wasn't. But the upshot of all this was a subtle Asian compromise allowing both parties to maintain face.

The President invited the Prime Minister to stop over in Bali on his way home. Mr. Fraser accepted with alacrity.

Canberra Times 16/5/79

MAY 20 CELEBRATIONS CONFERENCE BIG SUCCESS

OVER 800 delegates from 17 countries attended an International Conference on East Timor on May 19 and 20.

The conference was addressed by American Professor Noam Chomsky, who was a major opponent of the Vietnam War, and by Mr. Ken Fry, Labor MHR.

Other speakers included Mr. Mats Hellstrom, from the Swedish Social Democratic Party, Mr. Louis Jonet, from the International League for People's Rights, Mr. Carlos Candal from the Portuguese Socialist Party and Mr. Angelo Correia from the Portuguese Social-Democratic Party (PSD). Portugal's former Ambassador to Yugoslavia also spoke, as did many other prominent Portuguese figures.

Ambassadors from former Portuguese colonies in Africa, including those from Mozambique, Angola and Guine-Bissau also took part.

Timor solidarity movements in Britain, France, USA, West Germany, Holland and Denmark were present.

Prof. Chomsky made a scathing exposure of American involvement and Suharto's genocide (see press cuttings). Mr. Ken Fry MHR outlined ALP policy for end to military aid to Suharto and support for East Timor in the United Nations.

The conference was a major step forward in building support for East Timor in Portugal, and for that matter worldwide.

The Campaign for Independent East Timor in Sydney sent a message to the Conference, and apologies for being unable to attend.

We will produce a longer report on the conference in the next issue of East Timor News, along with some of the speeches made.

In MAPUTO, the capital of the People's Republic of Mozambique, Mozambican Foreign Minister, ode.

Joaquim Chissano, pledged continuing support from his Government and from FRELIMO for the heroic struggle of the Maubere people. He said that the Maubere people were inflicting very heavy casualties on the enemy despite the very difficult conditions in which they fight.

Mr. Mari Alkatiri, Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Democratic Republic of East Timor, spoke on the role of imperialism in promoting Indonesian aggression, for strategic reasons, and stressed the unity of the struggle of the Maubere people with the anti-imperialist struggle of peoples around the world.

Representatives of the African National Congress of South Africa and the Palestine Liberation Organisation were also present at the celebration which was held on May 20.

A fuller report will be published in the next issue of EAST TIMOR NEWS.

Celebrations for May 20, the fifth anniversary of the founding of ASDT/FRETILIN were held in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.

In Sydney, over 200 people, more than half of them Timorese, attended a celebration on May 19 in Fairfield, in the western suburbs, where most Timorese live. Mr. Tom Uren MHR, Labor Shadow Minister, gave the main address.

In Melbourne, a special session of VIVA INDONESIA on May 20 drew a large crowd. Earlier, a demonstration was held outside a reception given for the visiting Indonesian Information Department journalists, which got wide media coverage.

In Adelaide, 50 people attended a special lunch on May 20, which was addressed by Dr. Ernst Utrecht and Kate Short, and was chaired by former Labor MHR Dr. Ritchie Gun.

STRIKE WAVE IN INDONESIA

A WAVE OF STRIKES in Indonesia is causing grave concern to the Suharto regime. Despite an official ban on strikes, workers have adopted go-slow and other methods to demand wage rises.

The recent devaluation of the rupiah by 50% has resulted in price rises which has made living very hard. A worker at the Japanese-owned PT Asahi Mas glassworks in Jakarta, where workers are on strike for a 50% wage rise told ASIaweek magazine (April 27, 1979):

"I'm not scared of death. But I am scared of life on these wages when everything is going up. They know we won't find another job if we leave, not we old ones."

The glassworks are festooned with banners demanding a living wage. The same applies at the Chartered Bank in Jakarta's classy Jalan Thamrin where workers are on a go-slow strike.

Since the ASIaweek report, Suharto has raised the price of kerosene by 50%. Kerosene is the main fuel used by the poor, and this rise places an enormous further burden on them.

Even appointed trade union boss, Agus Sudono felt obliged to protest and call for a 25-30% wage rise. He noted that the foreign workers at the Chartered Bank had received a 35% pay rise after devaluation, but the Indonesians nothing. The wage bill of the 11 foreign workers is the equal of the 181 Indonesian workers. Workers who set up legal union branches in enterprises are sacked in their hundreds.

Meanwhile, students on different campuses are attempting to reorganise their student unions and publications, smashed by Suharto last year. The students on trial in Jakarta and Bandung have transformed their trials into trials of Suharto's regime.

General Sumitro, who was sacked as security chief after alleged involvement in the anti-Tanaka protests in 1974, has spoken out publicly for the first time since, calling for a new method of electing the President, and generally for a restoration of democratic rights.

Some of the media appear to have gained new courage, after the crackdown they faced last year.

The combination of workers on strike, renewed student agitation, and open criticism from dissent elements in the army, is an explosive one for Suharto. Above all, he is concerned that worker discontent and the anger of the poor could spill on to the streets.

Meanwhile, the ABC radio reported on May 6 that over 100,000 Indonesians living in the eastern islands near Timor are starving following the failure of the rice crop. Apparently the Governor of eastern Indonesia only heard of the famine when he read it in the newspapers. Reports from local officials had been lost in the bureaucracy and not even reached Kupang.

With 100,000 Indonesians in the islands near Timor starving, how can Suharto continue to pretend that East Timor will benefit from integration in his Empire?

EAST TIMOR NEWS No.54 NOTICIAS DE TIMOR LESTE

EAST TIMOR NEWS No.54 WAS A SPECIAL PORTUGUESE-LANGUAGE EDITION— THE FIRST ISSUE OF NOTICIAS DE TIMOR-LESTE WHICH WAS PUBLISHED ON MAY 17.

WE SHALL NOT SEND NOTICIAS DE TIMOR-LESTE TO SUBSCRIBERS UNLESS SUBSCRIBERS SPECIFICALLY ASK US TO DO SO. SUBSCRIPTIONS WILL BE ADJUSTED TO EXTEND THEM TO COVER NON-RECEIPT OF EAST TIMOR NEWS No.54-NdeT-LNo.1.

Suharto seeks an arms pact

Melbourne Age 15/5/79

From
MICHAEL RICHARDSON

JAKARTA, May 14. — Indonesia has suggested that Australia and its five closest non-communist neighbors in South-East Asia should standardise their military equipment.

I understand President Suharto made this suggestion to the Prime Minister, Mr. Fraser, when they met in Bali at the weekend.

For some time Indonesia's army-backed Government has been urging its partners in the Association of South-East Asian Nations — Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand — to co-ordinate their defence procurement programmes by acquiring similar equipment, mainly from the US and Europe.

But it is believed to be the first time such a high-level approach has been made to include Australia in this arrangement.

The official rationale for standardising military equipment is that placing bigger orders may reduce the cost.

It is also argued that routine military exercises between armed forces of ASEAN countries, and between Australia and individual ASEAN members, will be easier

Australia, ASEAN bid

and more effective if common hardware is used.

But observers believe an underlying reason for such a programme would be to lay the groundwork for military co-operation in time of crisis.

ASEAN governments are extremely concerned at the escalation potential of the Indo-China conflict where Vietnam, backed by Soviet bloc states, is engaged in a far-reaching struggle for influence with China.

In the Bali talks, Mr. Fraser reportedly said his Government would consider the defence standardisation proposal.

He also promised to consider a request from President Suharto, a retired army general, for inclusion of Australian-made military trucks in the defence co-operation programme between the two countries.

Indonesian sources said today Australia was making a useful contribution to the gradual modernisation and improvement of the Indonesian armed forces.

Since mid-1972 Canberra has provided military equipment and

training worth more than \$50 million to Indonesia.

Australia's 1978-79 defence aid programme for Indonesia was valued at \$6.9 million — considerably less than in each of the preceding three years.

But this amount is likely to be increased substantially in the August Budget now that the Fraser Government believes the political impediment imposed by differences over Indonesia's armament takeover of East Timor in 1975-76 have been removed.

President Suharto and Mr. Fraser are known to have spent a substantial part of their private talks discussing implications of the Indo-China conflict.

Both are believed to be worried that continued hostility between China and Vietnam may increase Russian military influence in the region and that fighting going on between pro-Vietnamese and pro-Chinese forces in Kampuchea may spill over into Thailand.

Indonesian sources closely involved in the Bali talks told me that ASEAN governments are now debating whether they should prepare contingency plans for helping Thailand in the event of a Vietnamese-led or supported incursion from either Kampuchea or Laos.

There is also debate on whether this should be one of the topics for closed door discussion when ASEAN Foreign Ministers hold their annual meeting in Bali late next month.

NEW FRETILIN LP RECORD LIU TINAN ATUS HAT...

LIU TINAN ATUS HAT (AFTER FOUR HUNDRED YEARS...) is a 12" Long-Playing record recorded in Portugal by the Cultural Group of Committee of 28th.November/Fretilin.

Eleven songs of the Maubere Revolution are included — many of them written inside East Timor since the invasion, and taken from Radio Maubere broadcasts. The big

majority are set to popular folk tunes of East Timor, which have a particularly haunting melody. The recording is of top professional quality.

AVAILABLE FROM CIET, fourth floor, 232 Castlereagh St., Sydney NSW-2000, Australia for \$6.95 a copy, plus postage.



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