

TIMOR INFORMATION SERVICE

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AUSTRALIA MUST CONDEMN INDONESIAN INTERVENTION IN EAST TIMOR.

Events are moving fast in East Timor. An Indonesian invasion is imminent. The Australian government, while supporting moves in the United Nations for talks to bring about a peaceful solution conflict, has refused to criticize Indonesian action in Timor. Indonesian intervention in East Timor over the past two months is the main reason that peace does not exist now.

Below is a summary of events over the past week :

November 25

Australian reporters Michael Richardson and Jill Jolliffe in East Timor report the bombing in the town of Atabae by an Indonesian aircraft and Indonesian warships.
(The Age 26/11/75)

November 28

The Peoples Democratic Republic of East Timor was proclaimed in Dili.
(The Sun 29/11/75)

November 30

- Xavier do Amaral was sworn in as President of Peoples Democratic Republic of East Timor. The Constitution of the country guarantees freedom of religion, the principle of sexual and racial equality, freedom of expression and the right of political association. It grants universal suffrage from the age of 15 yrs.
(The Age 1/12/75)
- Anti-FRETILIN groups U.D.T., APODETI and KOTA declare East Timor as part of Indonesia.
- Portugal has rejected FRETILIN'S unilateral declaration of independence and the anti-FRETILIN groups' declaration of incorporation into East Timor. The Portuguese delegate to the United Nations has told the U.N. that Portugal did not have the means to ensure 'normalisation' of the Timor situation and called for U.N. help.
- Following a meeting with Malcolm Frazer, Andrew Peacock announced that the Liberal government would not recognize FRETILIN'S declaration. He said "The Australian government's view remains that talks between the Timorese parties and Portugal offered the best hope of bringing to an end continuing bloodshed and restoring an orderly process of decolonization.
- Michael Richardson in Dili reports that Indonesian tanks were used to capture the town of Atabae.
- FRETILIN says Tanzania, Mozambique and Algeria will sponsor East Timor application to become a member of the U.N. They expect at least 25 countries would recognise the Democratic Republic of East Timor soon. They include Sweden, the Netherlands, Norway, China, Russia, Cuba.

December 1

- Australia will back moves at the U.N. for peace talks in the Timor dispute.
- Indonesian Foreign Minister Adam Malik met with the leaders of UDT, APODETI, KOTA, TRABALISTA.
(The Age 2/12/75)
- Malik is reported to have said that the solution to the conflict now lay in the battlefield; that Indonesia would support "openly and quietly" political parties in Portuguese Timor who wanted the territory to join Indonesia.
(The Age 3/12/75)
- FRETILIN has urgently called on the U.N. to send an observer team to Timor. Mr. Alkatiri said the purpose of the mission should be to witness Indonesian intervention and affirm the widespread support for FRETILIN in East Timor.

President of East Timor, Xavier do-Amaral, expressed disappointment at the Australian stand. He said: "If the Australian government really wants to see peace restored in East Timor, it should stop the Indonesian invasion".
(The Age 2/12/75)

December 2

- AAP report from West Timor quotes Adam Malik as saying to the leaders of anti-FRETILIN forces that:
"Diplomacy is finished, it is now up to the people of East Timor" and "we shall meet again in Dili. I expect you to invite me to come to Dili soon".
(The Herald 2/12/75)
- Australian intelligence reports indicate that an Indonesian-backed invasion of East Timor is imminent. Government sources say the attack will be launched by sea directly on Dili.
(The Age 3/12/75)
- A spokesman for Community Aid Abroad claims that the Australian Government, in its concern not to upset Indonesia, was holding up humanitarian aid to East Timor.
(The Herald 2/12/75)

December 3

- Australian waterside workers have placed a total ban on cargo for Indonesian ports following Malik's statements. The cargo ban has widened a month-long ban on Indonesian shipping.
(The Herald 3/12/75)
- An RAAF aircraft will leave Darwin to pick up 14 Australians already moved from Dili to the island of Atauro.
(The Herald 3/12/75)
- Jose Ramos Horta, in a telephone message to Melbourne, says that the Australian Department of Transport has refused to allow a plane to fly from Darwin to Dili. The plane was to go to Dili to pick up 3 FRETILIN members preparing to visit the United Nations.

John Waddingham.

TIMOR MEETINGS:

- An inaugural meeting of the Australia East Timor Association will be held.
Date: Sunday 7th December. Place: Brotherhood of St. Lawrence, 67 Brunswick Street, Carlton. Time: 8 p.m.
The aim of the meeting will be to establish a group which will provide information and support for an independent East Timor. All are welcome.
- Pax Christi has organized a meeting with Mark Raper as a guest speaker. Mark was a member of the ACFOA team that visited East Timor in October. He has recently returned from his second visit there.
Wednesday 10th December. 63 Queensbury Street, Carlton. 8 p.m.

SOMETHING YOU CAN DO

Pressure should be applied to the caretaker government to make a more positive stance on Timor - in particular, condemnation of Indonesian intervention in East Timor.

People have sent telegrams to Frazer urging the government to take this stand.

People should also attend election meetings and question the present government's stance. Below are some meetings to be held soon. We will try to find out about other meetings.

December 4	Brighton Town Hall.	8 p.m.	Speaker: Peacock.
December 5	Mont Albert Methodist Church Hall.	8 p.m.	Speaker: Jarman.
December 11	Box Hill High School.	8 p.m.	Speakers: Peacock, Jarman, Hamer.

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Subscription to Service - \$2. or more if you can afford it. We welcome information and/or help with typing etc.

TIMOR CONFERENCE

Below are some excerpts from Jose Ramos Horta's talk at the Timor Conference held November 22-23. Other speakers at the conference were Jim Dunn (former consul to Dili), Helen Hill, Alarico Fernandes (FRETILIN), Neil O'Sullivan and Ian Bell. Full transcripts from the conference will be available soon.

"At present the war in East Timor is not between the people. It is between the people of East Timor and the Indonesian Army. This is a fact."

"The Indonesians have had success only in Batugade, Maliana and Balibo. The area was very underpopulated. They didn't have to face a hostile population. The Indonesians never got a single inch of the south coast. I would like you to understand there is no war that can succeed without the support of the people."

"For a long time we have done our best to improve our relations with Indonesia. We were and we are prepared to talk with Indonesia in order to accommodate ourselves to the so-called "national interests" of Indonesia and Australia. But despite all these assurances of friendship, non-interference, close cooperation with Indonesia, the only reply we've got is aggression against East Timor, aggression against the East Timorese people."

"The people of Algeria took up arms to fight the French because they wanted to be free. It happened the same in East Timor. According to some resolutions of the United Nations, the nationalist movements are the legitimate representatives of the people. In East Timor, before August 11, there were two nationalist movements claiming independence for East Timor. So, before August 11, (date of UDT coup) it was possible to argue that FRETILIN could not claim to be the only legitimate representatives of the Timorese people. The under-secretary general of the United Nations, in a letter to the vice-president of FRETILIN said FRETILIN no doubt is the only legitimate representative of the Timorese people. After UDT has changed its platform, they can no longer represent the real aspirations of the people."

"We cannot accept that because of so-called "stability", that the people of East Timor can be massacred, can be killed. By using the word "stability", the Australian and Indonesian governments are prepared to suffocate in blood the East Timorese people. How can peace and stability in the region be achieved if the Indonesians decide to march against the people of East Timor? The people will fight as they have been fighting for 500 years."

"Nobody will win, neither the Timorese or the Indonesians. It will be a major disaster for everybody. This must be avoided. It is in Indonesian hands, it is in Australian hands to stop a major disaster in S.E.Asia and Timor."

"It is possible of course to take over the capital, Dili, and some other centres, but if guerrilla warfare is to start, it will take many years. It will take place, not only in East Timor, it will spread to other regions in the neighbouring islands."

"Many people believe it is possible for us to accommodate ourselves with the Indonesians. Myself, I have had the bitter experience that the Indonesians do not want to talk with FRETILIN, they want to take over East Timor. They don't accept any kind of accommodation, they don't accept any type of solution. For the Indonesians, there is only one way - incorporation of East Timor into Indonesia regardless of the wishes of the East Timorese people."

"We have indicated several times that FRETILIN is not a communist party. Not because we are scared of communism like so many people in Australia and Indonesia. FRETILIN is not a party; it is not a political party. It is a nationalist movement. There is a difference between a movement and a political party. In a political party everybody has to adhere to the philosophy, to the political beliefs of the party, while a nationalist movement - our first aim is uniting all the Timorese who want independence. Within the movement there are people with different political beliefs, different religious beliefs, different ideas about economic development.

It is a stupidity, it just shows lack of knowledge of the realities of East Timor, it is narrow minded when some people say FRETILIN is a communist party."

"We have indicated to the Portuguese government that we are willing to talk with the Portuguese. We would like to have the Portuguese government co-operating with FRETILIN in a program that will give full independence. But it seems that the Portuguese government is too preoccupied with its own mess. They are incompetent to carry out their responsibilities."

"FRETILIN has been the defacto government for about three months. FRETILIN has the defacto control of East Timor - more than 95% of the territory. Because of our weakness, because of our geo-political situation, many countries, particularly in the region, can afford to joke with us."

"Because East Timor is a small country, isolated from potential friendly countries, the Whitlam Government (could) afford to play around with the Timorese people - to spit in the face of the Timorese people, to spit at the right of the people for independence. But the people will win."

TIMOR INFORMATION SERVICE has prepared a radio programme for use on 3ZZ Access Radio for Friday, December 5. A tape recording of this programme is available from the Timor Information Service (63.9673) and is suitable for concerned groups, schools, etc.

S T O P P R E S S

December 3

Department of Transport permission was given for a plane from Dili to Darwin to bring three FRETILIN representatives out enroute to the United Nations.

December 4

Agencies involved in refugee work recommended to the Australian Government that Australia, as the country of first asylum, be willing to evacuate and receive any and all East Timorese refugees, and that Australia should be making preparations now to undertake this responsibility.
