

TIMOR INFORMATION SERVICE

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EAST TIMOR CALLING EAST TIMOR CALLING EAST TIMOR CALLING EAST TIMOR CALLING

Over the past week media reports have mentioned radio messages that have been received from East Timor. This report seeks to clarify the details of this source of information and to present the texts of these messages.

With the Indonesian invasion of Dili on Sunday December 7, the usual form of communication with East Timor has been closed. However the FRETILIN administration of the Democratic Republic of East Timor have set up short-wave radio transmitters to beam messages to Australia. These messages are received in Darwin and relayed by Telecom-Darwin to the people/organisations to whom they are addressed.

During the first 72 hours after the Indonesian invasion of Dili, there were 11-14 messages (about which we know very little) that were beamed to Australia. A number of messages have been directed to individual Australians who are committed to the aims of the Democratic Republic of East Timor (D.R.E.T.). We print those messages below. Other messages to Red Cross and the United Nations are not available for publication yet. They are designated 'not released.'

Note : CST = Central Standard Time which is 1½ hours behind East Coast Summer Time.

Sunday 7th - Indonesian invasion begins at dawn.
Monday 8th - 11 to 14 messages - Unavailable .
Tuesday 9th - Message 1 : Received 9.20 p.m. Melbourne time, from Alorico Fernandez,

"THE SITUATION IN DILI IS WORSENING INDONESIAN FORCES EXECUTING PEOPLE ALL CHILDREN AND CHINESE REQUEST IMMEDIATE AID THEY TOOK CIVILIAN REFUGEES FROM CHURCHES AND EXECUTED THEM FRETILIN FORCES ARE STILL FIGHTING AND CONTROLLING TWO-THIRDS OF DILI ENEMY FORCES ARE STILL SUPPORTED BY WARSHIPS AND WAR PLANES AN URGENT EVACUATION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IS BADLY NEEDED WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF FOOD AND MEDICINE PLEASE GIVE US ASSISTANCE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE OUR POSITION WILL BE POINTED AS SOON AS WE GET YOUR REPLY WE ASK YOU TO UNDERSTAND OUR SITUATION BECAUSE WE ARE FIGHTING "CHILDREN KILLERS" SUPPORTED BY WARSHIPS AND WAR PLANES EXPECT YOU SOON REPLY

ALORICO FERNANDEZ"

Wednesday 10th - Message 2 - "Not released."
Thursday 11th - Message 3 - "Not released."
Friday 11th - Message 4 : Received Darwin 10.30 a.m. (CST) from Nicolau dos Reis Lobato, Vice President of Fretilin, Prime Minister D.R.E.T.

"INDONESIA IS VIOLATING MORE AND MORE DANGEROUSLY OUR COUNTRY. THE PROGRESSIVE NATIONS CANNOT KEEP INDIFFERENT TO THE MASSACRE OF OUR PEOPLE WHO ARE TRAGNENTLY DEFENDING THEIR MOST GENUINE ASPIRATIONS. IT IS URGENT TO TAKE A POSITION THAT WILL MAKE INDONESIA WITHDRAW ITS FORCES FROM OUR COUNTRY. TO SAFEGUARD OUR PEOPLE'S INTERESTS WE WILL FIGHT TO THE END. IN THE MOMENT WHEN INDONESIANS ARE USING PLANES AND SUBMARINES AND SOPHISTICATED WEAPONRY THE GOVERNMENT OF EAST TIMOR CONSCIOUS THAT BY ONLY INTERNATIONALISTIC MILITANCE OF BROTHERLY PEOPLE AND NATIONS WILL AVOID THE MASSACRES OF OUR PEOPLE. FRETILIN CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF EAST TIMOR IN DEFENCE OF OUR PEOPLE'S LIVES AND THE INTEGRITY OF OUR COUNTRY ARE CONFIDENT IN THE INTERNATIONALISTIC MILITANCE AND SOLIDARITY OF ALL NATIONS OF THE WORLD AND PROGRESSIVE NATIONS WHO DEFEND PEACE, PROGRESS AND WELL BEING OF PEOPLE."

Friday (continued) - Message 5 - Received Darwin 10.30 a.m. (C.S.T.)
From Nicolau Lobato, Prime Minister of the Democratic
Republic of East Timor and Vice-President of Fretilin.

"THE INDONESIAN ARMED AGGRESSION INTENSIFIED FROM DECEMBER 11. IN BAUCAU OVER 15 PLANES AND 8 WARSHIPS DISEMBARKED PARACHUTISTS AND MARINERS. THE PEOPLE ARE STILL RESISTING IN SPITE OF INTENSIFYING MASSACRE CARRIED OUT BY THE INVADERS."
(message ends)

Saturday 13th - Message 6 - Received Darwin, 10.30 CST from Nicolau dos Reis Lobato, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of East Timor and Vice President of Fretilin.

"ON 6 PM OF 9.12.75 INDONESIAN PLANES DROP PARACHUTISTS TO LOCALITIES NEAR BAUCAU BETWEEN SEICAL AND VEMASSE AREA. NO FORCES ARE BEING ANNIHILATED AND RURAL FORCES ARE USING TRADITIONAL WEAPONS. THERE ARE 12 WARSHIPS CLOSE TO BAUCAU BEACONS THAT ARE FIRING INTENSIVELY INTO SURROUNDING AREA AND PLANES FLYING OVER. UP TO NOW WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ATABAE AND DOWNTOWN OF DILI, ALL NATIONAL TERRITORY IS CONTROLLED BY FRETILIN. DISEMBARKING ATTEMPTS IN FAVOUR OF PORTS OFF SOUTH COAST HAVE BEEN DEFEATED. THE SHIPS ANCHORED ON DILI AND BAUCAU ARE FLAGELLATING THE INTERIOR WITH CANNON FIRE AND ALSO PLANES BOMBING AND DAMAGING PEOPLE'S FARMS AND PROPERTY. THE FIGHTING IS STILL GOING ON IN DILI. AND THE WAR VESSEL FIRING DID NOT RESPECT THE HOSPITAL. BESIDES WARSHIPS THERE ARE ALSO LINERS AND CARGO SHIPS IN DILI HARBOUR. THE INDONESIAN TROOPS ARE FORCING YOUNGSTERS, PARTICULARLY YOUNG GIRLS TO EMBARK ONTO VESSELS AND EYEWITNESSES REPORT THEY ARE BEING VIOLATED. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE OCCUPIED AREAS OF DILI ARE BEING SACKED. MASSACRES OF POPULATION AND BURNING HOUSES STILL GOING ON. THE EAST TIMOR PEOPLE ARE DECIDED TO FIGHT TO THE END NOT TO SUBMIT TO ANY FOREIGN DOMINATION. SUHARTO REGIME ARE PRACTISING IN EAST TIMOR MASSACRES OF 30 SEPTEMBER 65 MILITARY COUP THAT TOOK HIS POWER. IF NATIONS AND WORLD ORGANISATIONS DO NOT INTERFERE IMMEDIATELY AND STRONGLY IN THE WAY TO FORCE THE INVADERS TO WITHDRAW FROM EAST TIMOR THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY ARE DECIDED TO FIGHT TILL THE TOTAL EXTERMINATION OF ITSELF RATHER THAN TO BE SUBJECTED AGAIN BY NEW OPPRESSORS."
(message ends)

Sunday 14th - We know of no messages being sent.

Monday 15th - Message 7 : Received Darwin 1800 hrs CST; From Alarico Fernandes, Minister for Internal Security and Affairs.

"INDONESIAN CARGO SHIPS ARE LOADED WITH PRODUCTS OF SACKING LIKE CARS REFRIGERATORS WINDOWS SCRAP METAL CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS ETC. THE SHIPS ARE TAKING AWAY EVERYTHING THEY CAN AND NOT BRINGING ANY HUMANITARIAN AID AS MR. MALIK WANTS PEOPLE TO BELIEVE HOW CAN YOU BE HUMAN WHEN YOU KILLING INNOCENTS. WE COUNTED 19 SHIPS IN DILI. THE JUST WILL WIN.

ALARICO FERNANDES" (message ends)

- Message 8 : "Not released."

- Message 9 : Received Darwin, 1800 hrs CST; from Nicolau Reis Lobato, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of East Timor.

"FRETILIN FORCES REALISED YESTERDAY SEVERAL ATTACKS IN DILI ELIMINATING 150 ENEMY SOLDIERS AND BETWEEN 40 TO 50 JAVANESE ARE KILLED DAILY. DILI IS ALL BURNT OUT BY CANNON FIRING. THE HOSPITAL WAS ALSO HIT AND LOTS OF PATIENTS DIED. THERE WAS FIERCE FIGHTING IN BAUCAU AND JAVANESE ARE SURROUNDED IN THE VILLAGES BY OUR FORCES. ALL NATIONAL TERRITORIES UNDER FRETILIN DIRECT CONTROL AND TODAY IS NINTH DAY OF THE INVASION. CAPTURED JAVANESE SOLDIERS HAVE DECLARED THAT THIS INDONESIAN INVOLVMENT IN THE BORDER UNTIL NOW HAVE DIED 5000 OF THEM. ADAM MALIK BY THIS UNSUCCESSFUL FIRST AGGRESSION IS MISLEADING THE INTERNATIONAL OPINION THAT HE WAS BACKING PRO-INDONESIAN PARTIES TO RESTORE ORDER ON TIMOR. THE FRETILIN HAVE NO ABILITY FOR GUERILLA WARFARE SO WE BELIEVE HE IS TRYING TO FAKE OUR SITUATION ON TIMOR TO JUSTIFY ANOTHER

STRONGER WAVE OF AGGRESSION INSTEAD OF ACCEPTING THE U.N.S.C. RESOLUTION. THE GOVERNMENT OF EAST TIMOR APPEALS TO INTERNATIONAL OPINION AND ALL COUNTRIES LOVERS OF PEACE AND PROGRESS TO PROTEST AGAINST JAVANESE EXPANSIONISM.

NICOLAU LOBATO." (message ends)

Without any comment on the significance or accuracy of these messages we present them as received because of their obvious importance as the only source of information, other than Indonesian, that is currently available from East Timor for the international public.

Compiled Tuesday, 16.12.75. Maurice Heading.

We reproduce here an article by Michael Richardson in The Age, 8 December 1975. It is about a radio message from Dili on the day of the Indonesian invasion.

DARWIN — "The Indonesians have invaded. Their soldiers are in Dili.

"They are killing indiscriminately. Women and children are being shot in the streets. A lot of people have been killed.

"We are all going to be killed. I repeat we are all going to be killed . . .

"This is an appeal for international help. We appeal to the Australian people. Please help us. Please."

The voice rose and fell, tossed by the turbulent air waves that formed the last tenuous link between Darwin and East Timor.

It was shortly after 9 a.m. on Sunday. A day of rest in Darwin.

From Dili, the voice on the radio came again, calmer now but still intense.

"At least six or seven Indonesian warships are off Dili. They have been shelling in and around the town since 4.30 a.m. (7.30 a.m. Melbourne time).

The first paratroops came at dawn. There are Indonesian planes overhead now. They are dropping hundreds more paratroops.

"Indonesian forces have been landed in Dili. I repeat, Indonesian forces have been landed in Dili.

"More than a thousand are already in the town. Small boats have landed hundreds of Indonesian soldiers from the warships.

Paratroops

"They control the seaside. They have taken the airport and the administrative offices.

"More than a thousand Indonesian troops are in Dili. Most of the population has gone to the hospital on the hill behind the town.

"Others have gone to the mountains. We can't stop the Indonesians. We cannot stop the Indonesian invasion. Please do something".

There was shock and helplessness on each face pressing close to the radio. There was also shame.

"We appeal to the Australian people. This is an SOS. Please do something to stop this invasion".

Sometimes the voice would fade into the static and become inaudible. Then it would break through the din with another message.

"We are not going to fight Indonesian forces.

"Soldiers of the Fretilin Independence Movement are trying to stop the invasion.

"But they know they cannot halt such powerful forces. They are moving back into the mountains."

At 12.50 p.m. Melbourne time the voice in Dili abruptly ceased. Contact could not be restored.

FRETILIN REPRESENTATIVE IN AUSTRALIA

Mr. Chris Santos, Information Officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of East Timor is this week visiting Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth to meet with Government officials and community groups concerning the crisis in East Timor.

Mr. Santos is a member of the Fretilin Central Committee, and was a founder member of the original Association of Timorese Social Democrats (Later became Fretilin). He trained as a journalist in Portugal before going to Timor in 1969. In Dili, he was editor of the Government newspaper 'Voice of Timor'. From November, 1974, he worked under Major Jonatas at the Department of Media. Major Jonatas was later removed from the Department by Colonel Lemos Pires (Military Governor of East Timor) following a request from UDT leaders. During the UDT demonstration in Dili on 9th August, UDT demanded the expulsion from Timor of several people, naming in particular Major Jonatas, Major Mota, Mora (a leading poet) and Chris Santos.

In fighting following 10th August, Santos' five-month-old daughter was wounded by mortar fire. In early September, Red Cross doctors advised that the child should be brought to Australia and Mrs. Santos and

their two children came to Darwin by RAAF Caribou. They were transferred to a Sydney refugee centre. Mr. Santos came to Australia on November 15th for a visit to his family. The Indonesian invasion of his country prevented his return to East Timor. He hopes to remain in Australia, representing the interest of Fretilin and the Timorese people, until it is possible for him to return to Dili.

M. Considine.

WHAT IS INDONESIA DOING WITH TIMOR?

Below is an outline of events and statements concerning Indonesia's role in East Timor since FRETILIN's declaration of Independence on December 7. The outline points up Indonesia's callous duplicity. While talking at the United Nations about the right of self-determination for the East Timorese, Indonesia was planning its invasion. We see Adam Malik denying, admitting then denying again that Indonesian troops were in East Timor. It is worth comparing some of these reports with the messages sent to Australia by FRETILIN.

December 2

- Radio Republic Indonesia denied that a full scale attack on Dili was being planned by Indonesia.
(The Age 3.12.75)
- Indonesian warships bombard FRETILIN positions on the Loes River, 55 kilometres west of Dili.
(The Age 3.12.75)

December 3

- Indonesia, with Australia, Portugal, Malaysia and Singapore co-sponsor a resolution at the U.N. aimed at preventing a military solution to the East Timor crisis. The resolution also seeks 'bringing the warring factions together in peace talks and recognizes the right of the Timorese to determine their own future.'
(The Age 4.12.75)

December 4

- Indonesian chief delegate to the U.N. said "The Government of Indonesia is prepared to continue to co-operate with others ---- to enable the entire people of Portuguese Timor to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination in an atmosphere of peace and order."
(The Age 5.12.75)
- Indonesian warships continue their bombardment of the Loes River area.
(The Age 5.12.75)

December 5

In Jakarta, Adam Malik, Indonesia's Foreign Minister, told representatives from Australia, Portugal, U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Malaysia, Phillipines, Singapore, Thailand "not to be surprised by any steps the Indonesian Government might take in East Timor."
(The Age and The Sun 6.12.75)

December 6

- U.S. President Ford talks with Suharto in Jakarta. According to Henry Kissinger, East Timor was discussed.
(The Sun 8.12.75)
- Roger East, the only Australian journalist in East Timor reports that Dili is largely deserted; blackouts imposed; FRETILIN waiting for invasion.
(Correspondents' Reports.
ABC Radio 7.12.75)

December 7

- Indonesia launched invasion on East Timor. According to reports reaching Darwin, planes, warships, marines, paratroopers were involved. (The Age 8.12.75)

- Adam Malik said Dili had fallen to pro-Indonesian forces --- "who then invited Indonesian forces to restore security." (The Age 8.12.75)
- Malik also said "an act of free choice would be carried out soon in East Timor to determine the wishes of the people. "Whether they want to reaffirm their wish to be part of Indonesia or something else - it is up to them." (The Sun 8.12.75)

December 8

- Malik says Indonesian forces would be withdrawn from East Timor as soon as "peace and order was restored." He claimed the fall of Dili had created the possibility of carrying out the decolonization of the territory in an orderly and peaceful way. (The Age 9.12.75)
- Government Radio in Indonesian Timor beamed broadcasts into East Timor saying "As you know from December 7, 1975, the Indonesian Armed Forces (T.N.I.) have taken over the whole of East Timor. The T.N.I. are going to help unite all the people of Timor island. (In other words, East Timor will become part of Indonesia - ed.). So, don't be afraid of the Indonesian army because it is coming to help you and give you freedom." (The Age 9.12.75)

December 9

- Indonesian and pro-Indonesian parties in East Timor have vowed to kill anyone in East Timor who supports the FRETILIN independence movement. (The Age 10.12.75)
- Urgent radio appeals for help from FRETILIN have been held up by the Australian Federal Government. (The Age 10.12.75)

December 10

- Malik says that the Indonesian Government had nothing to do with the capture of Dili. The Indonesian forces that entered the colony were Indonesian volunteers and "volunteers are not the business of the Indonesian Government." (The Age 11.12.75)
- A Portuguese Commander in Atauro said that 36 hours after the invasion started, there were still a lot of fires in the western section of Dili. He disputed the Indonesian claim that peace and order had been quickly restored in Dili. (The Age 11.12.75)

December 12

- Malik admits for the first time that Indonesian marines landed in Dili (7.12.75). He claimed that they had been ordered in at the request of local pro-Indonesian forces "to stop the killing." (The Age 13.12.75)
- When asked about Indonesian planes in East Timor, Malik said "Volunteer fliers may have been used." (The Sun 13.12.75)

December 13

U.N. General Assembly strongly deplored military intervention by Indonesia and called for a withdrawal without delay. (Sun-Herald 14.12.75)

December 14

- In response to U.N. resolution calling for immediate withdrawal, Adam Malik said: "We are not bound by the resolution because we do not conduct any military intervention there." (The Age 15.12.75)
- The Governor of Indonesian Timor announced he had accepted the merger of the Portuguese enclave Occusi with Indonesia. (The Sun 15.12.75)

J. Waddingham.

AUSTRALIA EAST TIMOR ASSOCIATION

On the evening of Sunday 7th December, the same day that Indonesia invaded Dili, capital of the Democratic Republic of East Timor, a public meeting was held in the boardroom of the Brotherhood of St. Laurence in Melbourne. Over 300 people were in attendance. Dr. Bill Roberts was Chairman, Fr. Mark Raper and Mr. David Scott (Chairman of Community Aid Abroad) reported on their recent visits to Timor.

The meeting moved unanimously to form the Australia East Timor Association. It was then moved that the Association recognised the Democratic Republic of East Timor, as initiated by FRETILIN. A small steering committee was set up to co-ordinate activities over the next weeks. A nominal membership fee was agreed to, but large donations welcomed. The collection taken up during the meeting amounted to \$1000. In particular, the meeting agreed to send a deputation to the United Nations in New York to support the representatives of the D.R.E.T. Mr David Scott offered to go on this deputation and to leave as soon as possible. It was hoped to send another person to join him later. (Mr. Scott left for New York on 9th Dec. The Steering Committee decided later to wait for information from him before sending another person.)

The second public meeting of A.E.T.A. was held on Sunday 14th December at the Unitarian Church in East Melbourne. Approximately 200 people attended. Donations of over \$800 were collected. Dr. Bill Roberts chaired the meeting. Mr Chris Santos, a member of the FRETILIN Central Committee, spoke calling for solidarity of people around the world, particularly by Australians. He asked for continued pressure on the Government to stop military aid to Indonesia. Dr. Roberts reported that he had received a number of wireless messages from Dili and had made a Radio Australia broadcast in reply. Reports were also given from Jose Ramos Horta and David Scott at the U.N. A summary of the weeks activities was given - leafleting, the rally and vigil, media releases to international outlets as well as within Australia, Pax Christi candlelight procession, Timor Information Service resources, the production of two songs for use in rallies and concerts, and Victorian Trades Hall Executive action for union bans (Maritime Union bans extended, possible bans on delivery of Nomad aircraft, etc.).

Plans were made for a rally on 17th December as part of the National Demonstration on Timor. Members were urged to contact their new member of Parliament re the Timor situation. Action will continue with press releases, contact with Embassies regarding their nations stand at the U.N., a deputation is to visit Foreign Affairs in Canberra, and there will be continued distribution of information nationally and overseas.

M. Considine.

CANBERRA

A delegation organized by AETA is due to call on the Indonesian Ambassador at 9.30 a.m. Friday, December 19. It intends to present to the Ambassador the indignation of a rapidly increasing number of Australians at the recent Indonesian acts of aggression in East Timor.

The delegation will consist of Clyde Holding (leader of the Victorian Opposition); Dr. Bill Roberts (Chairman of AETA); Jim Raulston (Vice-President Vic. ALP); Neil O'Sullivan (Projects Officer CAA); Ian McDonald (AETA Steering Committee, President AUS) and representatives from the Waterside Workers Union, Seamen's Union and the Miscellaneous Workers Union and possibly other union representatives. The delegation will also call on the Italian and Chinese Ambassadors and the Department of Foreign Affairs.

CHRISTMAS RALLY FOR PEACE IN EAST TIMOR - 7.30pm. Tuesday, 23rd December, CITY SQUARE. The rally is sponsored by CICD and a wide range of groups. Bring your own candle.

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Subscription to Service - \$2.00 or more if you can afford it.