



# EAST TIMOR REPORT

No. 10 APRIL 1985

## Timorese Church wants self-determination and support

*In a series of recent statements the Catholic Church of East Timor has come out strongly in favour of self-determination as the only path to lasting peace in East Timor.*

In an uncompromising letter to the French Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (see box), 5 December 1984, the head of the Timorese Church, Mgr Carlos Filipe Belo, asserts: 'Despite all the forces against us, East Timor conflict is a political and diplomatic one, and this solution should include, above all, the respect for the right of a people for self-determination'.

Another letter, written at the same time to the Dutch Bishops conveys Mgr Belo's 'deep gratitude for the support and solidarity you have shown to the Church and people of East Timor'. The letter asks the Catholics of Holland to pray for Timor and to 'take concrete steps in favour of the Church and the People of East Timor in their difficult hour'.

Mgr Belo, 37, a member of the Salesian Order, was appointed head of the Catholic Church in East Timor by the Vatican in May 1983 after political pressure forced the retirement of Mgr da Costa Lopes.

### Powerful new Church statement

Mgr Belo's letters to the European Church are amplified in a thoughtful 7-page statement of principle, 1 January 1985, prepared by the Catholic clergy of East Timor.

The statement is the most deeply considered Church reflection to date on the crisis in East Timor and, in light of the Church's strong popular base, must be seen to reflect the thinking of the majority of East Timorese.

The statement begins by firmly enunciating the right and duty of the Church 'to set down what it feels to be vital and urgent for the defence and safeguarding of the fundamental values and human rights of the people of East Timor, as well as their identity, at this historical moment of time'.

The statement goes on to point out that the Church's response must be based on a correct understanding of the historical facts, in particular the nature of the present conflict. 'The present armed conflict, which we are encouraged to see as a fratricidal war, is, in fact, a struggle between the superior strength of the regular Indonesian army and those forces originally involved in the safeguarding of the identity of the Timorese people', says the document.

### Doctrinal principles

The basic principle which must guide the Church, say the clergy, is that 'the people are sovereign over their own destiny'. People feel this sense of their inalienable rights as a people particularly strongly today, says the document. 'In our time, in which social awareness has grown enormously, no people freely accepts being governed by another. Only a real respect for such rights endows legitimacy to any regime'.

### Mgr Belo's letter to French Church

*Dili, 5 December 1984  
Rev. Fr. Pierre Toulat,  
Secretary de la Commission Francaise  
Justice et Paix,  
71 rue Notre Dame des Champs,  
75006 Paris.*

*Mon Pere,*

*Here is my very much delayed answer to your letter of 15 March 1984.*

*All the mail in East Timor is censored. Thus, it takes a lot of effort on our part to find suitable means to mail our letters out.*

*With this letter, I wish to express my thanks for the support and solidarity that the French Commission for Justice and Peace has shown to the Catholic Church of East Timor. Your show of friendship makes us feel that the Catholic Church and the People of East Timor are not alone in this dark hour of their history.*

*Despite all the forces against us, we continue to hold and disseminate that the only solution to the East Timor conflict is a political and diplomatic one, and this solution should include, above all, the respect for the right of a people for self-determination. We also want that Pope John Paul's words to the Indonesian Ambassador to the Holy See, namely respect for the cultural, ethnic and religious identity of the people of East Timor, be put into practice. As long as this is not implemented, there will not be a peaceful solution for East Timor.*

*Now we are approaching the Christmas Season of 1984. For us Catholics of East Timor and for many families, we shall celebrate the Birth of the Saviour and the Prince of Peace amidst sorrows and pain, for we still do not live in an atmosphere of harmony and peace.*

*I take this opportunity to appeal to your good offices to keep on insisting with the French Government to prevent the Indonesian Government from sending more armed forces into East Timor, and to subjugate a small nation as Timor Oriental.*

*Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, SDB  
Apostolic Administrator of Dili.*

### In this issue

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## Analysis

The document then proceeds to analyse the situation in East Timor in the light of this principle. In view of Indonesia's relentless prosecution of the war and 'in view of the permanent insecurity of the population in many regions of East Timor, the continuous exodus of the Timorese people, forced migrations to resettlement camps and the absence of freedom of circulation, we think that the moment has come to put the following question: Is this all merely brought about by a stubborn minority or does it reveal something deeper about the demand for basic rights of the people?'

The answer is unambiguous. 'The Church believes that the people of East Timor feel that fundamental human rights have been violated'. Among these rights, the document continues, 'is the right of the Timorese people to choose and direct their own future'.

Denial of this right is one of the root causes of the continuing conflict, says the document. If, as Indonesia claims, the people have already exercised self-determination 'why do they continue to be persecuted and eliminated? A war that continues for 9 years cannot be imputed to the blind obstinacy of a minority'.

## Timorese Identity

The document then charges that the ethnic, religious and cultural identity of the Timorese people — that is, what makes them distinctively Timorese — is under serious threat.

Their ethnic identity is 'being gravely violated and threatened' by a range of Indonesian measures. Ten are listed. They include regular military offensives, executions, forced conscription, arrests, 'the concentration of the population in resettlement camps', and the exclusion of Timorese from key government positions in favour of Indonesian military personnel.

The religious identity of the Timorese is also abused. Animism is treated as inferior and Christianity 'put on the same level as other religions'. 'Today there are about 400,000 Catholics in East Timor', says the document.

The clergy's strongest words, however, are reserved for Indonesia's systematic assault on Timorese culture. 'There is a Timorese culture', they assert, 'made up of words, attitudes, emotions, reactions, behaviour, ways of being and seeing the world. It is in these things that the people recognise their own culture and in it their own identity'. This culture is being progressively destroyed. 'The attempt to Indonesianise the Timorese people through powerful Pancasila (Indonesian state ideology) campaigns, schooling and media, by divorcing the people from their own weltanschauung (world view), represents a slow assassination of Timorese culture. To kill their culture is to kill the people themselves'. A people which surrenders its culture 'would lose the best of itself, it would sacrifice its own reason for living in the misapprehension that it was seeking life itself. The words of Christ are also true for peoples: 'What use is the whole world to a man, if he must lose his soul?'

## Final appeal

The statement finishes with a twofold appeal to Indonesia. First to respect fundamental rights and Timorese identity, and second for talks. 'Conditions indispensable for an open, frank and fruitful dialogue between the different parties involved in the problem should be created, in which especially the people of East Timor, represented by the active movements, should take part free of coercion'.

*Note: for political reasons, Mgr Belo has been obliged to deny authorship of this document. However, he and other clergy have given direct assurances that, though not officially released, the document is the work of the East Timorese clergy and must be regarded as an authentic Church statement.*

## New Zealand ditches Timor (and party policy)

*New Zealand's Prime Minister, Mr David Lange, has earned a big reputation as an independent-minded champion of peace. But the people of East Timor will not be amongst those recommending him or his Government for the Nobel Peace prize.*

In moves akin to those made in neighbouring Canberra, the Lange Government has ignored its own Labour Party policy on the issue and decided, to the wishes of the East Timorese notwithstanding, that Indonesia's occupation must be accepted as irreversible.

### NZ Labour policy

In September 1984 the NZ Labour Party conference resolved that the Fourth Labour Government '(a) change New Zealand's vote at the UN to one of support for the withdrawal of Indonesian troops from East Timor, in recognition of the inalienable right of the people of East Timor to independence and self-determination in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter; (b) give diplomatic recognition to Fretilin as the rightful representative of the people of East Timor'.

A few days after this resolution was adopted the NZ Minister of State, Mr Frank O'Flynn, said that the issue was irreversible and 'will eventually disappear as an important current issue'.

'I do not think this 9-year-old corpse can be revived', he wrote in a letter, 11 September 1984. 'The Indonesians would be absolutely furious if we suddenly began to say 9 years after the event, what we could and should have said in 1975. Nor would it now do any good.'

According to the letter, New Zealand's Ambassador to Jakarta, Mr Michael Powels, had advised him that Indonesia 'has now subjugated the territory completely, and the Fretilin resistance is little more than a nuisance to the much reduced occupation forces. He also says that 90% of the Timorese are better off under the new Indonesian rule than they were under the Portuguese'.

### Lange's perspective

Prime Minister David Lange shares this perspective. Basing his comments on a briefing by Ambassador Powels after the latter's visit to Timor in October 1984, Mr Lange told a Radio New

Zealand interviewer on 13 December 1984 that 'there was clearly evidence of government security activity but no substantial evidence of resistance to it'. He went on blandly to praise the human rights situation and the quality of Indonesia's administration. 'Human rights' situations, said Mr Lange, 'are being dealt with by court process and, in fact, rather than the traditional heavying or military action against people thought to be insurgents, people are now being put on trial, given effective legal aid and in some cases have been acquitted'.

'The ambassador's report shows firmly', continued Mr Lange, 'that economic wellbeing and... liberty is actually better, overall'.

### Horta slams Lange

During a visit to New Zealand in early April, Jose Ramos Horta, the Fretilin representative at the UN, said New Zealand's foreign policy was 'hypocritical' and its stance on nuclear peace that of a Club Med for Anglo-Saxons.

'As long as nuclear weapons pose a threat to the Anglo-Saxons in New Zealand and Australia then Lange is concerned... but when there is a military dictatorship in the region waging conventional war with weapons supplied by Western countries then I hear no similar concern being expressed on the world stage by Mr Lange'.

Neither Lange nor any member of his Cabinet or the Secretary of Foreign Affairs would speak to Horta. The offer of a mid-ranking Foreign Affairs official was declined by Horta as an 'insult'.

Lange's remarks on the human rights situation in Timor left Horta incredulous. 'It is amazing', said Horta, 'that anyone could be so stupid, so naive or so ignorant about the nature of the current court processes within East Timor. Not one Timorese civilian lawyer is allowed to practice in the territory... not even Indonesian civilian lawyers. The moderate Indonesian Legal Aid Institute has been refused access to East Timor... some 3000 Timorese are being held without trial'.

### Indonesians pleased

A clearly pleased Indonesian delegation handed around the full text of Mr Lange's Radio NZ interview during the March 1985 session of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva. The UN-HRC decided by a margin of two to drop East Timor from its list of concerns.

## UN human rights body drops Timor from agenda

The 41st session of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, March 1985, voted in a closed meeting to discontinue its monitoring of human rights in East Timor.

A large contingent of senior Indonesian officials, including Jusuf Wanandi of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Jakarta and the Indonesian ambassador to the UN, rallied enough support to defeat the resolution 11 votes to 9, with 23 of the 43 Commission members abstaining or staying away. Portugal was represented by only 2 officials who delivered only a brief general statement in support of the resolution.

Australia's support for a continued review drew strong official protests from Jakarta and sharp editorials in Indonesian newspapers reflecting government views.

Australia's vote, said Foreign Minister Bill Hayden, 'was decided in the context of our broader human rights concerns including the need for proper international access in East Timor and on the basis of our best considered assessment of the situation'. (*Letter, 8 May 1985*)

There is no evidence, however, that Australia actively lobbied to have the resolution carried or that it wants the issue restored to the Commission agenda.

The Commission was presented detailed evidence on continuing human rights abuses in East Timor by the former head of the Catholic Church, Mgr da Costa Lopes, Amnesty International, two Church peace organisations — Pax Romana and Pax Christi — and the Rome-based International League for the Rights and Liberation of People.

The Commission vote is the first time that a UN body has passed a vote on East Timor favourable to Indonesia.

### UN Seminar in PNG

The Melanesian Council of Churches delivered a blunt reminder of UN responsibilities to East Timor during a seminar in Port Moresby, 4-6 March 1985, conducted by the UN Committee on Decolonisation (the Committee of 24).

MCC delegates, Mr Greg Mongi and Mr Moi Eno, told the Committee that other peoples in the region were entitled to independence like Papua New Guinea which was currently celebrating its 10th anniversary of independence.

Colonialism was wrong by definition, said the delegates. It was based on domination of one group by another and commercial exploitation at the expense of human rights and natural resources.

Indonesia has violated the right to self-determination of the East Timorese people, the delegates said, and the UN system was guilty of 'contradiction and hypocrisy' for tolerating this violation. 'If the UN should continue to accept Indonesia's conception that her newly acquired colonies of East Timor and West Papua are "Indonesian provinces", the UN henceforth commits hypocrisy when interfering with any colonial problems whatsoever', they said.

Oppressed peoples deserve 'the same freedoms that we want for ourselves', said the MCC.

### Perez de Cuellar plays down Timor

After discussions in Jakarta on East Timor early in February, the UN Secretary-General, Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, was quoted as saying

### UN-HRC vote, 1985

**For:** Australia, Congo, Finland, Ireland, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Tanzania.

**Against:** Bangladesh, Columbia, USA, Gambia, India, Japan, Jordan, Liberia, Philippines, Syria, Sri Lanka.

**Abstained:** West Germany, Argentina, Austria, Bulgaria, Cameroon, China, Cyprus, Costa Rica, Spain, France, Libya, Mexico, Holland, East Germany, UK, Senegal, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

the atmosphere surrounding East Timor at the UN 'has improved so that I hope the question will not be raised any more'. (*Sinar Harapan, 8 February 1985*)

He was pleased to announce that the Indonesian Government accepted his efforts to establish contact between Portugal and Indonesia. Asked whether he was trying to bring the two Foreign Ministers together he said this depended on them but he was trying to eliminate all remaining difficulties. The Indonesian Foreign Minister, Dr Mochtar, said contacts were still at ambassadorial level and confined to discussing the return of Portuguese civil servants to Portugal.

Following his Jakarta talks, the Secretary-General visited Canberra to brief the Australian Government on Timor but made only one general public reference to the issue in response to journalists' questions following his address to the National Press Club on disarmament.

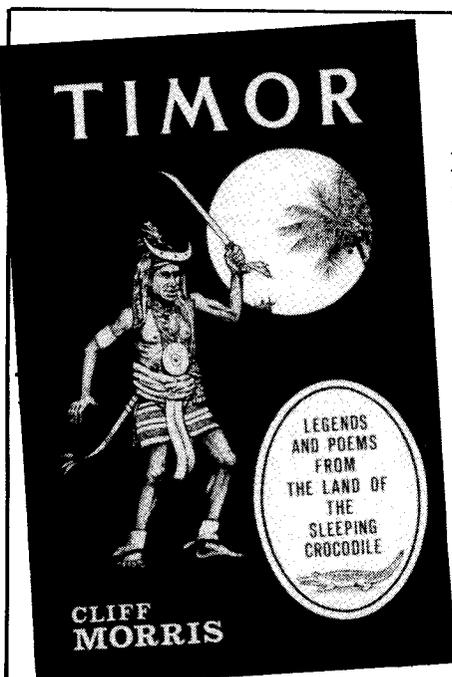
The Australian Coalition for East Timor (ACET) hand delivered a letter to a UN aide at his hotel and later distributed copies to journalists covering the press club function.

The letter charged there had been 'no substantial progress on the Timor issue', that UN sponsored talks over several years 'have produced no tangible benefits for the East Timorese people' and that the talks appear to be designed 'principally to achieve a facesaving formula for Portugal and Indonesia with a view to removing the issue from the UN agenda'. ACET called on the Secretary-General to make 'the full participation of the Timorese people the centre-piece of future UN strategies on the issue'.

A delegation comprising representatives of Amnesty International, the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace, and ACFOA met with an aide to the Secretary-General, Mr Paul Cavenagh, in Sydney on 14 February but had to be content with diplomatic assurances that the Secretary-General was doing all he could to resolve the matter. The NGO delegation told Mr Cavenagh that peace was the first priority in East Timor but that this could not be achieved unless the Timorese people, including Fretilin, were included in UN-sponsored negotiations. Both Fretilin and the Timorese Catholic Church wanted talks, the delegation pointed out.

In a follow-up letter to the Secretary-General, ACFOA questioned whether Mr Perez de Cuellar had told the Jakarta press he hoped the Timor issue would not be raised at the UN this year. Challenging the General-Secretary's right to pre-empt the UN system in this way, ACFOA said 'the member states of the UN should take full responsibility for issues such as East Timor which impinge fundamentally on the UN system and its principles'.

A dinner to honour the Secretary-General in Sydney on 14 February was addressed by Mr Gough Whitlam and Australia's ambassador to the United Nations, Mr Richard Woolcott. Both have worked to have East Timor dropped by the UN.



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LEGENDS AND POEMS FROM THE LAND OF THE SLEEPING CROCODILE

CLIFF MORRIS

## Catholic institute criticises passivity of Western Governments on Timor

Though the case against Indonesia is 'unanswerable', Western Governments 'have avoided or ignored the subject of East Timor whenever reference to it threatened to disturb harmonious political and trading relations with the Indonesian Government', asserts a new study of the East Timor question by the London-based Catholic Institute for International Relations (CIIR).

The 26 page report, issued in March 1985, traces the history of Timor since 1975, backgrounds the major political parties and analyses Indonesia's invasion and subsequent efforts to subjugate resistance.

It also reports on the central social, religious and advocacy role played by the East Timorese Catholic Church and its leaders in the face of enormous humanitarian and political pressures. 'In the process', says the report, 'the Timorese Church, largely unaided from the outside, has developed its own theology and spirituality of resistance'.

The report finds the arguments advanced by Indonesia in defence of its actions 'specious'. It argues that 'the deaths, disease, hunger and breakup of families in East Timor are not the result of a natural disaster but of Indonesian policies' and that Western Governments have a responsibility to press Indonesia on these issues.

Regarding the future, CIIR asserts that while a just settlement 'is certain to be extraordinarily difficult', it must 'command the assent of the people' for 'although the people of East Timor have endured extraordinary suffering there is no evidence that they have been cowed into modifying their fundamental objection to Indonesian occupation'.

*Comment on East Timor is available from CIIR, 22 Coleman Fields, London N1 FAF, U.K. CIIR also publishes a regular newsletter, Timor Link.*

## Church must stand up for Timor: report

It is time the international Church gave its full backing to appeals from the Church in East Timor for peace and justice, concludes a new European Church report on East Timor.

'To be the voice of, and to stand up for, the genuine rights of its people is a heavy burden for the Church in East Timor. To carry on she needs not only sympathy but real support from the sister Churches all over the world, not only to alleviate the suffering of her people but to stand up for the internationally recognised right of self-determination', says the report.

The 37-page dossier was prepared in 1984 by the prestigious Catholic catechetical centre in Brussels, *Pro Mundi Vita* (For the Life of the World).

The report is in two parts. Part one, *An Act of Genocide*, provides an excellent short history of Timor under Portugal, Indonesia's invasion and occupation, and the response of Governments.

Part two, *The Churches and East Timor*, provides interesting background on the different responses of the Protestant and Catholic churches. Clearly the Indonesian invasion and its terrible aftermath have had a deep impact on the majority East Timorese Catholic Church, revolutionising both its attitude to the State (in Portuguese times Church and State worked hand-in-hand) and its relationship with the people. This turn around took time and explains why it was not until the '80s that Timorese Church leaders began to speak out. Their appeals have subsequently been picked up by a range of Catholic bodies, including the Indonesian bishops and the Vatican.

In contrast, the international Protestant Church has been generally ambivalent on the issue due in the main to the pro-government attitudes of the Indonesian Council of Churches. 'The Church should support efforts to assimilate the people in Indonesian society', says and Indonesian Council of Churches report quoted in the study.

*East Timor Dossier is available from Pro Mundi Vita, Reu de La Limite 6, B-1030 Brussels, Belgium.*

## Timorese prisoners moved to Jakarta

Increasingly the Indonesian military authorities are removing East Timorese political prisoners from East Timor itself to prisons on Java.

In March 1985 it was learnt the following 42 were being held in the prison of Cipinang in Jakarta.

*The first number after each name is the prisoners' age, that in brackets the length of sentence.*

Marito Mario Nicolau Reis 38 (17)	Albino De Lurdes 47 (17)
Mariano Bonaparte Soares 43 (16)	David Dias Ximenes 32 (15)
Ze Roberto Seixas 29 (12)	Domingos Seixas 35 (11)
Januario Ximenes 41 (10)	Fernando Pinto Baptista 44 (8)
Miquel da Costa 45 (8)	Antonio Yore Eduardo 43 (8)
Yore Simoes 44 (8)	Manuel Victor 34 (7)
Veueslau da Conceicao 23 (7)	Feliciano Tilman 23 (7)
Domingo Nunes 24 (7)	Eduardo da Costa 32 (7)
Mariano Moniz 53 (7)	Yoao Gomes 40 (7)
Fernando da Costa 25 (7)	Americo de Souza Jeronimo 35 (7)
Abilio Tilman 33 (7)	Barilio Alves Freitas 30 (7)
Gaspar de Marijo 30 (7)	Luis Freitas 28 (7)
Antonia Ramos 26 (7)	Martino Cavinuro 53 (6.6)
Francisco Carvalho 27 (6.6)	Gaspar da Costa Loi 26 (6)
Eduardo Cavinuro 34 (6)	Antonio Mesquita 24 (6)
Caetano Gueves 35 (6)	Yoao Damaceno Santos 27 (6)
Agapito Zocha 29 (6)	Eurico de Jesus 32 (6)
Henrique Behnico 33 (6)	Thomas Roduques 35 (5)
Luis Fatima Carvalho 47 (5)	Artur Ximenes 33 (5)
Armando Florindo 25 (5)	Ernesto Pinto 29 (5)
Martinho Rodrigues 26 (4)	Mariano da Costa 29 (3.10)

## CCA conference resolution

A Christian Conference of Asia sponsored peace conference, held in Okinawa, Japan, February 1985, adopted the following resolution on East Timor:

'This Conference shares the deep concern of the worldwide Christian community at the continuing suffering, violence, and abuse of human rights in East Timor. We propose that churches and groups represented in this conference:

1. express their solidarity with the Church and people of East Timor in their struggle for peace and justice;
2. join with the head of the East Timorese Church, Mgr Belo in calling for a cessation of hostilities and a dialogue between the Indonesian armed forces and the Fretilin-led resistance;
3. urge the UN Secretary-General and the Portuguese Government in their efforts to achieve a speedy and just political settlement with the Indonesian Government to uphold the right of the East Timorese people to self-determination.'

## Fearlessly

*We are alone  
We live alone*

*We were together  
Now we're apart*

*We were in love  
Now we're apart*

*Everything is far  
Everything is lost*

*High up in the sky  
Higher and higher*

*Looking at the sea  
Deeper and deeper*

*East Timorese refugee,  
Australia, 1984*

# East Timor: only guided tourists welcome

In recent months Indonesia has multiplied guided tours of East Timor as part of its diplomatic offensive and in response to international criticism of lack of access.

However, while surat jalans are readily provided to representatives of Governments and media friendly to Jakarta, the critics such as Amnesty International, are kept out. A request by Amnesty to observe trials in Dili early in the year was turned down.

## Journalists

The first journalists from foreign media to visit East Timor in 18 months arrived in Dili on 25 February for a 4-day visit.

The journalists were Peter Millership (Reuters), Steven Jones (*Asian Wall Street Journal*) and Gafur Fadyil (Associated Press). Also in the group was Haryo Seputro of the Indonesian daily *Suara Karya*. The last foreign journalists allowed into East Timor were those who accompanied the Australian Parliamentary delegation led by Mr Bill Morrison in July 1983.

An Indonesian Government spokesperson said the February visit was aimed at observing development projects in the 7 regencies of Maliana, Turiscai (Manufahi), Sare (Ermera), Baucau, Lospalos, Viqueque and Atauro (Dili).

Diplomatic sources in Jakarta said the visit coincided with Indonesia's attempt to persuade the UN Commission on Human Rights to drop East Timor from its agenda. (*NT News, February 1985*) The Jakarta-based Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), which managed the visit, has been responsible for many similar visits in the past, most notably that of Gough Whitlam and Peter Hastings in March 1982 which resulted in vicious attacks on Mgr da Costa Lopes, then head of the Timorese Catholic Church.

Jakarta declined applications for the trip by Australian Associated Press (AAP), the only Australian media group permitted to operate in Indonesia. A Government spokesperson said it was 'not yet the right time' to have Australian journalists in East Timor as they 'tend to be oversensitive' about human rights in the territory. (*NT News, February 1985*)

## West German MPs

The first ever visit to East Timor by West German MPs demonstrates, however, that even carefully managed tours do not always yield 100% dividends for Jakarta.

The West German delegation, which visited for 2 days in late February, comprised 5 MPs from 3 Parties: Herbert Hupka and Otto Regenspurger (Christian Democrats), Hans-Ulrich Kloose and Volker Neumann (Social Democrats), and Detlef Kleinert (Liberal).

At the conclusion of their visit the delegation called on Indonesia to shut down the Atauro internment camp and 'to allow the detainees to return to their places of origin', to extend a 'final amnesty' to the resistance, and to open the territory to the International Red Cross and the world community and media.

Writing in *Der Spiegel*, 29 April 1985, Kloose expanded his impressions of Atauro. It is 'collective punishment in its most classic form', he wrote. 'The psychological conditions of the detainees are catastrophic. The people only stare at you, lifelessly. They don't do anything, they don't know anything'. He added 'the authorities never tell them what will happen to them, whether they will be allowed to return home to their villages. Can they hope for anything at all?' The civilian camp official speaks ominously about 'new' villages where it will be possible to keep watch over the captives.

Kloose concluded his article with this overview of East Timor: 'The overall impression throughout the entire island is of a place in captivity. The people never smile. . . Here is East Timor, the people look stern, bitter, hostile and numb'.

## Foreign diplomats

Diplomats from at least 8 countries have visited East Timor in the period October 1984-April 1985. They include officials from Britain,

the USA, Canada, New Zealand, Venezuela, Nigeria, France and Japan.

All commented favourably on Indonesia's development programme in the territory.

Venezuela, the UK, Nigeria and France all abstained when the last vote on East Timor was taken at the UN in 1982.

## Thatcher visit to Indonesia

The British Prime Minister Mrs Thatcher's visit to Indonesia during the first week of April did not include East Timor. She did, however, raise with President Suharto the issue of human rights abuses in East Timor only to pronounce her satisfaction with the reply. She assured President Suharto that the future of the territory was a matter for Indonesia, Portugal and the United Nations and that Britain had no intention of interfering.

Britain abstained at the UN in 1982. In January 1985 the Foreign Office wrote that 'the people of East Timor deserve the opportunity to determine their own future in accordance with their own political aspirations'.

The UK is looking for further defence orders and contracts in the fields of coal-mining, rail and sea transport, navigational aids, gold-mining and the offshore oil industry.

Indonesia recently bought 3 Tribal-class frigates from Britain, 5 more Hawk jet trainers to complement 2 squadrons already in service with the Air Force and 100 million pounds worth of Rapier missiles manufactured by British Aerospace. The deal for the Rapier surface-to-air missiles was the largest British arms sale of 1984. (*Daily Telegraph, 11 April 1985*)

Neil Kinnock, the British Opposition leader, requested Mrs Thatcher (in a letter of 12 April) to raise human rights abuses in Indonesia with President Suharto.

## Jakarta should talk to Fretilin: Australia

The Australian Government believes that talks between Indonesia and Fretilin should be resumed and should form part of efforts to achieve a long-term solution to the East Timor conflict. Talks held in 1983 broke down in July that year with the renewal of hostilities.

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs outlined its views on the settlement of hostilities in East Timor in a letter to the Australian Council for Overseas Aid, 23 November 1984.

'The Australian Government shares ACFOA's concern that a comprehensive resolution to the East Timor problem be achieved. Australia is not, however, a main party to the dispute over East Timor, and considers that an overall settlement can be best be reached through direct talks between the main parties, especially Portugal and Indonesia. On his recent visit to Portugal in September, Mr Hayden was able to confirm that contacts are taking place between Portuguese and Indonesian authorities concerning East Timor.

'If, however, bilateral negotiations cannot produce a solution, the Australian Government regards the UN as the principal international forum for consideration of the East Timor issue. The Australian Government has welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General. . .

'The Government also regards it as desirable that the process of peaceful contact between the Indonesian authorities and Fretilin should be resumed, thus facilitating the end of hostilities and the achievement of a settlement in East Timor'.

## **PNG bans Fretilin leader**

The Papua New Guinean Government has refused an entry visa to Jose Ramos Horta, Fretilin's representative at the United Nations.

Horta applied to visit PNG in early April through the PNG High Commissioner in Canberra. The Commissioner, Sir Alkan Tololo, referred the request to Port Moresby where it was turned down.

'I am extremely disappointed', said Horta, 'because PNG should not have to fear any censure from Indonesia. After all, Indonesia has constantly assured PNG that it has no designs on PNG. So the bottom line is PNG should have nothing to worry about. Surely, as a democratic state, it could allow a visit from someone who might disagree with its neighbour'.

*Times of PNG, 28 April 1985*

## **Timorese not refugees: Australia**

The Australian Immigration Minister, Mr Chris Hurford, has reiterated Australia's policy that East Timorese leaving East Timor since 1975 cannot be regarded as refugees.

In a letter to the Australian Council for Overseas Aid, 29 January 1985, the Minister writes: 'In general, East Timorese who have left East Timor since August 1975 have travelled to countries where they have the right of residence and/or citizenship (e.g. Portugal or Taiwan). They cannot then be defined as refugees in terms of the UN Convention.

'Australia has however recognised that there is a need to assist East Timorese and to this end has introduced several programs for their resettlement in Australia. The present Government's platform includes a number of objectives in relation to East Timor including support of the principle of free migration of East Timorese and the belief that Australia has an obligation and ability to assist East Timorese to settle here'.

## **Torture in Dili**

Dili Police Chief, Major Ngusman Fuady, has told the Antara news agency that mass disturbances in the city had been successfully repressed. Major Ngusman said that cases of 'slight torture' in Dili were down from 263 in 1983 to just 170 in 1984.

*Antara, 31 December 1984*

## **US backs Indonesia on Timor**

The US Assistant Secretary of State, Mr Paul Wolfowitz, said in Jakarta, 4 March 1985, that general conditions in East Timor had improved in recent years and that the US would continue to support Indonesian policy on East Timor.

'Indonesia has made a great deal of progress in recent years by improving economic and other conditions in East Timor', Mr Wolfowitz told a news conference at the conclusion of 4 days of talks with Indonesian leaders.

Mr Wolfowitz said the US Catholic Relief Service, which is involved in a \$A7 million rice project in the west of East Timor, had reported impressive progress there.

*Sydney Morning Herald, 6 March 1985.*

## **20,000 orphans in East Timor**

According to the Governor of East Timor, Mr Mario Carrascalao, there are, as a result of the war in East Timor, about 20,000 orphans, 11,000 abandoned children, and 8000 cripples in East Timor.

On transmigration, he said that 750 more families from Java and Bali will go to East Timor in 1985.

*Kompas, 20 March 1985*

## **Troop deployments**

Armed Forces Commander Benny Murdani said in December 1984 that more than 7000 Indonesian troops were fighting between 500 and 700 ill-equipped guerillas in East Timor. He estimated the guerillas might have up to 10,000 supporters.

*Reuter, 26 February 1985*

## **Political settlement best aid for Timor: Portugal**

The Portuguese Foreign Minister, Mr Jaime Gama, believes that humanitarian relief adequate to the needs of East Timor will not be possible until a comprehensive settlement is in place.

In a letter to the Australian Council for Overseas Aid, 21 September 1984, in which he addressed the humanitarian aspects of the Timor issue, Mr Gama wrote: 'Certainly only an international solution might enable the Timorese to receive all the possible aid they need so much. On this point, as you are aware, the Secretary-General of the UN has received a mandate from the General Assembly to consult with all the parties concerned to try and find a solution.'

'The aspirations and rights of the Timorese people, and consideration of their human dignity, are our main concern', said Mr Gama.

## **Birth control stepped up in Timor**

An intensive birth control programme is being implemented in East Timor by Indonesia as 'one extremely decisive aspect of resolving the population problem in the territory', according to a report in the Jakarta daily *Berita Yudha*, 26 April 1985. The programme was commenced in East Timor in 1980.

The intensified programme is to be administered by a new Family Planning Centre in Dili financed almost entirely by the World Bank.

Responding to earlier reports regarding the programme, the UK Catholic Institute for International Relations charged that the programme was being adopted against 'a population already decimated by nearly 10 years of war and hardship and the increasing implantation of settlers from Indonesia. One must wonder why a country whose population has been so depleted would need any kind of birth control programme at all', said CIIR.



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