

NEW SUHARTO MILITARY OFFENSIVE BEFORE... US CONGRESS REPS. TO VISIT TIMOR

THE SUHARTO REGIME is hoping to silence criticism of its genocide which has arisen recently in the United States, by taking a US Congress delegation to East Timor next January.

The delegation of US Congress representatives will be the first since a similar team visited East Timor on a guided tour in 1976.

On that occasion, the US delegation came out with a report whitewashing the Suharto invaders.

The delegation was made up of Congressmen who were openly pro-Indonesian from the beginning, and Ms. Helen Meyner who was "duch-essed" by the Suharto regime and convinced by a staged rally, which was a new experience for her.

It is hoped that this time the US Congressional delegation will include some representatives who will not go to simply whitewash the Indonesian invaders, and will seek to get away from the guided tour arranged for them.

However, if arrangements are left to the US State Department and to Jakarta, then we can expect a farce similar to that last time.

Former Labor Prime Minister Gough Whitlam is also due to go on a guided tour of East Timor, organised by his Indonesian friends, next month. Whitlam is no fool and knows when a tour is staged. Let's hope he also gets away and demands to see the truth. Maybe he will even show some sympathy this time for the East Timorese people...

Meanwhile, the Indonesian military are engaged in a final offensive to try to defeat Fretilin and kill the leaders.

We are confident that they will once more fail and that the guerrillas will survive. But what is clear is that this offensive will cause further massive destruction to crops and homes, that as a result thousands more will be captured and driven into concentration camps, and many killed.

If we see a new influx of "refugees" into camps, then Whitlam and the American Congressmen will know who is responsible...

Time will tell whether the new tourists to Dili will cover up, or tell the truth...

JOURNALISTS BANNED

FOUR JOURNALISTS representing the Australian Broadcasting Commission, the Far Eastern Economic Review, Associated Press and the Asian Wall Street Journal were refused permission to fly from Bali to East Timor on December 13, even though they had received permission from the Defence Department in Jakarta to visit East Timor.

Earlier, however, seven journalists from Europe (mostly from Geneva) had been allowed to make the trip.

It is understood the December 13 ban was particularly aimed at the ABC, following factual reports on Radio Australia of the reports and photos of Peter Rodgers last month. The Indonesians are also unhappy with FEER correspondent David Jenkins, who although an apologist for Jakarta's actions in East Timor, published an article in the FEER which reported Peter Rodgers statements. The issue of the FEER with Jenkins' article slipped through Indonesian censorship and Jakarta readers were asked by letter to returning the offending copy to censors!

Of the European journalists who visited East Timor, only an article by David Watts of the London Times has appeared in the Australian press (Canberra Times, December 15).

Watts' article is very critical of the Indonesians: "... at last help is coming to the innocent victims of the vicious starvation policy practised by the Indonesian armed forces against Marxist militant and civilian alike in East Timor's little-known war..."

The help is from Catholic Relief Services, who according to Watts are caring for 134,000 in 120 centres and "the Red Cross (which) has plans to help a further 66,000."

Watts repeats stories fed to him by the Indonesian Red Cross which told him of 2,500 Fretilin fighters at the beginning, and 100,000 "taken" to the hills where they were forced from place to place by the Indonesians. Watts reports an important admission by General Dading Kalbuadi who led the invasion and subsequent war until recently: "(Dading) told me that he employed a variety of techniques which he had culled from his experience in the Indonesian fight for independence against the Dutch and as part of the United Nations force deployed in Vietnam to monitor the ceasefire." It is particularly the lessons of Vietnam that were employed in East Timor...

Watts claims to have seen evidence of napalm attacks in the countryside...

He condemns the Indonesians for refusing to allow aid into East Timor earlier, "a serious accusation to add to that of the annexation of East Timor by armed force for which Indonesia still stands condemned."

Watts and the other journalists were present just prior to a major Indonesian offensive to destroy the remaining Fretilin guerrillas in East Timor. Watts writes as though none existed, but the report carried in the Australian (December 15-16) clearly gives the lie to Jakarta claims that Fretilin is finished.

The new offensive will involve over 20,000 troops.

This offensive may explain why the four journalists were turned back from Bali.

It is also aimed at ending before the planned visit of the US Congress delegation and former Australian Prime Minister Gough Whitlam to East Timor next month, (see story this issue of ET NEWS).

OF THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT NICOLAU LOBATO, ON DECEMBER 31 1978, AS WE ARE CERTAIN ALL TIMORESE, INSIDE AND OUTSIDE EAST TIMOR, WILL DO SO.

THE DEATH OF COMRADE NICOLAU LOBATO WAS A GREAT BLOW TO THE STRUGGLE OF THE EAST TIMORESE PEOPLE BUT HIS EXAMPLE WILL REMAIN TO INSPIRE THEM ON TO VICTORY THROUGH THE MOST DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES.

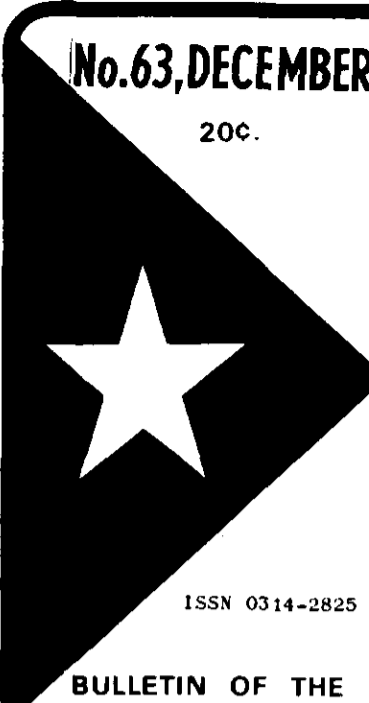
FINALLY, THE EAST TIMOR NEWS AGENCY SENDS ITS WARMEST GREETINGS TO ALL READERS. FOR A YEAR OF DEEPENING SOLIDARITY AND ACTION

THIS WILL BE THE LAST ISSUE OF EAST TIMOR NEWS FOR 1979, AS AUSTRALIA BEGINS ITS LONG SUMMER HOLIDAY PERIOD NOW. EAST TIMOR NEWS, DESPITE SOME FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES WILL CONTINUE INTO ITS FOURTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION IN 1980, CONFIDENT THAT THE EAST TIMORESE PEOPLE WILL SURVIVE THE GENOCIDE IMPOSED BY THE SUHARTO REGIME AND JOIN WITH THE INDONESIAN PEOPLE AS A WHOLE IN OVERTHROWING THE "SHAH OF JAKARTA".

WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMEMORATE THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY

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EAST TIMOR NEWS

NEW JAKARTA LIE

JAKARTA has come up with a third figure for the population of East Timor within a period of less than two months.

AAP-Reuters quoted East Timor military commander Colonel Sahala Rajagukguk saying that the population of East Timor was 592,603. (Canberra Times, December 16).

In November, however, the Indonesians claimed the total population was 612,017, after angrily responding to charges of 100,000 dead. (Sydney Morning Herald, November 9).

In late October, Peter Rodgers had been told by Indonesian authorities in East Timor that the population figure was 522,433 (Sydney Morning Herald, November 1).

In October 1978, church officials in East Timor had been told the population figures was 329,271 (Asia Bureau Australia Newsletter, June 1979).

If one was cynical, it could be asked if 19,414 people had died

between November 8 and December 15.

The truth must be that all these figures with the possible exception of the figure given in October 1978 (which was not for publication), are fabrications, to fit into a propaganda picture the Jakarta military dictatorship wants to paint at a particular time.

The latest figure given means that the population has decreased by 60,608 or 9.2% on the 1974 figure claimed by the Indonesians of 653,211.

However, a more accurate Church estimate of the population of East Timor in 1974 was 688,771. On that figure, the latest Indonesian claim would mean that the population has fallen by 85,968....

And that is not allowing for natural population increase which would take the figure of the total population on 1974 estimates to over 750,000....

Whatever the truth, it is clear that there has been a massive death toll of between 100,000 and 300,000....

VENDETTA AGAINST TIMOR

"Timor: Vendetta against Indonesia" is the heading of an article by H W Arndt, Professor of the Economics Department at the Australian National University, in the December 1979 issue of the extreme-right magazine QUADRANT.

The rightist magazine THE BULLETIN (December 18, 1979) reprinted a slightly edited version of this article.

Prof. Arndt is a long-time cold warrior, who fought to the last to defend American aggression in Indochina, and other such causes. Now he comes to the defence of Suharto, against "an Australian organisation calling itself the Campaign for Independent East Timor (CIET), supported by the Australian Journalists Association (AJA) (which) has been waging a no-holds-barred propaganda war against Indonesia."

Arndt quotes former Labor Prime Minister Whitlam who joins him as an unlikely ally in this fight against the "vendetta against Indonesia."

Whitlam in a speech at the ANU seminar on the "Indonesian Connection" on November 30 this year, praised Suharto saying "only Vietnam had to struggle longer than Indonesia to regain its full territory"... that is, no doubt, East Timor!

Whitlam complained that "Fretilin" (banned from Australia since November 1976) dare to try to "enlist support in the newspapers here and in Parliament House" (Canberra Times, December 1, 1979), while Arndt complains about "the extraordinary success of a relatively small group of CIET activists in virtually blanketing the Australian media with their virulent anti-Indonesian propaganda".

It is of course very flattering for CIET and other East Timor groups in Australia to have such supemat-

ural powers attributed to them.

However, Arndt attempts to use CIET as a "conspiracy" covering such people as Mr. Jim Dunn, various Labor Party politicians, the Australian Council for Overseas Aid, "a small group of Catholic priests with radical-left leanings", the Australian Journalists Association and anyone else who dares oppose Indonesian aggression.

CIET is of course an organisation which has quite specific demands and which supports Fretilin. The other groups and individuals who oppose the Indonesian genocide in East Timor do not generally speaking adopt CIET demands, particularly in open and full support to Fretilin.

It is quite ludicrous for example to say the AJA or ACFOA are identical with CIET. Mr. Jim Dunn does not support Fretilin any more than he supports UDT. He does oppose and has courageously exposed Indonesian atrocities.

The substance of Prof. Arndt's arguments will be replied to at length later. They bear little relation to reality. Mr. Whitlam's attempts to justify his betrayal of East Timor when Prime Minister, and to make history look kindly on his role, will also be looked at later.

Arndt and Whitlam both stand condemned, however, for their cynical and heartless disregard for the suffering of the East Timorese. Whitlam says that the reports of large numbers of deaths in East Timor are "quite wicked distortions" which, anyhow, are "not taken seriously in the United States Congress".

The crime of CIET and other opponents of Suharto's genocide is that we do not let the East Timorese be killed off quietly, without a whisper...

PROTESTS IN EUROPE, USA

THE RECENT EXPOSURE OF SUHARTO'S GENOCIDE has made headlines in the media in Britain, Holland and the United States, as never before. It has been matched by mobilisations and protests which have shaken the Suharto regime.

Suharto went on a State visit to Britain from November 13 to 16, and received an almost totally hostile press, while demonstrators from the British Campaign for Independent East Timor, TAPOL and other groups followed him everywhere.

Over 400 protested on November 14 outside the Guildhall in London where Suharto was being wined and dined by the Lord Mayor. The British Labour weekly "Tribune" noted that when Suharto entered the hall to calls of "Mass murderer" and "hands off East Timor" he and his entourage were "visibly shaken".

BRITISH LABOUR BOYCOTT

The International Committee of the Labour Party unanimously condemned the visit and urged all MPs to boycott it. All Labour MPs did, with the exception of former Prime Minister Callaghan, who went to the royal reception given for Suharto by the Queen.

The Jakarta magazine, *TEMPO*, (November 17) also noted the hostile reception the President got in London, including the stickers warning Londoners that a "mass murderer" was about to visit them and the slogans covering tube stations...

The American media and some Congressmen have also made strong attacks on Suharto's actions in East Timor.

Stephen S Rosenfeld, writing in the *Washington Post* (November 23) after speaking of alleged "starve or surrender" policies in Kampuchea, said "The Indonesians, who enjoy American patronage, have been doing it inconspicuously in rebellious East Timor for years." Earlier articles reported the exposure and

photographs of starving Timorese. Moreover, a Congressional inquiry into the situation in East Timor was launched, much through the initiative of Tom Harkin (Iowa), who challenged a whitewash report from Reuters published in the *New York Times* on October 31, which presented the Indonesian cover-up under the title of comments from "neutral observers".

Tom Harkin (NY Times, November 19) wrote: "Whether one talks about half of the population or 100,000 deaths, it is clear that Indonesia is responsible for a massive catastrophe which should be compared to the Cambodian tragedy." He concluded by an unfortunately so far vain plea for the *NY Times* to "lead in the effort to investigate the devastation of the East Timorese people."

US Presidential candidate, Democrat Senator Edward Kennedy also spoke out strongly against Indonesian genocide in East Timor.

Senator Kennedy also told two Timorese priests who were in New York to address the United Nations, that, if he became President, he would use all his power to force Indonesian troops to withdraw from East Timor.

At a Congressional hearing called early this month, Congressman Tom Harkin repeated earlier statements, quoting Australian press and aid reports.

STATE DEPT. COVER UP

The State Department began the cover up. American Ambassador to Jakarta, Edward Masters, said he did not follow up allegations of an Indonesian policy of using starvation as a means of war "because he did not think such a policy existed." (Australian, December 6 1979).

Masters of course was fully aware that starvation has existed for some time in East Timor: he was one of the Ambassadors who in September 1978 visited Remexio, 15 kms. from Dili and was "shocked" by what

he saw. He also was told by Church and other sources during that visit that the situation in Remexio was "nothing" compared with other areas, in one of which 500 Timorese were dying a month.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke, blamed poor crops for starvation in East Timor, and praised the Indonesians for helping aid organisations.

Amando Sonagere, regional director for US Catholic Relief Services, told the hearing that the Indonesians had placed "no restrictions" on 90 relief workers operating the CRS programme in East Timor. He failed to say that only one of the CRS personnel - Frank Carlin - was not Indonesian and the other 89 were Indonesian military or Indonesian Red Cross personnel, who naturally suffered no restrictions! As for Carlin, he is reported to visit East Timor only a few days at a time, and only once a month or so...

Sonagere said that the situation that has been reported in the press "no longer existed." In other words, a situation "as bad as Biafra and potentially as serious as Kampuchea" (International Red Cross) or which "might be worse than Biafra or Kampuchea" (Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar) has been solved in one single month of November 1979! A remarkable achievement, or was it due to the fact that CRS is working as a link between USAID (Government agency) and the Indonesian military (see ACFQA report in last ET NEWS) and has been widely criticised in the recent past for its role in such situations as Vietnam where it acted as an agency to patch up the damage done by the US war machine?

So the Carter administration comes to the aid of the Suharto dictatorship. What price "human rights"?

In HOLLAND, the publicity around the exposure of a Kampuchean-type situation in East Timor has led to even stronger protests against Suharto Suharto's genocide in East Timor.

CONTACT ADDRESSES FOR INFORMATION ON EAST TIMOR SUPPORT ACTIONS

CAMPAIGN FOR INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR (CIET), fourth floor, 232 Castlereagh St, Sydney, NSW, 2000. Phone: (02) 61.7809.
AUSTRALIA EAST TIMOR ASSOCIATION CENTRE, 33 Smith St, Fitzroy, Vic. 3065. Phone: (03) 41.6318.

CIET (ACT), PO Box 514, Manuka, ACT.
CIET (NT), PO Box 1404, Darwin, NT.
CIET (SA), C/- world workshop, 112b Gay's Arcade, Adelaide, SA. Phone: 2235795 433379 (ah)

CIET (Newcastle), C/- Trades Hall, Union St, Newcastle, 2300.
FRIENDS OF EAST TIMOR, GPO Box T1810, Perth, WA, 6000.
TIMOR INFORMATION SERVICE, first floor, 183 Gertrude St, Fitzroy, Vic. 3065.

EAST TIMOR NEWS is published fortnightly by the East Timor News Agency collective. Views expressed in *East Timor News* do not necessarily express the views of Fretilin. ETNA is an independent news service to provide news and views on the struggle of the East Timorese people.

East Timor News is produced by voluntary labor. *East Timor News* survives on sales and subscriptions. Its price is somewhat higher than

Members of the Dutch Indonesia Committee have received widespread coverage for their views in the media, including TV. The Indonesia Committee is proceeding with legal action against the Dutch Government over the delivery of corvettes to Suharto, despite government pledges when construction of the warships began, that the corvettes would not be delivered if the war continued in East Timor.

The legal case is due to begin on January 7, 1980.

The upsurge in interest and coverage of East Timor in the press and media of the USA and western Europe is a new, major headache for the Suharto regime, which is totally dependent on support from western governments.

BAHASA TIMOR LEAFLET

The Campaign for Independent East Timor (CIET) in Sydney will shortly distribute a leaflet in Bahasa Indonesia, including banned photos of starving East Timorese children, to Australians travelling to Indonesia for holidays.

The Australian tourists will be asked to give the leaflet to Indonesians during their stay in Indonesia.

This campaign, aimed at letting the Indonesian people know the truth about Suharto's genocide in East Timor, will continue throughout 1980.

The tourists are being warned to be careful to whom they give the leaflet.

The leaflet explains the history of the East Timorese struggle, quotes the Indonesian Constitution which has been broken by Suharto, and explains that Australians supporting East Timor are not "anti-Indonesian."

Copies of the leaflet will be available shortly for anyone wishing to smuggle them into Suharto's police state. Write to CIET, fourth floor, 232 Castlereagh St., Sydney,

TIMOR CARDS

CARDS FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR... remember East Timor and remind your friends...

from R Wesley Smith, PO Box 2155, Darwin NT 5794....

Prices: 100 for \$16; 50 for \$10; 10 for \$3 (postage included)

DEC. 7 PROTESTS, ARRESTS

DEMONSTRATIONS were held throughout Australia on December 7 to mark the fourth anniversary of the Indonesian invasion of East Timor.

In DARWIN, 100 people met outside the Indonesian Consulate in heavy rain to protest.

In SYDNEY, a five hour vigil in Martin Place during which leaflets, were distributed, East Timor News sold and a photo display staged, and funds collected for aid to East Timor, ended with a rally attended by over 100.

In MELBOURNE, a rally in City Square of over 100, ended with a car cavalcade to the residence of the Foreign Minister Andrew Peacock.

In ADELAIDE, about 100 gathered in Rundle Mall and listened to speakers while in PERTH, 50 attended a rally addressed by Senator Gordon McIntosh and others.

No one was arrested during this rally, but a week before, six members of Friends of East Timor (FOET), were arrested for handing out leaflets outside the Garuda airline office, when it was being opened by West Australian Premier Court. The laws against public assembly in West Australia are as draconian as those applying in Queensland.

Earlier, FOET members and Labor parliamentarians had their names taken by police when they protested against the visit of an Indonesian navy training ship to WA. (See last issue of *East Timor News*.) When the six arrested at Garuda appeared in court, the FOET organised a protest at the court, with the support of the West Australian Trades and Labour Council. A group of trade union officials came to the picket to show their support.

The situation in West Australia, as in Queensland, is a grave attack on the right of assembly and freedom of speech. In the past, use of these laws in West Australia to stop trade unionists meeting resulted in a general strike and forced the Court government to retreat, as far as applying these laws to trade unionists.

But East Timor supporters are still regarded as fair game. We call on protests in Australia and around the world against the arrest of the six FOET members in Perth.

On December 10 in CANBERRA thirty East Timor supporters demonstrated outside the Indonesian Embassy, and CIET chairperson Brendan O'Dwyer and Ken Fry MHR presented a protest petition to the Indonesian Ambassador.

EAST TIMOR RELIEF APPEAL

Readers who wish to donate to aid appeals for East Timor, are urged to donate to the EAST TIMOR RELIEF APPEAL, sponsored by Australian Catholic Relief, Australian Council of Churches, Austcare, Community Aid Abroad, Freedom from Hunger, Save the Children Fund and the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

This appeal is in our view

more likely to reach the people who need aid than others currently taking place.

The East Timor Relief Appeal has so far not received agreement from the Australian Government that donations be tax deductible.

DONATIONS MAY BE SENT TO : EAST TIMOR RELIEF APPEAL, G.P.O. Box 9900, in all capital cities...

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Post to: ETNA, fourth floor, 232 Castlereagh St., Sydney, NSW, 2000.

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