

# President to downplay press dispute

BALI, Indonesia (AP) — A top Indonesian official said today President Reagan's "winds of freedom" are still blowing on the eve of his meeting with President Suharto, but the government didn't much care for the "hurricane" that led to expulsion of two Australian journalists.

"We are not against press freedom," Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja told a news conference on this tropical resort island. "On the other hand, we don't have to like it. I mean when a hurricane hits you, you don't have to like the hurricane."

He said he regretted the expulsion of a New York Times reporter, adding he had tried to reverse her banning but failed when she entered the country on a tourist visa, was discovered and ordered to leave.

U.S. Ambassador Paul Wolfowitz delivered an "expression of concern" to Indonesian officials after the Australians in the White House press party were ousted, but American officials indicated they considered the case closed and Reagan was unlikely to raise it when he meets with Suharto on Thursday.

Nor, the officials said, would Reagan dwell on other human rights issues such as what are known here as "mysterious killings" of suspected criminals and political repression in East Timor.

Speaking on condition he not be identified, one authoritative U.S. source said the Reagan administration believes the government has halted the summary execution of suspected crime figures and that the suppression of political opposition in Timor has eased, albeit not enough to suit the United States.



AP Laserphoto

**Ketut Adnyani this week models a quick-selling T-shirt in Bali, Indonesia, showing pictures of Indonesian President Suharto and President Reagan. The words translated mean, "Peace Together, Indonesia and America."**

"We do talk about these things" with Indonesian officials, one American said, "but we don't want to hit it square on the nose."

Mochtar, when asked if he was concerned that his government's action, by focusing attention on human rights issues, would cast a pall over

the meeting, said: "I hope it will not."

Senior U.S. officials made clear they did not want the meeting, set to discuss economic issues, to be complicated by the whirlwind caused by the reporters' case.

# Questioning of Suharto brings prison sentence

Boston Globe

BALI, Indonesia — When President Reagan meets here Thursday with the foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the first secretary general of the 19-year-old organization won't be there.

That's because the former official, retired Indonesian Army Lt. Gen. Hartono Dharsono, is serving a 10-year prison sentence, imposed last year for the crime of subversion: he publicly questioned the government of President Suharto.

Nor are Reagan and his aides likely to see any articles critical of Suharto in the Indonesian press. That's rarely tolerated. Last year, one editor who wrote an unflattering article about the Suharto government received an eight-year jail term. Two other journals, which sought to write about the country's wealthy ruling class — which includes many members of Suharto's extended family — were shut down.

Reagan's selection of the theme, "Winds of Freedom," to highlight the economic and democratic gains of the countries whose leaders he will meet with this week and next is proving to be an embarrassment, senior administration officials conceded Tuesday.

"If they've got all these guys languishing in prison, it doesn't do much for the winds of freedom," one official lamented.

Another official, citing what he said was internal White House disagreement over the selection of the theme, said Reagan's stop here made its choice "awkward" because of the Indonesian government's poor human rights record. "It's likely to be an embarrassment for us."

According to aides, Reagan, who will meet with Suharto on Thursday, will raise human rights concerns with the man who likes to be called "the smiling general." These concerns include reports of torture; imprisonment without trial of political opponents; the reported killings of several thousand criminals by government security forces; and restrictions on free speech and association, which have been tightened in the last year.

Reagan also arrived here armed with pleas from 21 senators and 125 House members that he protest Indonesia's continued occupation of the former Portuguese colony of East Timor.

According to human rights groups, between 100,000 and 200,000 of the 700,000 people in East Timor have died since Indonesia invaded and annexed the area in 1975.

The administration, however, believes that such problems are best dealt with through "quiet diplomacy," and that to raise public objections, as President Carter did with some countries, is counterproductive. So the White House has indicated that it will not publicly confirm whether Reagan raises the issue.

But the senior officials, who declined to be quoted by name, said Reagan will, as one of them said, "take the nice guy approach." Reagan, he said, will talk about the prob-

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— Administration official

lems that human rights abuses created for former Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos.

"The president will tell him that he needs to stay on top of the human rights situation," one official said.

Secretary of State George P. Shultz, however, will be more direct and critical when he meets with Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochta Kusumaatmadja, according to the officials.

In some respects, the case against Gen. Dharsono illustrates many of the objections that human rights groups have lodged against the 20-year tenure of the 64-year-old Suharto. The former Army general exerts strong control over the government, the armed forces and the principal political party in a country that, with a population of 173 million, is the world's sixth largest.

Dharsono's prosecution grew out of a peaceful 1984 demonstration by a Moslem group, according to Asia Watch, a Washington-based human rights organization. Government troops, claiming they were facing a riot, fired on the crowd, with estimates of the dead ranging from 30 to several hundred.

Dharsono, who had been a senior army commander and a close ally of Suharto, signed a "white paper" challenging the government's account of the inquiry and urging an independent inquiry.

He was tried and convicted under the country's antiriot law, with the trial court concluding that his call for an inquiry amounted to subversion.

The U.S. State Department, which criticizes Indonesia's human rights record in more cautious language than that employed by Asia Watch, noted in its own report, "In all such security related cases, it is widely believed that the government will ensure conviction irrespective of the evidence presented in court."

The controversy over the Indonesian government's policies has tended to obscure the principal reason for Reagan's three day visit to this hauntingly beautiful island, south of the equator in the Indonesian archipelago.

At the ASEAN meeting, the first Reagan is holding with officials of the group of six non-communist states — Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, the Philippines and Brunei — mutual security concerns, especially Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia, will be discussed.

Economic issues will be discussed as well, including ASEAN complaints about Japanese barriers to their exports; and irritation at the United States, most notably by Thailand, over American farm legislation that subsidizes U.S. rice exporters at considerable cost to Thailand.