

East Timor Alert Network

National Office:

Box 562, Stn. P

Toronto, ON

M5S 2T1

tel./fax: (416) 531-5850

email: etantor@web.apc.org

ETAN/Ottawa

171 MacLaren St. #3

Ottawa, ON

K2P 0K8

tel: (613) 230-4070/742-9141

email: etanact@web.apc.org

Local ETAN

Chapters:

Vancouver

Calgary

Winnipeg

Windsor/

Essex County

Guelph

Toronto

Ottawa

Montréal

Halifax

Newfoundland/Labrador

ETAN News Conference: December 7, 1995

List of Participants:

Isabel Antonia da Costa Galhos

Isabel (Bella) is one of three Timorese who have escaped to Canada from East Timor. She is the only Timorese woman in Canada. For more information please see attached.

Bern Jagunos

Bern Jagunos is co-director of the Canada-Asia Working Group (CAWG). CAWG is an ecumenical coalition founded in 1978 and sponsored by the United, Anglican and Presbyterian Churches of Canada, the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, Scarboro Foreign Mission Society, and the Canadian Friends Service Committee (The Quakers). CAWG's main activities involve solidarity relations, human rights advocacy and assisting the Canadian churches in their programmes and policies related to Asia.

Jean-Claude Parrot

Jean-Claude Parrot is the Executive Vice President of the Canadian Labour Congress.

Svend Robinson

Svend Robinson is member of parliament for Burnaby Kingsway (BC) and foreign affairs critic for the New Democratic Party. He is an active member of Parliamentarians for East Timor, an all-party organization with 70 members in the Canadian parliament.

Sunera Thobani

Sunera Thobani is President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, Canada's largest women's organization.

Kerry Pither, is a member of the East Timor Alert Network, and coordinates its National Solidarity Project. She will host the news conference.

Isabel Galhos

Isabel Galhos was born in Dili, the capital of East Timor, on November 10, 1972. She was three years old when Indonesia invaded her country on December 7, 1975. In January 1976, the Indonesian military entered her home and killed her two young brothers, because they were crying out in hunger. Her aunt was raped to death after being forced to witness the brutal murder of her two children and husband.

Isabel grew up under the illegal Indonesian occupation, and witnessed much of what has been called the worst genocide, per capita, since the Holocaust. She stresses that her own family's tragic story is typical of the stories of all Timorese. She reports that every East Timorese family has suffered tremendous losses.

Isabel is one of a new generation of Timorese who are more determined than ever to resist the occupation. She began to work with the underground resistance in 1989, encouraging people to join, and organizing demonstrations. In 1991, she became an official member of the clandestine movement, and convinced three other women to join in.

In 1991, Bella helped organize a peaceful demonstration in Dili after the Indonesian military killed another of her friends. Indonesian soldiers fired on the protesters, killing 271 and wounding 382. Bella managed to run to freedom, helping her pregnant aunt to safety. For three days afterward, the massacre continued, as the military rounded up all of those who had taken part in the demonstration. This is remembered every year around the world on November 12 as the Dili Massacre.

To stay alive, Bella joined the Indonesian military youth corps. For three years she lived a double life, helping the underground resistance while wearing an army uniform. She later saw this as a way to escape.

In 1994, and after months of interroga-



tion and training, the Indonesian government selected her to represent them in the Canada World Youth program. They trained her to speak to the media in Canada. She was to represent the Indonesian government, and inform Canadians that the people of East Timor are happy, and want to be a part of Indonesia. Her family was forced to sign a statement of responsibility for her actions in Canada. But Bella defected in October 1994, putting her uniform in a box and sending it back to the Embassy of Indonesia in Ottawa.

Since then, Bella has been perfecting her English and touring the country to speak out for her country's freedom. Once her country is free, Bella plans to return and set up a women's centre where women learn to play a powerful role in rebuilding their country.

Bella can be reached through the East Timor Alert Network in Ottawa, at (613) 230-4070.

News Conference

For Immediate Release

**Sunera Thobani, Jean-Claude Parrot and
Svend Robinson to Speak Out for East Timor**

Time: 10am

Date: Thursday, December 7, 1995

Place: Room 130s, Centre Block, Parliament Hill

The East Timor Alert Network will hold a news conference on Thursday December 7, 1995, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Indonesia's invasion of East Timor, with speakers:

Jean-Claude Parrot, Executive Vice President, CLC
Sunera Thobani, President, NAC
Isabel Galhos, East Timorese in exile
MP Svend Robinson

Speakers will demand a specific action of the Canadian government. Reporters can interview Isabel Galhos, the first Timorese woman to escape to Canada. She was trained by the Indonesian government to speak on their behalf in Canada, but defected once she arrived to tell the truth about the genocide of her people.

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For more information, contact...

Kerry Pither at 236-7230 ext.7940(w) or (613)230-4070 (h)

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE NEWS RELEASE

OTTAWA, December 7 -- Trade unions representing more than 1.7 million Canadians marked the 20th anniversary of the invasion of East Timor by joining a national call for an arms embargo on Indonesia. Representatives of the Canadian churches, the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, the East Timor Alert Network and MP Svend Robinson also backed the call.

At a news conference on Parliament Hill today, Canadian Labour Congress vice-president Jean-Claude Parrot affirmed the labour movement's demand that Canada announce a formal embargo on the sale of all military equipment to Indonesia, which invaded the small Southeast Asian country of East Timor 20 years ago today. Since then, one third of the Timorese population has been killed, and Indonesia has defied repeated United Nations resolutions for an immediate end to its illegal military occupation.

The Canadian Union of Public Employees, National Union of Public and General Employees, Canadian Auto Workers, Canadian Union of Postal Workers, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Telecommunications Workers Union, United Food and Commercial Workers, Public Service Alliance of Canada, United Steelworkers, Communications Energy and Paperworkers Union, and Saskatchewan Government Employees Union all demanded that the federal government stop authorizing military export permits to Indonesia. The unions have a combined membership of 1,757,000.

"Twenty years of genocide is enough," said Parrot, speaking on behalf of the Canadian Labour Congress. "The least the Chrétien government can do is stop selling military equipment, a step that even the Tory government made in 1992."

Also speaking at the news conference were Bella Galhos, one of three East Timorese who have escaped to Canada; Svend Robinson, MP; Sunera Thobani, President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women; and Bern Jagunos of the Canada Asia Working Group, lead agency of the Canadian churches on human rights in Asia.

The campaign was initiated by the East Timor Alert Network, Canada's only national East Timor solidarity organization. ETAN was founded in 1987 by the Canadian Council of Churches, and has local groups from coast to coast.

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For more information, contact...

Kerry Pither at (613)230-4070 (h) or 236-7230 ext.7940(w)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 6, 1995

OTTAWA -- Canada's largest trade union has urged the federal government to halt the sale of arms to Indonesia as a protest against that country's continuing occupation of East Timor.

Canadian Union of Public Employees' national president Judy Darcy, in a letter to Prime Minister Jean Chretien, said the "world is watching" Canada's continuing sale of military equipment to a "brutal" government that has killed an estimated 200,000 East Timorese over the last 20 years.

"CUPE members cannot accept this, and we are going to do all we can to ensure that the Canadian government acts on the side of justice," Darcy said.

She said the Liberal government has reversed the previous government's ban on arms sales to Indonesia and authorized \$5.7 million in military equipment to be exported since 1993. "That is as much as was sold between 1979 and 1991," she said.

"Nothing in East Timor has changed. But somehow the government has started selling military equipment to Indonesia again.

"I can assure you we will not let this issue die. As was said of South Africa, the world is watching now. Please stop all sales of arms to the Indonesian military," Darcy said.

CUPE represents 460,000 members across Canada.

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Editors: For more information, please contact CUPE communications at (613) 237-1590.

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JUDY DARCY	GERALDINE McGUIRE
National President/Présidente nationale	National Secretary-Treasurer/Secrétaire-trésorière nationale

CLAUDE GÉNÉREUX, BERNICE KIRK, GLEN MAKAHONUK, TOM O'LEARY, PATRICK (Sid) RYAN
General Vice-Presidents/Vice-président(e)s généraux(ales)

21, rue Florence Street, Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0W6 Phone: (613) 237-1590 Fax: (613) 237-5508

information

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 6, 1995

NATIONAL UNION BACKS CAMPAIGN TO END KILLING IN EAST TIMOR

OTTAWA — December 7, 1995 is the 20th. anniversary of Indonesia's invasion of East Timor. As well, it marks 20 years of genocide and 20 years of determined resistance by the people of East Timor.

"The federal government must announce an official arms embargo now and end any supply of military equipment to Indonesia," says James Clancy, president of the 320,000 member union.

"It's absolutely incredible that our government lets Canadian companies profit from this on-going killing. The Indonesian military is carrying out genocide of the East Timorese people, and this same government is also well-known for suppressing worker's rights in Indonesia. The Canadian government continues to argue that this equipment is not "arms," and that this trade leads to dialogue and human rights. Clearly, this is wrong!" states president Clancy.

"My members are in complete solidarity with other trade unions and social justice movements around the world that are declaring this position to be misguided," he emphasized.

"We will be joining with the member organizations of the East Timor Alert Network to demonstrate that there is much growing support for the campaign to end our government's diplomatic, economic and military support for this Indonesian regime," he concluded.

The National Union is joining the Alert Network on the anniversary to declare it's support for self-determination for East Timor.

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For further information, contact Glenn Leckie at (613) 526-1663.

The National Union of Public & General Employees has 308,000 members. Most work for the citizens of every province as provincial government workers, some work for private enterprises, predominantly in the hospitality industry.

2841 Riverside Drive, Suite 204, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1V 8N4

NT BY:

National Union

December 5, 1995

The Right Hon Jean Chrétien, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister:

I write to you on behalf of the National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE), who represents 308,000 members, to urge you to ban arms' sales to Indonesian military.

December 7 will mark the 20th anniversary of Indonesia's brutal invasion of East Timor. Since then, estimates of the numbers who have died as a result of the invasion run as high as 200,000.

This is the worst per capita genocide since the Holocaust.

It runs against every notion of justice and fair play that we, in the trade union movement, hold dear. The National Union members will not stand idly by while it happens; and we certainly will do all we can to ensure that our government acts on the side of justice.

Mr. Chrétien, since coming to power, your government has authorized \$5.7 million in military equipment sales to the Indonesian military. That's as much in two years as was authorized between 1979 and 1991.

The former conservative government cut off arms' sales to Indonesia in 1991, after Indonesian soldiers massacred over 280 at a demonstration in the East Timorese capital, Dili.

They did so because they apparently had concerns about human rights. The massacre made things difficult to ignore.

Nothing in East Timor has changed; but somehow the government has started selling military equipment to Indonesia again. This is appalling.

I can assure you we will not let this issue die. And, as was said of South Africa, the world is watching now.

NATIONAL UNION OF
PUBLIC AND GENERAL
EMPLOYEES

SYNDICAT NATIONAL
DES EMPLOYÉS ET
EMPLOYÉS GÉNÉRAUX
ET DU SECTEUR PUBLIC

2841 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
SUITE 204
OTTAWA, ONTARIO
CANADA
K1V 8N4

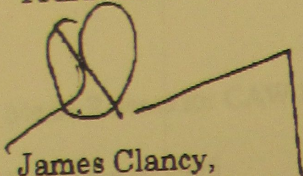
[613] 526-1663
FAX
[613] 526-0477

JAMES CLANCY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT
PRÉSIDENT NATIONAL
LARRY BROWN
NATIONAL
SECRETARY-TREASURER
SECRÉTAIRE-TRÉSORIER
NATIONAL



The members of the National Union of Public and General Employees await your prompt reply.

Yours sincerely,



James Clancy,
National President

c.c. Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade
André Ouellet, Minister of Foreign Affairs
H.E. Parwoto, Ambassador of Indonesia

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CAW TCA CANADA

BASIL 'BUZZ' HARGROVE
National President
Président national

206 PLACER COURT, NORTH YORK
WILLOWDALE, ONTARIO M2H 3H9
TEL: (416) 497-4110
FAX: (416) 495-6559

JIM O'NEIL
National Secretary-Treasurer
Secrétaire-trésorier national

Media Release for CAW National Pack Distribution

December 6, 1995

HARGROVE DEMANDS ARMS EMBARGO ON EVE OF EAST TIMOR ANNIVERSARY

(Toronto) In a letter to Prime Minister Jean Chretien, CAW president Buzz Hargrove said he is "outraged at the continued illegal occupation of East Timor by the Indonesian government.

"December 7, 1995 marks the twentieth anniversary of the Indonesian assault on the East Timorese population. At least one-third of the Timorese people have been killed in these two decades, making this the worst case of genocide per capita since World War II.

"Your Liberal government, rather than being a progressive force in fighting against this atrocity, supports the Indonesian government through a combination of diplomatic, economic and military connections.

"In fact, the \$5.7 million in Canadian military arms sales to Indonesia in 1994 and 1995 makes your government directly complicit in this human tragedy. Canadians are now realizing that these recent arms sales exemplify your government's consistent priority of putting business interests above human rights in foreign policy.

"Consequently, on this 20th anniversary of the Indonesian invasion, we call upon your government to declare a total embargo on the sale of Canadian arms and military equipment to Indonesia."

Hargrove ended his letter by urging the government to use all diplomatic and economic resources at your disposal to pressure the Indonesian government to end the illegal occupation of East Timor and to allow the Timorese people to determine their own destiny.

For further information contact: Jane Armstrong
CAW Communications: 416-495-6548





CAW TCA
CANADA

BASIL "BUZZ" HARGROVE
National President
Président national

205 PLACER COURT, NORTH YORK
WILLOWDALE, ONTARIO M2H 3H9
TEL. (416) 497-4110
FAX. (416) 495-8559

JIM O'NEIL
National Secretary-Treasurer
Secrétaire-trésorier national

December 5, 1995

Sent by fax to (613) 941-6900

PRIME MINISTER JEAN CHRETIEN
HOUSE OF COMMONS
OTTAWA, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Chretien:

The Canadian Auto Workers Union (CAW-Canada), representing 205,000 workers across Canada, is outraged at the continued illegal occupation of East Timor by the Indonesian government.

December 7, 1995 marks the twentieth anniversary of the Indonesian assault on the East Timorese population. At least one-third of the Timorese people have been killed in these two decades, making this the worst case of genocide per capita since World War II.

Your Liberal government, rather than being a progressive force in fighting against this atrocity, supports the Indonesian government through a combination of diplomatic, economic and military connections.

In fact, the \$5.7 million in Canadian military arms sales to Indonesia in 1994 and 1995 makes your government directly complicit in this human tragedy. Canadians are now realizing that these recent arms sales exemplify your government's consistent priority of putting business interests above human rights in foreign policy.

The Indonesian government has made every effort to deny visitors the right to document the brutality it commits against the Timorese people. But now the silence is being broken as the international community increasingly supports East Timor's struggle for self-determination.

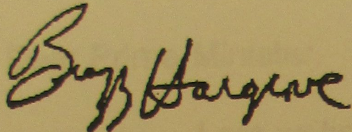
Consequently, on this 20th anniversary of the Indonesian invasion, we call upon your government to declare a total embargo on the sale of Canadian arms and military equipment to Indonesia.



The CAW further encourages your government to use all diplomatic and economic resources at your disposal to pressure the Indonesian government to end the illegal occupation of East Timore and to allow the Timorese people to determine their own destiny.

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL!

Sincerely,



Buzz Hargrove
President
CAW - Canada

BH:HYeaopeiu343

cc. Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade
Andre Ouellet, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Dept. of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
Lester B. Pearson Building
Ottawa, Ontario. K1A 0G2
fax: (613) 996-4309

H. E. Parwoto, Indonesian Ambassador to Canada
Embassy of Indonesia
287 MacLaren Street
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0L9
fax: (613) 563-2858

Kerry Pither
East Timor Alert Network (ETAN)
c/o Canadian Union of Postal Workers
fax: (613) 563-7861

UNITED FOOD AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION, CLC, AFL-CIO
 UNION INTERNATIONALE DES TRAVAILLEURS ET TRAVAILLEUSES UNIS
 DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DU COMMERCE, CTC, FAT-COI

UFCW
TUAC

December 6, 1995

VIA FAX (613) 941-6900

The Right Honourable Jean Chretien
 Prime Minister of Canada
 House of Commons
 Ottawa ON K1A 2A0

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you on behalf of the 185,000 of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) urging you to ban arms sales to the Indonesian military.

December 7th, 1995, will mark the 20th anniversary of Indonesia's brutal invasion of East Timor. Since then, estimates of the numbers who have died as a result of the invasion run as high as 200,000.

This is the worst genocide, per capita, since the Holocaust. It runs against every notion of justice and fair play that we, in the trade union movement, hold dear. UFCW members won't stand idly by while it happens and we certainly will do all we can to ensure that our government acts on the side of justice.

Mr. Chretien, your government has authorized \$5.7 million in military equipment sales to the Indonesian military since coming to power. That is as much in two years as was authorized between 1979 and 1991.

The former Conservative government cut off arms sales to Indonesia in 1991 after Indonesian soldiers massacred over 280 at a demonstration in the East Timorese capitol of Dili. They did this because they apparently had concerns about human rights and the massacre made things difficult to ignore.

Nothing in East Timor has changed, however the government has started selling military equipment to Indonesia again. This is appalling.

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Thomas Kukovica
 International Vice-President
 and Canadian Director
*Vice-président international
 et directeur canadien*

Douglas H. Dority
 International President
Président international

Joseph C. Talarico
 International Secretary-Treasurer
Secrétaire-trésorier international

National Office / *bureau national*
 500-61 International Boulevard
 Rexdale, Ontario M9W 6K4
 (416) 675-1104 • fax / *télécopieur* 675-6814

Mr. Jean Chretien

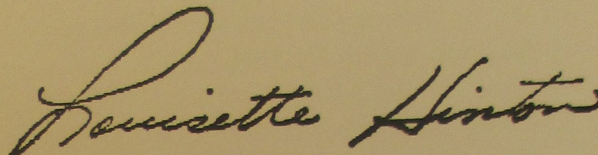
December 6, 1995

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I can assure you we will not let this issue die, and, as was said of South Africa, the world is watching.

UFCW members await your prompt reply.

Yours very truly,



Louisette Hinton
UFCW Coordinator for Women's Issues

LH:ak/5455
opeiu:343

cc: H.E. Parwoto, Indonesian Ambassador to Canada
Embassy of Indonesia
287 MacLaren St
Ottawa ON K2P 0L9
fax: (613) 563-2858

Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade &
Andre Ouellet, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
Lester B. Pearson Building
Ottawa ON K1A 0G2
fax: (613) 996-4309

Kerry Pither, ETAN National Solidarity Project
fax: (613) 563-7861

PUBLIC SERVICE ALLIANCE OF CANADA

233 GILMOUR
OTTAWA, ONT
K2P 0P1
TEL: (613) 562-4200
FAX: (613) 553-3492

ALLIANCE DE LA FONCTION PUBLIQUE DU CANADA

BY FAX - 941-6900

December 4, 1995

The Right Honourable J. Chrétien
Prime Minister of Canada
Room 309-S
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

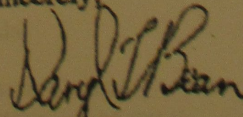
On behalf of the 165,000 members of the Public Service Alliance of Canada, I am writing to urge your government to ban arms sales to the Indonesian military.

December 7, 1995 is the 20th anniversary of Indonesia's invasion of East Timor. This marks 20 years of genocide, and remarkably 20 years of resistance by the people of East Timor.

Canadian companies profit by supplying equipment to the Indonesian military which is carrying out a campaign of genocide against the East Timorese people and suppressing workers' rights in Indonesia. While your government may argue that these sales by Canadian companies are not "arms", these supplies and equipment are being used against the people of East Timor. Your government's technical argument holds no weight against the moral indignation that is growing across this country to end our government's diplomatic, economic and military support for the Indonesian government.

We strongly urge your government to announce an official arms embargo, that it put an end to the supply of military equipment, and that it publicly declare its support for self-determination for East Timor.

Sincerely,



Daryl T. Bean
National President

b.c.c. N. Riche
K. Pither



United Steelworkers of America
Métallurgistes Unis d'Amérique

Lawrence McBrearty
National Director / Directeur National

December 5, 1995

The Right Honourable Jean Chretien,
Prime Minister,
Centre Block, House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you on behalf of the 160,000 members of the United Steelworkers of America in Canada to express our active concern about continued sales of military equipment to Indonesia. Canadian sales of military equipment to Indonesia have continued, indeed have increased significantly, during your government's term in office even as circumstances in East Timor have deteriorated.

Since the Dili massacre in 1991 East Timor continues to be a site of serious repression. The Indonesian government has applied extraordinary security measures in the region, movement of the civilian population is heavily restricted and the resources of the local population are routinely appropriated by the military. Disappearances continue.

Indonesia's regular violation of the basic human rights of the population of East Timor is unhappily consistent with its record of active repression of legitimate trade unions and labour rights throughout Indonesia.

In our view Canada's continued sale and export of military equipment to Indonesia may worsen conditions, overall, for the East Timorese and is not in keeping with your own stated support of the UN Security Council positions calling for the withdrawal of Indonesian troops from East Timor.

Canada ought not to issue military export permits for sales to Indonesia until it is clear that such exports will not directly or indirectly increase the capacity of the Indonesian government to carry out its campaign of repression in East Timor.

I would be grateful to know whether you intend to ask the Parliamentary Sub-Committee on International Human Rights to consider other measures which may assist in these circumstances.

Yours very truly,

(Signature)

Lawrence McBrearty
National Director (Canada)
United Steelworkers of America

c.c.

Ken Neumann, Director, District 3 (Western Canada)
Harry Hynd, Director, District 6 (Ontario)
Arnold Dugas, Director, District 5 (Quebec & Atlantic Canada)
Tom Collins, Director, Retail Wholesale Canada (Division of USWA)

Post-it" Fax Note	7671 E	Date	# of pages
To: KERRY PINTER	From:	5-24-95	
Co/Dept: (ERN)	Co:	FYI	
Phone #	Phone #	(202) 633-1411	
Fax # 613-523-7861	Fax #	(613) 523-7861	



Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada
Syndicat canadien des communications, de l'énergie et du papier

FRED W. POMEROY
President / Président

5 December 1995

The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien
Prime Minister of Canada
Houses of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 2A0

Dear Prime Minister:

I write to you on behalf of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada, which represents 150,000 workers to urge you to ban arms sales to the Indonesian military.

December 7th will mark the 20th anniversary of Indonesia's brutal invasion of East Timor. Since then, estimates of the numbers who have died as a result of the invasion run as high as 200,000.

This is the worst per capita genocide since the Holocaust.

And it runs against every notion of justice and fair play that we, in the trade union movement hold dear. CEP members won't stand idly by while it happens. And we certainly will do all we can to ensure that our government acts on the side of justice.

Mr. Chrétien, since coming to power your government has authorized \$5.7 million on military equipment sales to the Indonesian military. That's as much in two years as was authorized between 1979 and 1991.

The former conservative government cut off arms sales to Indonesia in 1991, after Indonesian soldiers massacred over 280 at a demonstration in the East Timorese capital, Dili.

They did so because they apparently had concerns about human rights. And the massacre made things difficult to ignore.

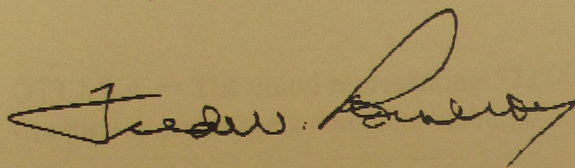
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Nothing in East Timor has changed. But somehow the government has started selling military equipment to Indonesia again. This is appalling.

I can assure you we will not let this issue die. And, as was said of South Africa, the world is watching now.

CEP members await your prompt reply.

Yours very truly,



Fred W. Pomeroy

President

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cc: André Ouellet, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade
H.E. Parwoto, Indonesian Ambassador to Canada

CANADIAN UNION OF POSTAL WORKERS
COMMUNIQUE
SYNDICAT DES POSTIERS DU CANADA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 7, 1995

CUPW CALLS FOR AN END TO ARMS SALES TO INDONESIA

OTTAWA — The union representing 52,000 post office workers today called on Prime Minister Chrétien to announce a complete embargo on arms sales to Indonesia.

“On this, the 20th anniversary of Indonesia’s invasion of East Timor we join many other unions in solidarity with the people of East Timor,” said CUPW National President Darrell Tingley.

The Liberal government has authorized \$5.7 million in sales of 'military equipment' to Indonesia since it came to power in 1993. Successive governments authorized \$5.8 million between 1979 and 1991.

The Mulroney government suspended all military sales to Indonesia in 1991 after Indonesian soldiers massacred over 280 demonstrators in the East Timorese capitol, Dili.

“We ask the Prime Minister, ‘What has changed?’” Tingley said. “People are still being arrested and tortured. East Timorese still disappear.”

Tingley said the arms embargo is an important pressure tactic to get Indonesia out of East Timor.

“We are committed to following this issue and doing what we can to ensure that our government is part of the solution, and not the problem in East Timor,” Tingley said.

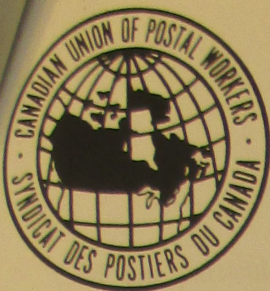
For background information, or to arrange an interview, contact Chris Lawson at (613) 236-7230, extension 7914.

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CANADIAN UNION OF POSTAL WORKERS SYNDICAT DES POSTIERS DU CANADA

CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS • POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, TELEPHONE INTERNATIONAL
CONGRÈS DU TRAVAIL DU CANADA • INTERNATIONALE DES POSTES, TÉLÉGRAPHES, TÉLÉPHONES

377, rue BANK St., Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1Y3
Tel: (613) 236-7238 • Fax: (613) 563-7861

December 5, 1995.

BY FAX (941-6900)

The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister:

I am writing you on behalf of the 52,000 members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers because I share the grave concerns of many of my trade union sisters and brothers about Canada's role in perpetuating Indonesia's murderous reign over East Timor.

On this Thursday, December 7th, it will be 20 years from the day when Indonesian soldiers, airplanes and ships overwhelmed the island shortly after Portugal granted its former colony the right to independence.

Tens of thousands died in the invasion, but what happened after was far worse. Using techniques inspired and no doubt handed down by American wisdom in Vietnam, the Indonesian military launched an all-out war on the East Timorese.

Indonesian soldiers burned crops, forced the Timorese into "strategic hamlets", carpet-bombed and murdered thousands of people suspected of supporting the pro-independence movement.

Between the starvation, disease and poverty, the Indonesian "integration" efforts caused, and the military itself, estimates put the number of East Timorese who've died at the hands of their invaders at 250,000 or more, since 1975 — at least one third of the population.

Many observers call it the worst per capita genocide since the Holocaust. And it continues today.

Mr. Chrétien, I want to know why the Canadian government is supporting Indonesia with trade and aid.

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES — LA LUTTE CONTINUE

I am particularly outraged by the fact that your government has given Canadian arms manufacturers permission to export more than \$5.7 million in military "equipment" since taking power.

That's about as much as the total approved between 1979 and 1991.

The Mulroney government suspended military equipment sales in 1991 after the Indonesian military massacred more than 280 people in the East Timorese capital of Dili.

When you were leader of the opposition, Mr. Chrétien, you supported UN resolutions 389 and 384 which called on Indonesia to withdraw from East Timor. You applauded the Conservative government for suspending \$30 million in aid to Indonesia because you said it would "send a clear message".

Mr. Chrétien, I, and the members of my union, want to know what exactly you think has changed in East Timor to make selling military equipment to the Indonesian military a conscionable act.

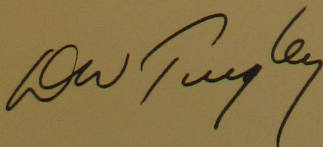
Amnesty International reported November 23 that about 20 East Timorese, including four women and nine children, had disappeared after being caught trying to flee the country by boat.

AI also reported that over 200 people have been arbitrarily detained since September. Most were released without charge, but many detainees said they were beaten and tortured.

In light of these events, in consideration of the last 20 years of genocide, I urge you, Mr. Prime Minister, to proclaim a permanent and complete embargo on sales of military equipment to Indonesia.

I look forward to your response.

Yours very truly,

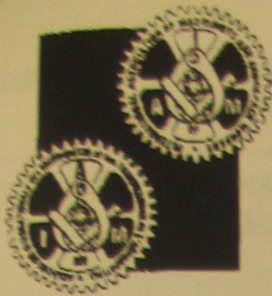


D.W. Tingley,
National President.

DWT/jh
opeiu 225

c.c.: H.E. Parwoto, Indonesian Ambassador to Canada
Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade
André Ouellet, Minister for Foreign Affairs

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES — LA LUTTE CONTINUE



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION of MACHINISTS
and AEROSPACE WORKERS

communiqué

ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE des MACHINISTES
et des TRAVAILLEURS de l'AÉROSPATIALE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Machinists Union calls for halt to Canadian arms exports to Indonesia

OTTAWA -- The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) has endorsed an appeal from the East Timor Alert Network (ETAN) calling for an embargo on the sale of arms to Indonesia and has communicated its view to Prime Minister Jean Chretien.

In a letter to the Prime Minister, IAM Canadian Vice President Dave Ritchie said: "Canada's continued sale and export of military equipment to Indonesia ... may worsen conditions, overall, for the East Timorese. Such a practice certainly appears to us to be a fundamental contradiction of your own stated support of the UN Security Council positions calling for the withdrawal of Indonesian troops from East Timor.

"In the aftermath of the Dili massacre in 1991 the Indonesian government has applied extraordinary security measures in the region, movement of the civilian population is heavily restricted and the resources of the local population are routinely appropriated by the military. Disappearances continue.

"Indonesia's repeated violation of the basic human rights of the population of East Timor is unhappily consistent with its record of active repression of legitimate trade unions and labour rights throughout Indonesia," the letter from Ritchie said.

-30-

SOURCE: Neville Hamilton (613) 236-9761 (office) (613) 733-8888 (home)

(MOVED CNW 12-6-95)

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS
AND AEROSPACE WORKERS

ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES MACHINISTES
ET DES TRAVAILLEURS DE L'AÉROSPATIALE

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL VICE PRESIDENT
BUREAU DU VICE-PRÉSIDENT GÉNÉRAL
CANADA



100, rue Metcalfe Street, #300
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5M1
Tel. no. (613) 236-9761
Fax no. (613) 563-7830

December 5, 1995

The Right Honourable Jean Chretien,
Prime Minister,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6



Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you on behalf of the 50,000 members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) in Canada to communicate our profound concern about continued Canadian sales of military equipment to Indonesia. I note that notwithstanding retrogressive developments in East Timor, such sales have in fact increased significantly during your government's term in office.

In the aftermath of the Dili massacre in 1991 the Indonesian government has applied extraordinary security measures in the region, movement of the civilian population is heavily restricted and the resources of the local population are routinely appropriated by the military. Disappearances continue.

Indonesia's repeated violation of the basic human rights of the population of East Timor is unhappily consistent with its record of active repression of legitimate trade unions and labour rights throughout Indonesia.

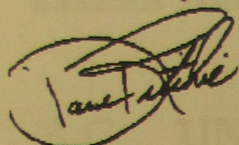
My predecessor, Valerie Bourgeois, copied you on correspondence he sent to Indonesian President Suharto and to Muchtar Pakpahan, General Chairman of the Indonesian Prosperity Trade Union (SBSI) in this connection a year ago. We initially were gratified to learn that Muchtar Pakpahan has been freed from prison, but learned from press reports last week that he again had been arrested and interrogated and that severe repression of trade union rights in Indonesia continues.

However, the main burden of my message to you today has to do with Canada's continued sale and export of military equipment to Indonesia which in our view may worsen conditions, overall, for the East Timorese. Such a practice certainly appears to us to be a fundamental

contradiction of your own stated support of the UN Security Council positions calling for the withdrawal of Indonesian troops from East Timor.

Until it is clear that military exports will not directly or indirectly increase the capacity of the Indonesian government to carry out its campaign of repression in East Timor, Canada should not issue military export permits for such sales to Indonesia.

Yours very truly,



Dave Ritchie,
Canadian Vice President

cc. Hon. Andre Ouelett, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Hon. Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade
H. E. Parwoto, Indonesian Ambassador to Canada
George Kourpias, International President IAM
Bob White, President Canadian Labour Congress
Muchtar Pakpahan, General Chairman Indonesian Prosperity Trade Union (SBSI)
Marcello Malentacchi, General Secretary IMF
IAM Canadian Staff

PRESS RELEASE

DECEMBER 6, 1995

B.C. UNION BACKS CAMPAIGN TO END GENOCIDE IN EAST TIMOR

VANCOUVER -- December 7, 1995 is the 20th anniversary of Indonesia's invasion of East Timor. It also marks 20 years of genocide and 20 years of determined resistance by the people of East Timor.

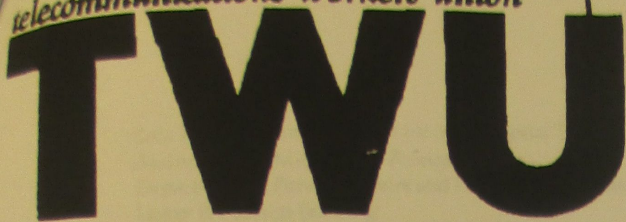
"The Indonesian government is notorious for suppressing the rights of Indonesian workers. That is bad enough. But Canadian companies are supplying military equipment to the Indonesian military, which is carrying out a campaign of genocide against the people of East Timor," explains Telecommunications Workers Union President Rod Hiebert.

"The Canadian government argues that this equipment is not 'arms,' and that increasing trade leads to dialogue and thereby enhances human rights," Hiebert continued. "This is disingenuous. The leadership of the TWU is putting out this press release to declare its solidarity with the trade unions and social justice organizations across the country that are declaring our government's position to be unacceptable," he emphasized.

"Actions are planned by the resistance movement in East Timor as well as social justice organizations world-wide. In Canada, we are joining with the member organizations of the East Timor Alert Network to demonstrate that there is growing national support for the campaign to end our government's diplomatic, economic and military support for the Indonesian regime," he concluded.

Specifically, the TWU is joining with the East Timor Alert Network, which is calling upon the Canadian government to use the occasion of the invasion's 20th anniversary to announce an official embargo on the sale of arms to Indonesia, to end the supply of any military equipment to that country, and to declare its support for self-determination for East Timor.

telecommunications workers union



5261 LANE STREET, BURNABY, BRITISH COLUMBIA V5H 4A6
TELEPHONE (604) 437-8601 • FAX (604) 435-7760

December 1, 1995

Prime Minister Jean Chretien
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
fax: (613) 941-6900

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Ending Canada's support for the Genocidal Indonesian Government

I am writing on behalf of the 10,000 members of the Telecommunications Workers Union of British Columbia.

December 7, 1995 is the 20th anniversary of Indonesia's invasion of East Timor. This marks 20 years of genocide, and remarkably, 20 years of determined resistance by the people of East Timor.

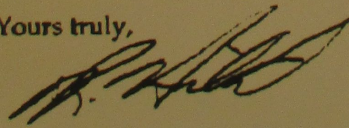
Canadian companies profit by supplying equipment to the Indonesian military, which is carrying out a campaign of genocide against the East Timorese people. Furthermore, the Indonesian government is notorious for suppressing workers' rights in Indonesia. Your government argues that this equipment is not "arms," and that increased trade leads to dialogue and improvement in human rights.

Mr. Chretien, this disingenuous position is absolutely unacceptable. As awareness of the situation in East Timor grows, there is increasing support across the country for a campaign to end our government's diplomatic, economic and military support for the Indonesian government.

Specifically, we ask that the Canadian government announce an official arms embargo, that it put an end to the supply of military equipment to Indonesia, and that it declare publicly its support for self-determination for East Timor.

We trust that you will act immediately on this vitally important matter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rod Hiebert", is written over a horizontal line.

Rod Hiebert
President



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR FEDERATION OF LABOUR

P.O. BOX 8597, STN. "A"

ST. JOHN'S, NF A1B 3P2

TELEPHONE: (709) 754-1660 FAX: (709) 754-1220

December 11, 1995

The Right Honourable Jean Chretien
Prime Minister of Canada
Room 309 - S, Centre Block
House of Commons
Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour has learned the Indonesian Government has been committing such atrocities as mass killings, torture, rape and forced abortions against the East Timorese people since its invasion of that country twenty years ago.

We have also been given to understand that the Canadian Government is providing economic and military support for the Indonesian government and Canadian companies are profiting from supplying the Indonesian military with equipment to carry out the genocide of the East Timorese people.

Canadian support for these violations of basic democratic and human rights is totally unacceptable and we urge your government to take immediate action to bring this twenty years of genocide to an end by withdrawing all economic and military support from Indonesia.

Further, Canadian companies must not be permitted to continue profiting from this genocide and we urge your government to intervene by imposing an official arms embargo against Indonesia.

Yours truly,

Elaine Price
President

c.c. Executive Council
H.E. Parwoto
R. MacLaren
Andre Ouellet
Fax ETAN 613-563 -7861

CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DES DROITS DE LA PERSONNE
ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DÉMOCRATIQUE



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
AND DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

East Timorese must be able to live freely on their own land - Mgr Carlos Belo

Montréal, December 7, 1995 - "We, East Timorese, are the owners of this land. We have the right to live in democracy and freedom, and to say what we feel," declared Mgr Carlos Belo, the Catholic Bishop of East Timor. Mgr Belo made these comments during a telephone press conference this morning with the Canadian media from his home in Dili, East Timor's capital.

Mgr Belo added that, on the 20th anniversary of the Indonesian invasion of East Timor, about 70 young Timorese were arrested this morning because they wrote the word "freedom" on a wall in Dili. On December 7, 1975, Indonesia invaded the Portuguese colony. This invasion has resulted in more than 200,000 deaths, or one third of the Timorese population. The United Nations still has not recognized Indonesian authority in this small territory located at the eastern tip of the Indonesian archipelago.

Mgr Belo also accepted with pleasure the 1995 John Humphrey Freedom Award, awarded by the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development. In presenting the Award, the President of the Centre, Ed Broadbent, called upon the Canadian Government to stop all arms sales to Indonesia. "In the last two years, Canada resumed arms sales to Indonesia. I believe those sales should be stopped until a peaceful and satisfactory solution for the East Timorese is found."

According to Mgr Belo, life has been extremely difficult for his people during the 20 years of Indonesian-rule. "We live under constant pressure, under surveillance, without the possibility to say what we believe in, what we feel and who we are," he said. "We are actually as isolated from the world as we were, five, ten or fifteen years ago. I think we will continue to suffer," he added. "But even small people like to live in democracy and to live in peace. I hope that one day we reach a peaceful and international solution for East Timor."

The official presentation of the John Humphrey Freedom Award will be held on Sunday, December 10, 1995 - International Human Rights Day - at the Hôtel Westin Mont-Royal in Montréal (1050, Sherbrooke Street W). Bishop Belo has asked Father Mateus do Rosario da Cruz, Chairman of the East Timor Justice and Peace Commission, to accept the award on his behalf. Father Mateus will be available at 5:30 p.m. on December 10 to answer questions on Bishop Belo's work in East Timor. Bishop Belo has confirmed that he will come to Canada next June in order to raise Canadian awareness in the situation in East Timor.

Information: Pierre Lebel, ICHRDD
(514) 283-6073 or (514) 898-2321

Twenty years after brutal invasion, Timorese woman fights on

BY PAUL KNOX
The Globe and Mail

ISABEL Galhos was three years old when Indonesia invaded the territory of East Timor — too young to remember the bombing and killing, or the months of terror that followed.

What she remembers is always having to pretend.

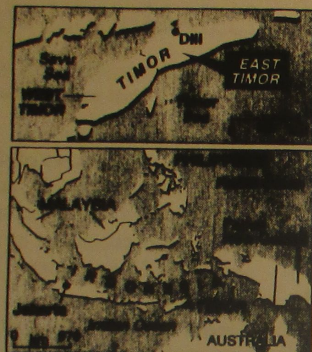
"Pretend that you like the rules, that you like the government's policies," Ms. Galhos, 23, said yesterday from Ottawa, where she now makes her home.

"I lost two brothers and many relatives. We were not allowed to talk about that — or to look for their bodies. And the way my mother acted at home ... like she's going crazy sometimes. It used to make me very sad."

In her teens, Ms. Galhos began laying her plans. Still pretending, she won a place on a youth-exchange program that sent her last October to live in Nelson, B.C., for three months.

After just a few days, she left the program and applied to stay in Canada as a refugee. Since then, she has campaigned across the country for an end to the Indonesian occupation and recognition of the right to self-determination for the 500,000 Timorese.

"We have our own lifestyle, our own culture, and a lot of things have been destroyed since Indonesia invaded," Ms. Galhos said. "We're asking them not to destroy what we have left. We want our own identity as Timorese — culturally and economically."



New York Times Service

It was 20 years ago today that Indonesia's military-allied government sent warplanes and 10,000 troops to conquer East Timor, a former Portuguese colony that occupies half an island in the archipelago north of Australia.

The conflict that began then is one of the world's most enduring — always simmering and not infrequently boiling over into demonstrations, military repression or worse.

The island of Timor, where coffee and sandalwood grow in rugged mountains, is culturally and linguistically distinct from other parts of Indonesia. Part of the Portuguese legacy in the eastern half was the

Roman Catholic faith, to which most East Timorese at least nominally subscribe — in contrast to mainly Muslim Indonesia.

After a brief civil war in mid-1975, the territory was under the effective control of the Revolutionary Front of Independent East Timor, a grouping of nationalists, Marxists and social democrats known by its Portuguese acronym, Fretilin. It had declared independence a week before the invasion.

Timorese exiles and human-rights organizations estimate that from 100,000 to 200,000 people starved to death or were killed during military sweeps through the countryside after the 1975 invasion.

The army sought to wipe out Fretilin supporters who had taken to the mountains and promoted massive "resettlement" schemes in which as many as 80 per cent of Timorese abandoned or were uprooted from their homes. In mid-1976, a "popular assembly" convened by the military petitioned Indonesia for integration.

At times in the early years, self-determination for East Timor seemed like one of the world's great lost causes.

Western powers had courted Indonesia as a bulwark against Soviet influence in Southeast Asia, especially after the Vietnam War. The invasion

itself was delayed so U.S. President Gerald Ford, who was on a state visit, could get out of the country before it began.

For several years, few foreigners and no journalists were allowed into the territory. Indonesia claimed that integration was proceeding smoothly. The United States said little about the occupation, and in 1985 Australia, with one eye on the oil deposits lying beneath the Timor Sea, publicly declared its support for integration.

Canada, whose exports to Indonesia more than tripled in value from 1975 to 1985, eventually argued that East Timor should be removed from consideration by a committee of the United Nations General Assembly.

A ceasefire and talks between Indonesia and Fretilin were arranged in 1983, but lasted only a few months. Reports of atrocities continued to filter out of the territory.

Then, in 1991, during a pro-independence protest at a cemetery in Dili, the capital, troops opened fire, killing from 50 to 200 people. An international outcry erupted, with several countries cutting back aid programs to Indonesia, (Canada did so temporarily.)

As a direct result of the Dili massacre, meetings began under UN auspices between the foreign ministers of Indonesia and Portugal — which

the UN considers to be still the legitimate administrator of East Timor.

Out of those talks came the first meetings between Timorese exiles and members of several political currents inside the territory. The next such talks are expected early next year.

Meanwhile, rioting periodically breaks out, the military presence in East Timor has not been reduced, and there is little evidence that large numbers of Timorese accept integration with Indonesia.

"Even past proponents of integration admit that they cannot possibly present a credible case for integration under the current climate," says a report by Canada's ambassador to Indonesia, Lawrence Dickenson, who visited East Timor in February.

"The continued survival of the (Fretilin) guerrillas is evidence that they enjoy a ... measure of support from the people," Mr. Dickenson wrote.

Parts of his report were released under the Access to Information Act to author and activist Sharon

Scharfe, whose book *Complicity: Human Rights and Canadian Foreign Policy — The Case of East Timor* has just been published by Black Rose Books of Montreal.

Faisal Bafadal, chief of information at the Indonesian embassy in Ottawa, said the army is helping East Timor develop its infrastructure. "Some people are not satisfied, but that is an internal matter," he said.

In spite of protests, Canada continues to approve export permits for military goods to Indonesia.

Military goods worth \$1.2-million were sold in 1994, although the Foreign Affairs Department says it works to ensure such equipment is not used against civilians. Ms. Galhos said such sales should be stopped.

She said Indonesians who have come to control much of the territory's economy would have to give up their interests if the Timorese win self-determination.

"They have to give it back. This is not for them, it's for Timorese. ... They should leave, leave us alone, I think they know what they're doing is wrong."

End military sales to Indonesia, Ottawa urged

Canada 'should declare its support for East Timor's self-determination,' labour leader says

BY PAUL KNOX
The Globe and Mail

Hours after protesters from East Timor broke into two embassies in Jakarta yesterday, Canadian unions and social activists called on Ottawa to ban military sales to Indonesia because of its 20-year-old occupation of the territory.

They said the Liberal government was wrong to resume approving permits for military exports that were suspended after a 1991 massacre of from 50 to 200 protesters in Dili, the capital of the disputed region.

"The government should declare its support for East Timor's self-determination and end its diplomatic and military support for the Indonesian regime," Jean-Claude Parrot, vice-president of the Canadian Labour Congress, said after a press conference by leaders of several major unions in Ottawa.

In Jakarta, protesters seeking self-determination for East Timor invaded the Dutch and Russian embassies in support of demands for a referendum on Timorese independence and repeal of laws restricting political activity.

Embassy spokesmen said 58 protesters remained in the Dutch embassy and 57 in the Russian mission. A pro-Indonesian group also entered the Dutch embassy briefly and shouted abuse at the Timorese.

The invasions were the latest of several this fall at foreign embassies in Jakarta. A total of 43 Timorese have been granted political asylum in Portugal after staging embassy break-ins.

Yesterday's protests came on the 20th anniversary of Indonesia's invasion of East Timor, a former Portuguese colony.

The territory was annexed the next year, becoming Indonesia's 27th province in a move still not recognized by the United Nations.

Canadian military sales to Indonesia totalled \$1.2-million last year, according to the Foreign Affairs Department's annual military-export report.

It lists the amount under the classification: "Military aircraft and helicopters, including transport aircraft, aero-engines, parachutes and related parts and components."

Department spokesman Colin Stewart said such sales are not approved if there is any chance the equipment will be used against civilians. "In our judgment anything given an export permit is innocuous," he said.

Instead of condemning the Jakarta government, Mr. Stewart said, Canada prefers to support talks that have been held among Timorese factions from inside and outside the territory. He said Canada also has aided the fledgling government-sponsored Indonesian human-rights commission, which has criticized some military actions.

"Our approach to Indonesia is, rather than condemn them internationally and lose any hope of bringing about change, to work with them," Mr. Stewart said.

"Meanwhile, the Roman Catholic Bishop of East Timor, Monsignor Carlos Belo, appealed for support from Canadians for East Timorese who are

struggling for democratic government.

"In your country you live in liberty and democracy," he said from Dili in a telephone news conference with Canadian journalists. "You can live and walk freely with no pressure. Here it is very different. People live under pressure."

Bishop Belo has been given a \$30,000

award by Canada's International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development.

The centre's president, former federal NDP leader Edward Broadbent, said military sales to Indonesia "should be stopped until a peaceful and satisfactory solution for the East Timorese is found."

Church, union leaders call for end to Indonesia sales

ALEXANDER NORRIS
THE GAZETTE

Canadian union and church leaders called yesterday for an immediate halt to sales of military goods to Indonesia, accusing the Chrétien government of complicity with a regime whose policies have taken as many as 250,000 lives in East Timor.

"It's essential to end the genocide, rapes and tortures perpetrated (by Indonesia) against East Timor," said Canadian Labor Congress executive vice-president Jean-Claude Parrot, speaking for a coalition of union leaders representing 1.7 million workers.

The call for an arms embargo was timed to coincide with the 20th anniversary of Indonesia's invasion and annexation of the former Portuguese colony. An estimated one-third of its citizens have been killed in a campaign of repression that began with the invasion and has continued since.

In a ceremony marking the anniversary, Montreal's International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development gave East Timor's outspoken Catholic bishop, Carlos Belo, an award to honor his "courageous and peaceful" defence of human rights

there.

In accepting the John Humphrey Freedom Award – named for the late Montreal law professor who helped draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – Belo spoke with Centre president Ed Broadbent and Canadian reporters by telephone from his home in the Timorese capital, Dili.

A crackdown is under way, he said, evoking the "constant fear and surveillance" under which Timorese live; only hours earlier, authorities had arrested 70 youths for writing the word "Freedom" on a wall in the capital.

However, when Belo was asked whether he would endorse the Canadian unionists' call for an arms embargo, his line suddenly went dead. And once the link was re-established, he stepped gingerly around the issue, reminding the Canadians that his phone was almost certainly bugged.

"In Canada, you live in a democracy. You live in liberty. You can talk freely. You can walk freely. You have no pressure," Belo said.

"Here it's different – very, very different. People live under pressure and surveillance."

Just for shouting out support for a Timorese independence group, he

said, "you will be arrested, you will be beaten, you will be tortured."

Belo did urge Canadians, however, to "tell your government that they need to help in the social field, in humanitarian, health care. I think it's more important than sales to the army."

A spokesman for the Foreign Affairs Department, Colin Stewart, acknowledged military sales from Canada to Indonesia shot up after Jean Chrétien's Liberals took power – from less than \$28,000 annually between 1990 and 1993, to \$1.2 million in 1994.

But he insisted that before export permits are granted, anything that can be used against Indonesian civilians is screened out. He could not explain how this was done or state precisely which military goods have been exported, citing "commercial confidentiality."

Kerry Pither of the East Timor Alert Network, which organized a pro-arms embargo demonstration on Parliament Hill, countered that it's impossible to know how military components or equipment will end up being used.

She complained that while in opposition, Chrétien supported an arms embargo and backed East Timor but now seems to have ditched those stances as Canadian investments keep pouring

into Indonesia.

Broadbent criticized a speech by International Trade Minister Roy McLaren, who extolled the virtues of the Indonesia-Canadian "dynamic bilateral relationship" on Monday. Broadbent said ministers who speak publicly about Indonesia "have a duty to talk not only about trade, but also about the terrible human-rights situation there."

Meanwhile, in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta, East Timorese protesters stormed into the Dutch and Russian embassies and occupied them.

Police said a raid on the French Embassy was thwarted and 19 people were arrested. Human rights activists put the number of arrests during the day at 30.

A group which claimed part responsibility for the break-ins demanded the withdrawal of military and police from East Timor; a referendum on independence and a repeal of repressive political laws.

Belo is to send an envoy to an official award ceremony in Montreal Sunday.

ADDITIONAL REPORTING: CANADIAN PRESS

■ Bishop to be honored here. PAGE D12

IMSID
Letters B2
Chambers B3

LE DEVOIR

LE MONDE

P E R S P E C T I V E S

Un évêque
contre
l'occupation*Timor refuse toujours
«l'ordre de Jakarta»*

À l'occasion du 20^e anniversaire de l'invasion par l'armée indonésienne de l'ancienne colonie portugaise de Timor oriental, des manifestants ont occupé, hier à Jakarta (capitale de l'Indonésie), deux ambassades aux cris de «Timor libre!». Pendant ce temps, à Dili (capitale du Timor oriental), au moins 70 arrestations étaient signalées, notamment parmi des jeunes gens qui voulaient écrire le mot «Liberté» sur un mur. À Lisbonne, le président portugais Mario Soares a lancé un appel à la communauté internationale pour qu'elle condamne «le régime dictatorial» imposé aux Timorais.

François Brousseau

Au Nicaragua, au Salvador, en Pologne, les évêques sont naguère montés au front contre la tyrannie, la dictature ou l'occupation. Il est une petite île perdue dans l'archipel indonésien, non loin de Java, qui suit la même voie. A Timor, vingt ans jour pour jour, et 200 000 morts, après l'invasion de décembre 1975, c'est un ecclésiastique qui symbolise la résistance à l'imposition de l'ordre indonésien.

M^{re} Carlos Belo, évêque de Dili, capitale de ce qui est officiellement la «27^e province» de l'Indonésie, donnait hier matin une entrevue téléphonique à des journalistes de Montréal et de Toronto. Ce rendez-vous était organisé par le Centre des droits et libertés démocratiques d'Edward Broadbent, une institution montréalaise qui se spécialise en «coups médiatiques» visant à promouvoir les bonnes causes de ce bas monde.

Après l'arrestation, il y a deux ans, de Xanana Gusmao, le leader légendaire de la guérilla, c'est en effet M^{re} Belo, 47 ans, qui a repris le flambeau de la lutte de cette population de 700 000 personnes contre l'intégration forcée à l'Etat indonésien.

Vingt ans
après
l'invasion,
M^{re} Belo
entend
poursuivre
la résistance
pacifique

Lors d'une conversation ponctuée par des «ennuis techniques» de communication, il a entretenu ses interlocuteurs de la situation prévalant dans son pays. Une situation tendue, marquée par le face-à-face d'une population de 700 000 Timorais, d'une part, et de 150 000 colons indonésiens «épaulés» par 10 000 soldats, d'autre part.

«Nous vivons constamment sous la menace, sous surveillance, sans avoir la possibilité de dire vraiment ce que nous croyons, ce que nous ressentons et ce que nous sommes», a lancé M^{re} Belo à la demi-douzaine de journalistes qui l'interviewaient à 10 000 kilomètres de distance. «Nous sommes actuellement aussi isolés du monde que nous l'étions il y a cinq, dix ou quinze ans», a-t-il répondu à une question du *Devoir*.

Depuis quelques mois, alors même qu'on diagnostiquait, faute de combattants, la fin de la résistance du FRETILIN (Front révolutionnaire du Timor pour l'indépendance), les manifestations reprenaient sur le territoire occupé, le plus souvent animées par de jeunes gens. M^{re} Belo, que le régime d'occupation traite avec des pincettes, a pris le relais en martelant ses mots d'ordre de «résistance pacifique», de «paix» et de «dignité».

Un peu comme les autorités chinoises au Tibet, le régime de Jakarta mène au Timor une politique d'assimilation qui doit ultimement mener à la solution du «problème timorais» par la «noyade culturelle» de cette poignée de lusophones catholiques dans l'océan démographique indonésien — près de 200 millions de personnes à forte majorité musulmane.

L'ecclésiastique a cité hier trois illustrations de cela:

■ le programme très strict de **contrôle des naissances** de Jakarta — qui s'est traduit dans certains cas par la stérilisation forcée des femmes — est décrit par M^{re} Belo comme «contraire à nos traditions catholiques» et à «nos traditions de grosses familles»;

■ l'**assimilation linguistique** menace de plus en plus ce petit peuple: «La langue indonésienne est obligatoire. Peu à peu, nous perdons notre identité», a déclaré M^{re} Belo;

■ la **colonisation indonésienne** se poursuit intensément dans la moitié d'île qu'occupe l'ancienne colonie portugaise. On estime que 150 000 des 850 000 habitants de Timor oriental sont des immigrants récents encouragés par Jakarta. «La côte sud se couvre de nouvelles constructions.» Il s'agit clairement, selon M^{re} Belo, d'une «menace» pour la survie du peuple timorais.

Dans ces conditions, le fait que la mainmise indonésienne sur Timor oriental soit toujours contestée par l'ONU, ou que lui-même vienne de se faire attribuer le prix John-Humphrey pour la liberté (offert par le Centre Broadbent), sont de bien minces consolations pour M^{re} Belo. «Je crois que nous allons continuer de souffrir», a-t-il tristement lancé à ses lointains interlocuteurs.

Dispatch on Timor raises questions

Ambassador's report released to critic

BY PAUL KNOX
The Globe and Mail

The release of a Canadian ambassador's strongly worded dispatch about the Indonesian territory of East Timor has left red faces inside the Foreign Affairs Department and raised questions about Canada's policy outside it.

The dispatch outlined human-rights violations, including deaths, disappearances and beatings, in a crackdown by the Indonesian army against pro-independence sentiment in East Timor.

But diplomats at the Canadian embassy in Jakarta were appalled when it was released under the Access to Information Act to Sharon Scharfe, an activist with the East Timor Alert Network and author of a just-published book that criticizes Canadian policy on Indonesia.

The dispatch from Ambassador Lawrence Dickenson was released with portions deleted. But embassy staff feared some of the sections made public could lead to reprisals against East Timorese who spoke to them during a visit to the area in February, department spokesman Colin Stewart said.

Ms. Scharfe agreed not to include potentially compromising material in her book, *Complicity*, but included general sections from the dispatch. Mr. Stewart said that may make bilateral relations with Indonesia more difficult.

"There has been discussion and people seem to agree that, yes, perhaps it wasn't a good decision to release that Telex," Mr. Stewart said.

Mr. Dickenson should have been consulted before the dispatch was released, Mr. Stewart said.

Embarrassment over the dispatch has come to light as Prime Minister Jean Chrétien plans a trade mission with provincial premiers to Indonesia and five other Asian countries in January.

Warren Allmand, Liberal MP for the Montreal riding of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, said the Dickenson dispatch bolsters the arguments of those who say Canada should restrict trade with Indonesia because of human-rights violations in East Timor and elsewhere.

"It is important because it shows one of their own has said what we lowly members of Parliament and citizens of Canada are saying," he said.

East Timor, a former Portuguese colony, was invaded by Indonesia in 1975 and annexed the following year in a move still not recognized by the United Nations.

Timorese exiles and human-rights groups say that as many as 200,000 people died because of the invasion.

Mr. Dickenson, Mr. Stewart and other Canadian officials visited East Timor a month after six civilians were killed. Several soldiers were later disciplined for the killings.

As quoted by Ms. Scharfe in her book, Mr. Dickenson's report described a military crackdown that "has consisted of intimidation, stepped-up military and police visibility, arrest and . . . ill-treatment, and . . . a number of cases of death, disappearance and severe beatings."

It said the Canadian diplomats told Indonesian authorities they detected a "disturbing trend of violence which is not likely to settle differences with the Timorese."

The full report also included accounts of visits to small towns, including some where it was well known to whom the Canadian team was speaking, Mr. Stewart said.

Ms. Scharfe obtained the dispatch in late June after discussions between the department's Southeast Asia division and the office of its access-to-information co-ordinator. The co-ordinator, Alan Bowker, would not comment on the affair.

In July, Mr. Allmand quoted portions of the dispatch in a speech to the UN's decolonization committee. That alerted the Jakarta embassy that it had been made public, and officials later discovered the speech had been posted on the Internet.

Ms. Scharfe said in an interview that as a persistent critic of Canada's policy on Indonesia, she was amazed and delighted when she read the Dickenson dispatch.

"On this one the embassy was really good," she said. "Canada was applauded around the world for that. People like me were shocked."

The problem, she writes in her book, is that despite the information, Canadian policy has not changed.

Ottawa has targeted Indonesia as a market since the 1970s, and the value of exports rose from \$67-million in 1975 to \$475-million last year.

Mr. Stewart said the government regularly expresses its concern about human-rights violations to Indonesian officials and Mr. Chrétien will do so when he meets with President Suharto in January. But trade sanctions or strong public criticism would be counterproductive, he said.

"The facts change and the tenor of our comments changes, but our policy is still to maintain dialogue," Mr. Stewart said. "We don't feel that has to change."