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For Immediate Release

July 30 1997

Closer Relationship with Indonesia "Alarming", Says East Timor Alert Network

Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy has made some gestures of concern towards human rights in Indonesia and East Timor during his visit. ETAN welcomes any support for human rights by the Canadian government, however small. But the establishment of a Bilateral Consultative Forum between Canada and Indonesia, and the recent news that Axworthy granted a number of permits for the sale of arms to Indonesia late last year, cast serious doubt on the sincerity of these gestures.

It appears that Foreign Affairs Minister Axworthy believes that he can satisfy the Canadian people with a few perfunctory gestures about human rights, while at the same time pursuing an ever closer relationship with Indonesia, including arms exports and perhaps military training. ETAN is not satisfied by this, and we do not believe that it will satisfy the many people across Canada who want to see their government stand up for peace and justice.

A joint declaration, signed today by Axworthy and Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, states that, "determined to broaden relations and enhance mutual confidence and understanding", the two governments will establish a Forum, meeting annually or more often, to discuss a range of subjects including "pursuing opportunities for cooperation, inter alia in the areas of technical training and education exchanges ... and consulting on political issues of common interest", "joint confidence building efforts", "UN reform", "terrorism and illegal drugs and crime", and, buried within the document, "governance and human rights." The brief reference to human rights makes no mention of any Canadian criticism of the appalling Indonesian human rights record.

ETAN finds this document, with its promise of ever closer ties and an increasingly friendly relationship between Canada and Indonesia, quite alarming. We cannot help but wonder if the "technical training and education exchanges" mentioned might include training for Indonesian military personnel. We are already aware that this has been discussed between the Indonesian and Canadian governments; indeed, these discussions provoked a sharp public outcry once they were made known.

Meanwhile, Axworthy apparently has no statement on the recent disclosure, by Parliamentarians for East Timor, that he signed over \$32 million in permits for arms exports to Indonesia in the last four months of 1996. Requests for comment have been met with a press release about the Bilateral Consultative Forum, which does not mention arms sales.

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DFAIT BCC

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

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CANADA AND INDONESIA EXPAND CO-OPERATION

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy visited Jakarta, Indonesia, today, where he paid a courtesy call on President Soeharto and met with Co-ordinating Minister for Security and Political Affairs Soesilo Soedarman and Foreign Minister Ali Alatas. The Minister also met with representatives of non-governmental organizations, the Indonesian National Human Rights Commission and Canadian companies.

Discussions with the Government of Indonesia covered preparations for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting, being held in Vancouver in November. They also focussed on areas of shared expertise in promoting regional security, confidence-building measures and peacekeeping, as well as the two countries' mutual commitment to ensuring peace and stability in the South China Sea. Mr. Axworthy re-confirmed his support for Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) efforts and for the mission led by Minister Alatas to promote a peaceful resolution to the situation in Cambodia.

Minister Axworthy explored ways to increase co-operation in human resource development and technical training. An agreement was reached to establish a ministerial-level Bilateral Consultative Forum, with a mandate to promote co-operation in addressing international and bilateral issues, including human rights.

The Minister raised the issue of East Timor with his interlocutors and reiterated Canada's strong support for the tripartite (United Nations, Indonesia and Portugal) talks. He also announced, in conjunction with Minister for International Co-operation and Minister responsible for la Francophonie Diane Marleau, that Canada would be contributing \$30 000 through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to the All-Inclusive Intra-East Timorese Dialogue. This UN-led forum brings together East Timorese groups of different political views to discuss possible solutions to the current situation there. CIDA also contributed \$30 000 to the forum in 1996.



Government of Canada
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Mr. Axworthy sought advice from the Indonesian National Human Rights Commission, Canadian resident in Indonesia and non-governmental representatives on ways to broaden co-operation in the areas of regional and international security, human rights and socio-economic development. Particular emphasis was placed on how Canada might assist civil society in developing its capacity to effect progress.

The Minister also encouraged Indonesia to come to Ottawa from December 2 to 4 to sign a legally binding international treaty to ban anti-personnel mines.

Funding for the East Timor initiative was provided for in the February 1997 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

For more information, see our annual - 30 -

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This document is also available on the Department's Internet site: <http://www.dfaite-maeci.gc.ca>

JOINT DECLARATION
BY
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BILATERAL CONSULTATIVE FORUM

DETERMINED to broaden relations and enhance mutual confidence and understanding, the two governments

Have agreed to establish an Indonesia-Canada Bilateral Consultative Forum to discuss bilateral, regional and international issues of common interest.

This Forum will be chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada. Meetings may be held at Senior Officials level as and when necessary.

The Forum may meet annually or more frequently as deemed necessary, alternatively in Indonesia and in Canada. The dates, mode and duration of each meeting will be determined through diplomatic channels.

Working groups may be established or expert meetings held in order to discuss specific areas of common interest.

Topics to be covered can include:

BILATERAL, pursuing opportunities for cooperation, inter alia in the areas of technical training and education exchanges, including distance learning; and consulting on political issues of common interest;

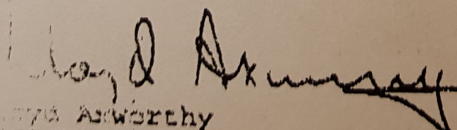
REGIONAL, joint confidence building efforts, conflict prevention and dialogue;

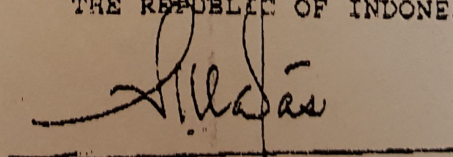
INTERNATIONAL, consulting on global issues, for example, UN arms control and disarmament including anti-personnel weapons, governance and human rights, environment, terrorism and illegal drugs and crime.

Jakarta, July 30, 1997

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
CANADA

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA


Lloyd Axworthy
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS


Ali Alatas
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS