

JANUARY 1983

P. 11

A Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir/Madam,

At least one member of Amnesty International believes that the Australian Section has acted unwisely in pronouncing on the difficult question of Indonesian sovereignty in East Timor.

All Australian participants in the East Timor debate agree that not enough is known about the numbers whom the Indonesian government is detaining, nor about the conditions under which they are held. International pressure on both matters is justified and expedient. (So are expressions of concern about the food situation, provided they take account of all reputable evidence.)

These are issues on which something can be achieved. But less is likely to be achieved if they are linked with the unrealistic goal of forcing the present Indonesian government, or any likely successor, to order its troops out of East Timor and allow a free vote on independence.

East Timor is a foreign policy question on which reasonable people differ, not least as to which stance by the Australian government is most likely to promote Amnesty's aims. Our organisation should not buy into all aspects of the controversy. In the U.N. it should work for the rights of East Timorese through the Human Rights Committee --- not through the Committee on Decolonisation and not, barring a special crisis, through the General Assembly.

Kenneth Rivett
Kensington, N.S.W.

Arms sales to Indonesia

From Department of Trade documents leaked to the press recently, it has emerged that the British Government is considering the export to Indonesia of one or more frigates, with Sea Wolf missile launchers. An additional five Hawk aircraft may also be involved; at least 12 have already been delivered on an earlier order.

Argentina's invasion of the Falklands prompted our Government to make several public declara-

tions condemning aggression against small territories. We succeeded in mobilising our partners in Europe to join us in an arms embargo against Argentina.

But Indonesia is an aggressor too, and on a far greater scale. The death toll in East Timor since the invasion of December 1975 is estimated to be at least 100,000; some put it as high as 200,000, nearly one-third of the pre-invasion population.

The British Government has

repeatedly asserted that it does not approve of Indonesia's forcible annexation of East Timor. Yet at the same time, it is prepared to equip the Indonesian armed forces with advanced weapon systems, which could be used against a people trying to uphold their right of self-determination. There is one policy for the Falklands, and a completely different one for East Timor.

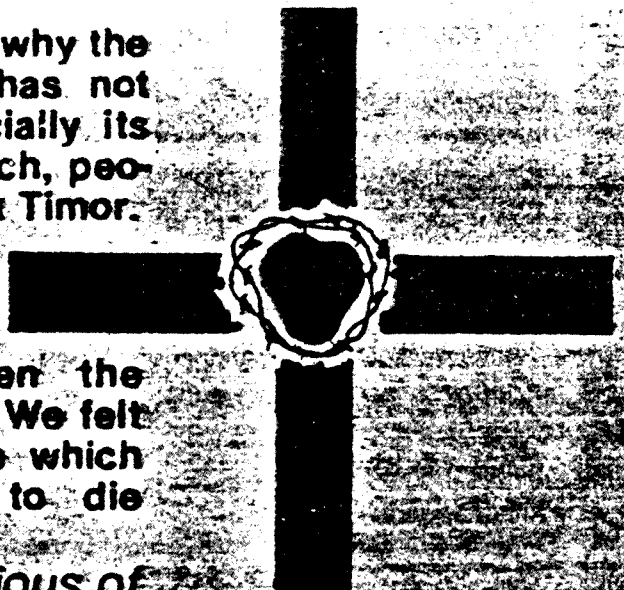
(Lord) Avebury,
House of Lords.

"GUARDIAN WEEKLY" 2/1/83

THE CATHOLIC LEADER

9/1/83

"We do not understand why the (international) Church has not stated openly and officially its solidarity with the Church, people and religious of East Timor.



Perhaps this has been the heaviest blow for us... We felt stunned by this silence which seemed to allow us to die deserted."

—The Catholic Religious of East Timor.

SEMINAR

The Churches and East Timor

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1983

10 am to 4 pm

Academy of Mary Immaculate

88 Nicholson St., Fitzroy, Melbourne

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Mr Jim Dunn, President,
Human Rights Council of Australia

ORGANISED BY CHRISTIANS IN SOLIDARITY WITH
EAST TIMOR

Further information, contact: Sr Lynette Young (03) 347 8464; John Ball (03) 347 9754 or Sr Cecilia (054) 43 4521

Sinclair to visit East Timor

HERALD (3.1.83)

By BRUCE DOVER

CANBERRA.—The Defence Minister, Mr Sinclair, will visit East Timor later this month.

It will be the first visit by a Government Minister to the troubled island since the Indonesian invasion late in 1975.

Five Australian journalists died covering the fighting between Indonesian forces and the local Fretilin forces.

There has been considerable controversy over the Indonesian invasion of Timor and whether the then Labor Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, had been forewarned of the invasion.

Indonesian forces still occupy East Timor and the island is now considered part of the Indonesian nation.

Mr Sinclair will stop over in East Timor during an official visit to Indonesia from January 23-28.

He will also visit Irian Jaya where last year there were reports of border skirmishes between Papua New Guinea and Indonesian troops.

Mr Sinclair said today the Government considered Australian defence relations with Indonesia to be of great importance.

"I hope my visit will help consolidate and diversify the existing defence links with our close neighbor," he said.

Sinclair to visit Indonesia

THE Minister for Defence, Mr Sinclair, will become the first Australian Minister to visit Irian Jaya and East Timor since Indonesia incorporated the former colonial territories.

Mr Sinclair will make his first official visit to Indonesia as Defence Minister from January 23 to 28.

On his return he will make "familiarisation" stops of a few hours each in Dili and Jajapura at his own request to have talks with local Indonesian officials.

Irian Jaya, the former Dutch New Guinea, became a province of Indonesia in 1962 after a controversial "Act of Free Choice" was passed

Since then, hundreds of thousands of Javanese have settled in the mineral-rich province under Indonesia's largest trans-migration program.

A group of about 250 poorly armed guerillas, members of the Organisasi Papua Merdeka (Free Papua) has been operating in the mountainous border area with Papua New Guinea.

Indonesia annexed East Timor in a bloody takeover at the end of 1975.

The Federal Government initially denounced the annexation but recognised the incorporation of the former Portuguese colony in 1979.

AUSTRALIAN 14.1.83.

Guerrillas in Timor Break Silence, Report New Strength

By Peter Wise
Special to The Washington Post

LISBON—Nationalist guerrillas waging a sporadic war against Indonesian occupation forces on the remote island of East Timor have strengthened their military strike power under new leadership in preparation for a major counteroffensive, according to spokesmen in Lisbon.

The guerrillas, establishing their first contact with the outside world in four years, have given details of their regrouping in documents smuggled out to supporters abroad despite a rigorous information blackout imposed by Indonesian military authorities.

Abilio Araujo and Jose Ramos Horta, Central Committee members of the Revolutionary Front for an Independent Timor—known by its Portuguese abbreviation Fretilin—have shown foreign journalists in Lisbon what they say is most of the 60 pages of documents that are said to have reached them in December.

The spokesmen read transcripts that claim the resistance movement now has six separate units, totalling about 6,500 men. These forces, it is claimed, are spread through the west and center of East Timor in readiness to expand combat fronts against Indonesian forces, which are estimated to number 30,000. The guerrillas say they continue to dominate

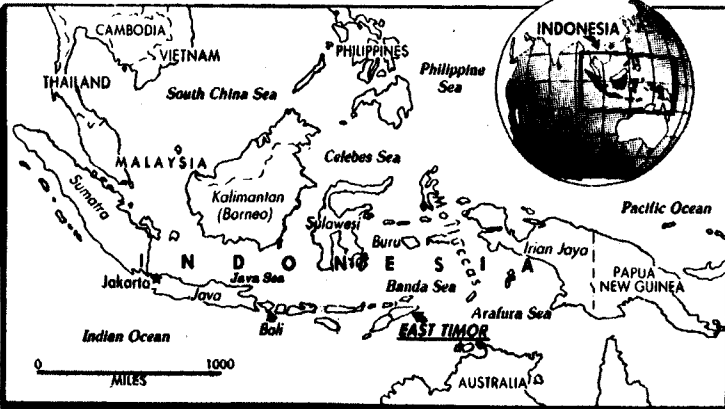
the mountainous eastern tip of the island, their traditional stronghold and refuge.

The claims contradict the official Indonesian position as well as reports from western diplomats in Jakarta that the resistance has been reduced to no more than 600 men, demoralized by lack of food and support and limited to one or two small raids a month.

Corroborating the resistance claims, however, are accounts of Timorese refugees recently arrived in Lisbon and letters from the island received here confirming increased guerrilla activity and insurgent successes.

Fretilin first came to prominence in November 1975 when it declared a short-lived democratic republic in East Timor, a former Portuguese colony 400 miles off the northwest tip of Australia. The movement had defeated two rival independence factions in a three-month civil war that broke out in the wake of the 1974 revolution in Portugal and the introduction of a decolonization policy.

The Portuguese armed forces and administration abandoned Timor at the outbreak of civil strife. Neighboring Indonesia, claiming Fretilin was a leftist threat to its security, immediately launched a full-scale military invasion from the western half of the island, which has been its territory since Indonesia came into being in 1949. Relief workers esti-



The Washington Post

mate that more than 100,000 islanders—one-sixth of the population—died in the famine and disease brought on by the hostilities.

Months later Moslem Indonesia proclaimed Roman Catholic-dominated East Timor its 27th province, a measure endorsed by successive U.S. administrations but repeatedly denounced by the United Nations. Fretilin withdrew into the mountains and began its guerrilla campaign for independence.

According to their smuggled communiques, the guerrillas have now reestablished a high command and secured communication channels to the outside, indicating a marked recovery from reverses in the late 1970s when many of their members were executed or imprisoned. Con-

tact with supporters abroad was cut in 1979 when a prominent guerrilla abandoned Fretilin and handed their most efficient radio to the Indonesians.

Resistance leader Araujo, who fled during the Indonesian invasion to further the guerrillas' cause abroad, said: "For the first time we now have a top-rate command, coordinated inside and outside Timor."

He refused to indicate how the documents were smuggled out of Timor, which has been almost totally sealed off from outside scrutiny since the Indonesian annexation. But two points, at least, collaborate their authenticity.

A Timorese refugee newly arrived in Lisbon said there was "10 times more" guerrilla activity when he left

last September than in 1980 and 1981. Others said fighting had been particularly intense during the state visit of Indonesian President Suharto to Washington in October, which the islanders had heard about on the overseas service of the British Broadcasting Corp.

Letters received by Timorese refugees in Lisbon who are not connected with Fretilin confirm many of the guerrillas' claims. A typical one, dated November 1981 reads: "The country has been cut off from every corner off the earth. We know little of what is being said about Timor. But what is certain is that the front (meaning Fretilin) has been considerably more active and is winning more territory."

Contacted in Amsterdam, Peter Hattinck, director of the Portuguese service of Radio Netherlands International, confirmed that a letter forwarded to him from the smuggled package indicated that a broadcast that mentioned Timor had been picked up on the island. "I believe the letter is genuine," he said, and he has acknowledged it in a subsequent program.

Most of the clandestine documents, which are dated Oct. 14, 1982, are signed by Sha Na Na, the Timorese name of the 38-year-old former colonial administration employe, called Jose Alexandre Gusmao in Portuguese, who is now widely held to be Fretilin's top commander.

According to the papers, the Fretilin leadership has been regrouped under the new title "The Revolutionary Council of National Resistance." The guerrillas' main aim is said to be the politicization of villagers in preparation for popular uprisings to coincide with Fretilin attacks.

Ramos Horta, who represents Fretilin at the United Nations, denied charges that Fretilin is a leftist movement. "Fretilin embraces shades of political thought from the conservative right to communism, but the dominant tendency is social democrat," he said.

Ramos Horta claims the annexation of Timor has caused damaging internal conflicts in the Indonesian armed forces. He said an Indonesian Air Force captain in charge of security in the east of the island had obtained political asylum in France in March of last year when he accompanied Defense Minister Mohammed Jusuf on a visit to Paris. He allegedly gave his motive as opposition to Jakarta's policies in East Timor.

In 1981 two Indonesian battalions reportedly refused to take part in a sweep against guerrillas in the island's interior, laying down their arms for Fretilin to pick up and returning to the capital, Dili, empty-handed.

The guerrillas say their most pressing problem is a shortage of arms and ammunition.

LETTERS to the Editor

OUR LINK WITH *INDONESIA

SIR VALSTON HANCOCK (Air Marshal RAAF rtd), Victoria Avenue, Dalkeith: Every thinking Australian who is concerned about the defence of our country should welcome your leader "The Timor story" (December 18.)

Ever since the five Australian newsmen were killed in East Timor our public relations with Indonesia have been soured by propaganda casting the latter in the role of aggressor, as a suppressor of human rights and not least as a monster depriving the Timorese of the means of subsistence.

The recent comprehensive tour of East Timor by your Editor-in-Chief, Mr Dan O'Sullivan, who had the opportunity to see for himself the true state of food production and distribution and improved standards of living, has provided a more balanced assessment of Indonesian rule.

We have a disposition to judge other nations in the light of our own social and political philosophies regardless of their religious backgrounds, educational attainments and civilisations frequently evolving under oppressive conditions. This subjective judgment may blind us to some of the fundamental issues.

Indonesia, perhaps more than any other nation, is strategically placed to affect Australia's security.

The occupation of Indonesia or its domination by a hostile Power could bring an aggressor to our front door and remove very largely the isolation which we now enjoy because of a great sea barrier. We share common ground with Indonesia in excluding any great potentially hostile nation from the South-East Asian region.

It should be our aim to seek strong economic, social and, eventually, military ties with Indonesia in our common interest.

That start cannot be made if Indonesia is to be treated with suspicion and hostility.

Your leader is a big step towards informing Australians about the facts of life.

NB need outside "hostile" power

Indonesians will brief Sinclair on E. Timor

19/1/83

C. 7.

The Minister for Defence, Mr Sinclair, will be briefed by Indonesian military authorities on the latest situation in East Timor at the end of a week-long official visit to Indonesia next week.

His visit comes at a time when Indonesia and Australia have been making tentative moves towards improving strained relations and developing a dialogue on regional problems.

Mr Sinclair was originally scheduled to visit Jakarta at the invitation of the Chief of Defence, General Mohammad Yusuf, last July during his tour of ASEAN member countries, soon after he took over the Defence portfolio from Sir James Killen.

But General Yusuf had overseas

commitments at that time and the visit was postponed.

The Indonesian Government agreed last month that four Australian newspaper editors could visit East Timor, which has been the stumbling block to improving relations between the two countries in recent years.

Indonesia has been critical of Australian press reporting of the situation there, in particular the guerilla "war" fought by anti-government Fretilin forces. It reacted by refusing visas to journalists and closing down the Radio Australia service based in Jakarta.

A spokesman for Mr Sinclair's office said yesterday the minister was due to be briefed by Indonesian military officers both in Baucau (Timor) and Dili (East Timor). He will receive a similar briefing in Irian Jaya.

The minister begins his visit next Monday when he is due to have talks with General Yusuf and President Suharto in Jakarta.

Mr Sinclair will be accompanied on the trip by the Secretary of the Department of Defence, Mr Bill Pritchett, and the Chief of Defence Force staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Neville McNamara.

The spokesman said among the principle topics under discussion will be Australia's defence co-operation program with Indonesia which includes the provision of Nomad aircraft, aerial mapping services and service training.

Mr Sinclair will also tour defence installations, aircraft factories and military training establishments in Bandung, Surabaya and Jogjakarta.

He is due back in Australia the following Saturday.

Truth about East Timor unfolds

TWO AUSTRALIAN JOURNALISTS returned before Christmas from a visit to East Timor with a balanced report of the Indonesian administration of the island, particularly the areas most vulnerable to famine.

P.P. McGuinness, editor of the *Australian Financial Review*, stated that "despite numerous statements and claims concerning the parlous state of East Timor the fact is that the condition of the people there, as far as can be determined by an outside observer without an axe to grind, is that East Timor is in reasonably good shape.

No famine

"There is no famine. There is no starvation. There is no aspect of starvation.

"Fretilin is a spent force of a few guerillas in the hills who are descending to burn houses and terrorise the local population.

"The Indonesian administration, which is now headed by an East Timorese Governor, **Marlo Carrascalao**, is actively concerned with development projects and, with the help of the International Red Cross, food and medical aid to poor areas.

"There is indeed hunger in East Timor.

"It is a poor area, with isolated villages which cannot draw easily on neighbouring regions for help.

"East Timor has for many years been a net food exporter; and after a drought which has been at least as severe in its effects as that in Australia, there is the prospect of dangerous food shortages.

"But there is every evidence that the provincial administration now is aware of and compassionately concerned with the threat of hunger and sickness.

Exaggerated

"But the evidence is that the real food problems of East Timor have been exaggerated for various motives.

"For example, the reports emanating from the Catholic Bishop of Dili have been exaggerated: a representative of his office categorically stated (in the absence of Government officials), 'Hunger, yes — famine, no.'

"Of course, there is always reason for Church officials to



Fretilin soldier in East Timor (1975)

dramatise the plight of their people: they desperately want, and need, more voluntary aid to supplement what the Indonesian Government, with its own limited resources, is doing.

"Some of the reports from Church sources have been demonstrably wrong. Thus *The Age* recently (December 4, 1982), reported a churchman as saying, 'In the month of April, Baguia had no food at all. Since then they have had nothing at all'.

"In fact", said Mr McGuinness, "the population of Baguia, a small hill village in the eastern end of East Timor, was alive and reasonably well at 10.30 am (local time) last Saturday morning.

"Quite a few of them were at Mass. There were no children with the swollen bellies and spindly limbs of famine to be observed.

"Whatever the problems of the past, the administration of East Timor is honestly and energetically addressing itself to the welfare of the people of the province. No unbiased observer could pretend that this was in general other than the case — freedom of movement and inquiry (within the limits of transport and language) is not noticeably restricted," he said.

The second Australian journalist who travelled with McGuinness was **Dan O'Sullivan** Editor-in-Chief of *West Australian Newspapers*.

of Fretilin activity so the guerillas would be on their own and lack food support.

With the level of guerilla activity subsiding, the authorities were sending the people on Atauro back to their districts.

He said conditions on the island were reasonable.

Mr O'Sullivan said East Timor still experienced some real food shortages: food supplements were needed as in other parts of Indonesia.

"There is no doubt that people have starved to death in the province and there is no doubt that people would be dying today if it were not for the food being sent in by Indonesia and international aid groups," he said.

"An official in the Catholic bishop's office in Dili told us he knew of no instances in which the Indonesian Government was not giving aid where it was needed."

Drought

Mr O'Sullivan said the food shortage had been caused by years of drought and a sharp drop in the amount of land being farmed since the civil war.

But from what he had seen, recent international reports of famine were wrong and some accounts of food shortages misleading.

"My main impression of East Timor is of the quite obvious energy of the Indonesian administration in rebuilding the damaged economy and tranquility of the area," said Mr O'Sullivan.

Mr O'Sullivan said his party made sudden demands which called for rapid changes in schedules and destinations to avoid any possibility of a "guided tour". The Indonesians met every request.

Timor resistance revitalised, under new control: Fretilin

From JILL JOLLIFFE

LISBON, 18 Jan. — Fretilin leaders abroad have announced that resistance to the Indonesian occupation of East Timor has been re-organised under new control.

Mr Jose Ramos Horta and Mr Abilio Araujo, central committee members who have lived in exile since the 1975 invasion, said in Lisbon that they have resumed regular contact with Fretilin in Timor after being cut off from them for two years.

As evidence the Timorese leaders showed reporters part of a 60-page document written in cipher, dated 14 October, which they said had been sent by the new Fretilin command, now called the Revolutionary Council of National Resistance. It is led by Sha Na Na, described by Mr Araujo as one of the most important leaders of the revitalised resistance. He said other members of the council had been named, but only two other leaders could be identified publicly. They are Mau Huno and Mau Gudo.

Sha Na Na was a founding member of Fretilin's central committee and, like many of its members, was educated at the Catholic seminary at Dare, outside Dili. He is also known as Jose Alexandro Gusmao; like many nationalists he adopted a Timorese name after 1974. He later worked in the finance department of the Portuguese colonial administra-

tion. For several years, refugees in Lisbon have spoken of Sha Na Na as one of the veteran Fretilin leaders still fighting in the mountains.

Mr Araujo read extracts from a deciphered version of the document from the revolutionary council. Each page of the original was signed by Sna Na Na.

Mr Araujo said that, according to the document, Fretilin has six regular companies (around 6800 men) operating in the centre and southern border zones, apart from their "stronghold" area in the eastern Lospalos zone.

He said they were fighting under difficult conditions and with poor arms. He said villagers who volunteered to join the resistance were often sent home because of the lack of arms and risked reprisals as a result. Fretilin had suffered a serious setback during the Indonesian search operation ("Operation Keamanan") in 1981 with the loss of "between 80 and 100 veterans" apart from civilian casualties.

In the document signed by Sha Na Na, an invitation was extended to foreign journalists to visit Fretilin-held areas. "We guarantee that we can accompany to the bush any journalist who wishes to see the development of our war *in loco*," it said, although he gave no guarantees about how a journalist could exit safely.

The document said that the resistance knew of various attempts by foreigners who

travelled to Timor by yacht to make contact with Fretilin, but all had failed because the resistance had not been forewarned. He knew of five such attempts since 1979, but the visitors had been received by local villagers who were not readily able to contact Fretilin commanders.

The director of the Portuguese-language service of Radio Netherlands, Mr Peter Hattinck, has confirmed that he has received a letter from Timor in response to a comment made on a programme on 4 October last year.

Mr Hattinck said that during 'Meet the Listener', a programme broadcast primarily for Brazilian listeners, an announcer had noted that "it's a long time since we heard from any listeners in East Timor". He said that they had later received a letter from a Timorese who said he had heard the broadcast. "We are writing from the mountains of Timor," he said, "where we live under very difficult conditions because our country is under Indonesian control".

Mr Hattinck said by telephone from Holland that he thought the letter was "probably authentic" and that on 28 January the programme had acknowledged it by saying they were glad to have heard from East Timor.

Indonesia's role in East Timor

GORDON D. McINTOSH, Senator for WA: I reply to Sir Valston Hancock's letter (January 18) in which he becomes an apologist for the Indonesian Government and its brutal annexation of East Timor.

It is not false propaganda, as he implies, to say that Indonesia planned the illegal takeover of East Timor, in 1975, because it did.

It is not false propaganda to say that Indonesia was the aggressor in the brutal annexation of East Timor, because it was.

It is not false propaganda to say that Indonesia denies the people of East Timor the right to self-determination, thus suppressing their human rights, because that is exactly what is happening.

To claim that a three-day visit to East Timor by Mr Dan O'Sullivan was a comprehensive tour is nonsense. I suggest that Sir Valston reads the interview given by Mr O'Sullivan (*The West Australian*, December 17, 1982) where he says: "I don't return as an expert on East Timor. I made it plain to the Indonesians that I do not regard my visit as a substitute for a more thorough investigation by one or more of our reporters"

When one considers that Mr O'Sullivan was accompanied on his brief visit by an interpreter who spoke only Indonesian — not Tetum or Portuguese, the languages of the East Timorese — and who is a journalist for an Indonesian military newspaper, one cannot be blamed for being sceptical about information gained.

Mr O'Sullivan has observed that the disastrous famine of 1979 is over and that the food situation has improved. However, black people in South Africa are better fed than black people in some nearby countries, but we know that this does not justify apartheid.

Improved conditions from the famine in East Timor to something a little better does not mean that the Timorese people should forgo their right to self-determination.

Sir Valston Hancock, Air Marshal RAAF (rtd), should remember the sacrifices made by the people of East Timor for the Diggers in the World War before he urges Australians to turn their back on their friends for the sake of common interest with Indonesia.

Indonesian friendship is important to Australia, but it must be frank and honest. It should not be promoted by disregarding the human rights of others. I, for one, will continue the fight to bring freedom to the people of East Timor.

23/1/83

Churches unite to aid East Timor

Christians in Solidarity with East Timor has been established in response to appeals for solidarity made to the international Church by the Catholic Church in East Timor.

Set up in Melbourne in November 1982, Ciset is inter-denominational and aims to promote the formation of similar groups throughout Australia and overseas.

Its symbol is a cross bearing a heart surrounded by barbed wire, chosen not only because it is featured on a chapel wall in Dili, and cherished by Timorese as a symbol of their suffering, but also because to Christians the cross necessarily evokes resurrection and liberation.

Ciset commits itself to the following four-point programme: to promote open communication between the Timorese Church and the universal Church; to promote in the Churches a better understanding of the situation in East Timor and the issues surrounding it; to encourage the formulation of policy on East Timor by official bodies within the Churches; and to uphold the fundamental human rights of the East Timorese people.

MONDAY JANUARY 24 1983

Close Indonesia ties need mutual respect

MR SINCLAIR'S visit to Indonesia is significant and not merely because he will be the first Australian minister to visit East Timor since its annexation by Jakarta.

Relations with Indonesia, strained badly by the Timor takeover and its aftermath, are thawing slowly. As an issue which stirs emotions here and in Indonesia, East Timor is receding.

Further, both nations have an interest in each other's stability, in a region which is inherently unstable. Mr Sinclair will be able to assure his Indonesian counterpart, General Yusuf, that our commitment to stability and security remain firm.

He will also be able to confirm that our military aid program will continue. Given the limitations on the United States' role in South-East Asia – and the consequent Indonesian fears, rational or otherwise, of pressure on Japan to rearm – this will be an important pledge.

But Mr Sinclair must realise also that there are limits to Australia's ability, or willingness, to cement relations with Indonesia.

East Timor may have receded as an issue but its annexation still leaves a bad taste in the mouths of many Australians, particularly as it was the

second former colony to be taken over and incorporated into Indonesia.

In this regard, many Australians understandably remain suspicious of Indonesia's long-term intentions towards Papua New Guinea. It is only a few months ago that Indonesian forces crossed the border between Irian Jaya and Papua New Guinea, allegedly in search of Free Papua Movement guerillas.

Further, many Australians rightly have reservations about endorsing too warmly a regime which places little value on democracy and freedom of expression and strong emphasis on the maintenance of rule by the military.

Australians often are told they must understand that Indonesian values and actions differ from ours because of that nation's different cultural and political history. Indonesians, in turn, must acknowledge that our traditions are different and that we value freedom from oppression and freedom of expression.

As long as relations between the two nations are based on mutual recognition of the differences, as well as our common interests, Mr Sinclair should extend the hand of friendship. But he does not have to bend over backwards at the same time.

Sinclair leaves for talks in Indonesia

THE Minister for Defence, Mr Sinclair, left for Indonesia yesterday for six days of talks on defence — an important step in healing relations since the rift caused by the invasion of East Timor in 1975.

The visit is the first by Mr Sinclair since he took the Defence portfolio. He will be the first Australian minister to visit East Timor since its annexation.

Mr Sinclair's departure coincided with Indonesia's first official admission that the remote Atauro Island is being used as an internment camp for 4000 East Timorese.

The Indonesian news agency, Antara, said the detainees would be released in stages.

It said: "Security troops separated the Fretilins (members of the independence movement) from their innocent relatives.

"This led to the so-called 'Atauro affair' in which foreigners accused the Indonesian Government of isolating East Timorese as it has done with once hard-core communists in Buru Island."

Atauro, also known as "goat island" because of its arid soil, is a few miles off Dili, the regional capital of East Timor, 2000km east of Jakarta.

Quoting local military sources, Antara said 200 Fretilin rebels were still in the inner mountains of the island "with 100 pieces of arms and limited ammunitions".

There has been a great deal of controversy over conditions in East Timor since it was incorporated into Indonesia. But little attention has been given to information compiled by the provincial authorities of East Timor.
PETER McCAWLEY* reports.

New facts about East Timor — the official story

SOME alarmist reports about famine in East Timor have been published in recent months.

But eyewitness accounts from two experienced journalists provide a quite different view and it now seems that earlier reports of famine may have been wrong.

"There is no sign of famine in East Timor at present." And: "Whatever the problems of the past, the administration of East Timor is honestly and energetically addressing itself to the welfare of the people of the province."

These were the conclusions of two Australian newspaper editors — Dan O'Sullivan of *The West Australian* and P. P. McGuinness of *The Australian Financial Review* — who visited the Indonesian province of East Timor in December.

An especially valuable result of the journalists' visit was the documentation that they collected on development efforts in the province. Senior officials in East Timor provided the Australian journalists with three Indonesian-language reports which, together, provide by far the most detailed public information yet released on conditions in the island.

The main report, "Perkembangan Pembangunan Propinsi Timor Timur dari Tahun 1976 sampai dengan 1981" (The Development of

the Province of East Timor 1976-1981), is a brief 26-page survey of economic and social changes since the mid-1970s.

The other two documents are planning and budget papers which contain hundreds of pages of detail on government programs ranging from small village drinking water schemes to million-dollar road and telecommunications projects.

The picture of conditions in East Timor which emerges from these reports is consistent both with the Australian journalists' impressions and with the Indonesian Government's approach to development problems elsewhere in Indonesia.

Conditions in the province are described as very bad after the collapse of effective Portuguese rule in 1974, and the situation deteriorated further during the political and military strife that followed.

More recently, living conditions appear to have steadily improved as Indonesian control over the territory was strengthened.

In view of the debate about the number of people who have died in East Timor since the mid-1970s, the population figures supplied in the main report are important. The revised estimate now given for the 1980 Population Census is about 555,000 — a small increase on the preliminary

estimates of 553,000 released earlier.

At first glance it would seem that there was an extraordinary fall of about 10 per cent in the population of East Timor between the time of the last Portuguese census in 1970 (when the population was put at about 600,000) and the Indonesian census in October 1980.

It would seem that the wars and the food shortages of the mid-1970s took a savage toll of human life, and that some 100,000 people or more (making due allowance for natural population growth in the early 1970s) must have died during this period.

In fact, one cannot draw this conclusion at all. Critics of the Indonesian Government tendentiously alleged that "up to 300,000" may have died, but there is no basis for allegations of this sort.

The truth is that, until demography experts make a careful comparison of the results of the 1970 Portuguese census and the 1980 Indonesian census, it is impossible to draw any firm conclusions about the number of "missing" people.

An expert in Indonesian population studies at the Australian National University, Dr Terry Hull, notes that there are good reasons to regard the data as suspect. He points out that the apparent decline in the

population between the two censuses may be due more to differences in methods of data collection, than to any real change in the population.

In addition, there has been a good deal of emigration from the province, and any attempt to compare the data for 1970 and 1980 must allow for this.

"There is just not much you can say at this stage," Dr Hull says. "Furthermore, because of such data problems, it may be that we will never be able to obtain conclusive results from demographic analysis."

Debates about the population aside, what is important for the Timorese people now, are the steps being taken to improve local living standards. And, so far as one can judge, the Indonesian Government is pursuing a practical approach to development in the province. This is clear from an examination of provincial budgetary figures.

Government expenditure in East Timor has expanded rapidly from a low base of about Rp2.3 billion (about \$US5.5 million) in 1976-77 to a planned Rp52 billion (\$US80 million) in 1982-83. The proportion of the budget allocated to "development" schemes has also risen sharply — from 35 per cent in 1976-77 to almost 90 per cent in 1982-83.

A precise breakdown of government expenditure plans for 1982-83 is not readily

Table 1: East Timor Budget (1982-83)

	RP bn*	\$A m
1. Presidential instruction funds		
Province projects	9.0	13.4
Local projects	2.1	3.1
Primary schols	3.3	5.0
Health	0.7	1.1
Village projects	2.1	3.2
Roads	1.3	1.9
Reafforestation	0.2	0.4
Local markets	0.4	0.6
2. Sectoral (Departmental) funds**	21.8	32.5
3. Routine expenditures		
Salaries, etc	11.5	17.2
	52.5	78.3

*Rp670 = \$A1.

**Of which 60 per cent went to the Departments of Education (principally for secondary schools) and Public Works (particularly for irrigation, roads and bridges).

Table 2: Foodcrops production (tons)

	1970	1974	1978	1979	1980
Rice	18,307	6,473	7,645	15,321	22,918
Corn	16,941	5,127	13,444	34,360	34,890
Cassava	18,461	5,069	75,920	76,000	41,207
Sweet potato	16,169	3,678	8,200	12,480	9,288
Peanuts			486	346	645

available, but it is clear that the bulk of spending is for schemes which will be of tangible economic and social benefit.

The main elements of the Government's program appear to be:

- A heavy emphasis on agricultural development;
- Large expenditures on education;
- A public works program emphasising roads, bridges and irrigation; and
- Efforts to improve basic trade and marketing facilities.

In the underdeveloped Timor economy, standards of living are largely determined by conditions in the subsistence agricultural sector. The main report provides the first estimates yet available of agricultural output in recent years.

These official estimates suggest that output of the main food crops (cassava, corn and rice) declined precipitously during the disturbances of the mid-1970s and that production increased just as dramatically once relative calm was restored (Table 2).

If the data is taken at face value, the food grain situation in 1980 was markedly better than it had been a decade earlier.

Some plantation crops — principally copra — are grown by indigenous farmers, although coffee was the main export from the territory in the Portuguese colonial period. Part of the Government's present strategy includes support for the plantation sector — one million Arabusta coffee trees have been planted and, as a step towards developing a new cash crop, the Government has supplied one million clove trees as well.

Preliminary efforts are also underway to rehabilitate the copra sector with plans to distribute 50,000 coconut trees during 1982-83.

While official rehabilitation measures appear to have yielded results in the food crops and plantation sectors, the effects of the disturbances and food shortages led to a sharp drop in the cattle population which will take some time to overcome. The total population of large cattle (cows, buffaloes and horses) rose from about 295,000 in 1969 to 363,000 in 1973, but there was

a dramatic decline to 85,000 in 1979, and to 65,000 in 1980 (Table 3).

What can be made of this data? Indonesia's critics are bound to suggest that the reports are no more than official propaganda. Are they right?

Although a close examination of these and other figures in the reports reveals various discrepancies, the overall picture is quite consistent. For one thing, even the best statistics from developing countries — to say nothing of data collected in rich nations — are often very unsatisfactory.

Paradoxically, inconsistencies and inexplicably large fluctuations in the statistics tend to indicate that the data is genuine — not that the information has been falsified.

Furthermore, some of the variations in recorded agricultural production in East Timor — corn output especially — are not inconsistent with fluctuations in production in other parts of Indonesia.

Allowing for statistical problems, the data is internally reliable. The estimates of yield a hectare which can be calculated from the information supplied by the Indonesian authorities, are low — which is what one would expect in East Timor — but reasonably stable.

Apart from agriculture, in three other areas — education, public works and trade and marketing — the thrust of policy reflected in the reports is consistent with development programs elsewhere in Indonesia.

During the past decade the Indonesian Government has placed great emphasis on the expansion of primary school education, especially in rural areas.

This approach has also been followed in East Timor where primary school enrolments are reported to have risen rapidly from 13,500 in 1976-77 to 68,000 in 1980 (Table 4).

More recently, expenditure on secondary schooling has been sharply increased. As a result, total expenditure on education was expected to take up around 25 per cent of the provincial budget in 1982-83 (Table 1).

Public works is also being accorded high priority. A substantial proportion of the so-

called Inpres (Presidential Instruction) projects shown in Table 1 involve the construction of irrigation canals, roads and bridges.

Furthermore, in 1982-83 almost 25 per cent of the sectoral funds are being spent through the Department of Public Works on similar projects.

The Portuguese colonial Government did very little to develop East Timor, so there is now an urgent need for huge expenditures on public infrastructure.

*** Dr Peter McCawley is head of the Indonesian project at the Australian National University. He is editor of the Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies.**

During the 1970s the Indonesian Government invested heavily in public works throughout the rest of Indonesia with results that proved very worthwhile.

Large expenditures on irrigation in Java, for example, contributed substantially to the recent dramatic successes in food production.

In 1982, Indonesian rice production for each head of population reached a level about 40 per cent higher than in the late 1960s, which means that the Indonesian nation is now better fed than ever before. Similar investments in East Timor can be expected to yield high social returns.

Improvements to rural trading and marketing facilities at present being introduced in the province will reinforce the benefits of more support for agriculture, of better education, and of rural public works programs.

While the construction of a better road system throughout East Timor will in itself provide improved market access for traditional Timorese farmers, new agricultural institutions are needed as well.

During the 1970s, there was a marked strengthening of

rural trading institutions throughout Indonesia. Fertiliser and credit distribution arrangements were greatly improved, as was the national rice procurement system.

Institutional improvements of this sort are now being extended to East Timor and a range of measures has been introduced to simplify administrative procedures involved in business and trade.

For example, the procedures for obtaining various trading licences have been clarified so that local businessmen can build up reliable commercial links with other parts of the country.

These changes will help to integrate Timorese economic activities into the wider economy of eastern Indonesia.

At the same time, special village co-operatives (known as KUDs) have been established to serve as collection agencies for products such as coffee, and as distribution points for food supplies and for small scale rural credit programs. At the end of 1981, 35 KUDs were reported to be in operation.

Thus the approach that the Indonesian Government is taking towards rehabilitation in East Timor is essentially an extension of the development strategy which has been followed throughout the rest of Indonesia during the past decade.

Economic growth in East Timor is beginning from a very low level — the Portuguese neglected the colony for centuries, and no one else in the West was interested in the plight of the Timorese people until Indonesia took over.

The task of developing East Timor will be a long and difficult one, and doubtless many mistakes will be made along the way. But the prospects for the immediate future are encouraging.

The Indonesian Government's heavy-handed annexation of East Timor in 1975 rightly attracted considerable criticism in international circles. But future debate about Indonesia's role on the island should acknowledge that, for the first time in hundreds of years, there is a government in East Timor which is taking the task of economic development seriously.

FINANCIAL REVIEW - 25 1 83 P11

Table 3: Numbers of cattle and other animals in East Timor ('000s)

	1969	1973	1979	1980
Cows	67	82	46	27
Buffaloes	124	141	24	25
Horses	104	139	15	13
Total, large animals	295	363	85	65
Pigs	203	305		67
Sheep, goats	243	318		37
Ducks, chickens	na	na		229

Table 4: School students, 1976/77-1980

	1976/77	1977	1978	1979	1980
Primary	13,500	23,000	41,000	59,100	68,700
Secondary	300	900	1,000	2,600	300

Source: East Timor Provincial Government, *The Development of the Province of East Timor*, (in Indonesian).

Sinclair reaffirms Indonesia defence link

JAKARTA, 24 Jan. — The Australian Defence Minister, Mr Sinclair, met the Indonesian leader, President Suharto, at the Merdeka Palace today to discuss closer defence co-operation.

After the meeting, Mr Sinclair said: "We have agreed to continue our close defence co-operation."

Australia has been providing military training and hardware for the Indonesian armed forces.

The Minister, who arrived here yesterday, said: "I hope my visit will consolidate and diversify the existing defence links with our close neighbor."

Indonesia's Defence Minister, General Mohammad Jusuf, who accompanied Mr Sinclair during the meeting, said the President briefed the Australian Minister on Indonesia's defence situation.

General Jusuf said he hoped that Mr Sinclair's visit to Irian Jaya and East Timor would influence public opinion in Australia about development in that region.

Critics in Australia have claimed widespread starvation in East Timor, and mistreatment of East Timorese by Indonesian authorities there. The reports have been denied by both the Indonesian Government and foreign observers visiting the area.

Mr Sinclair was to discuss details of defence co-operation with General Jusuf later today.

Australia has had a defence co-operation programme with Indonesia since 1968, including mapping and survey projects in Kalimantan, Sumatra, Irian Jaya, Maluku and the islands lying between Kalimantan and Sumatra.

Other programmes include the supply of Nomad aircraft for low-level coastal surveillance, Sioux helicopters for basic training, Attack-class patrol boats and smaller patrol craft and Land-Rovers.

Mr Sinclair will visit an aircraft factory in Bandung, and the naval dockyards in Surabaya, East Java, military facilities in Jogjakarta, Central Java, and Denpasar in Bali.

He will be the first Australian Government Minister to visit East Timor since its integration into Indonesia in July 1976.

Mr Sinclair, who was accompanied by the Secretary of the Department of Defence, Mr W. B. Pritchett, will meet other Indonesian Ministers, including the Communications Minister, Rusmin Nurjadin, the Agriculture Minister, Sudarsono, the Information Minister, Ali Murtopo, the Research and Technology Minister, L. B. Habibie, and the acting Foreign Minister, General Maraden Panggabean, before leaving for home on Saturday.

AAP-AP.



Defence talks start

JAKARTA. — Australia's Minister for Defence, Mr Sinclair, met President Suharto at the Merdeka (Freedom) Palace yesterday to discuss closer defence co-operation between the two countries.

Following the meeting, Mr Sinclair said: "We have agreed to continue our close defence co-operation."

Australia has been providing military training and hardware for the Indonesian armed forces.

Mr Sinclair, who arrived here on Sunday, said: "I hope my visit will consolidate and diversify the existing defence links with our close neighbor."

Indonesia's Minister for Defence, Gen Mohammad Jusuf, who accompanied Mr Sinclair during the meeting, said the President briefed Mr Sinclair Indonesia's defence situation.

Gen Jusuf expressed the hope that Mr Sinclair's visit to Irian Jaya and

East Timor would influence public opinion in Australia about the development in the remote region.

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boats and smaller patrol craft and Land-Rovers.

More than 1,200 members of the Indonesian Armed Forces have trained in Australia.

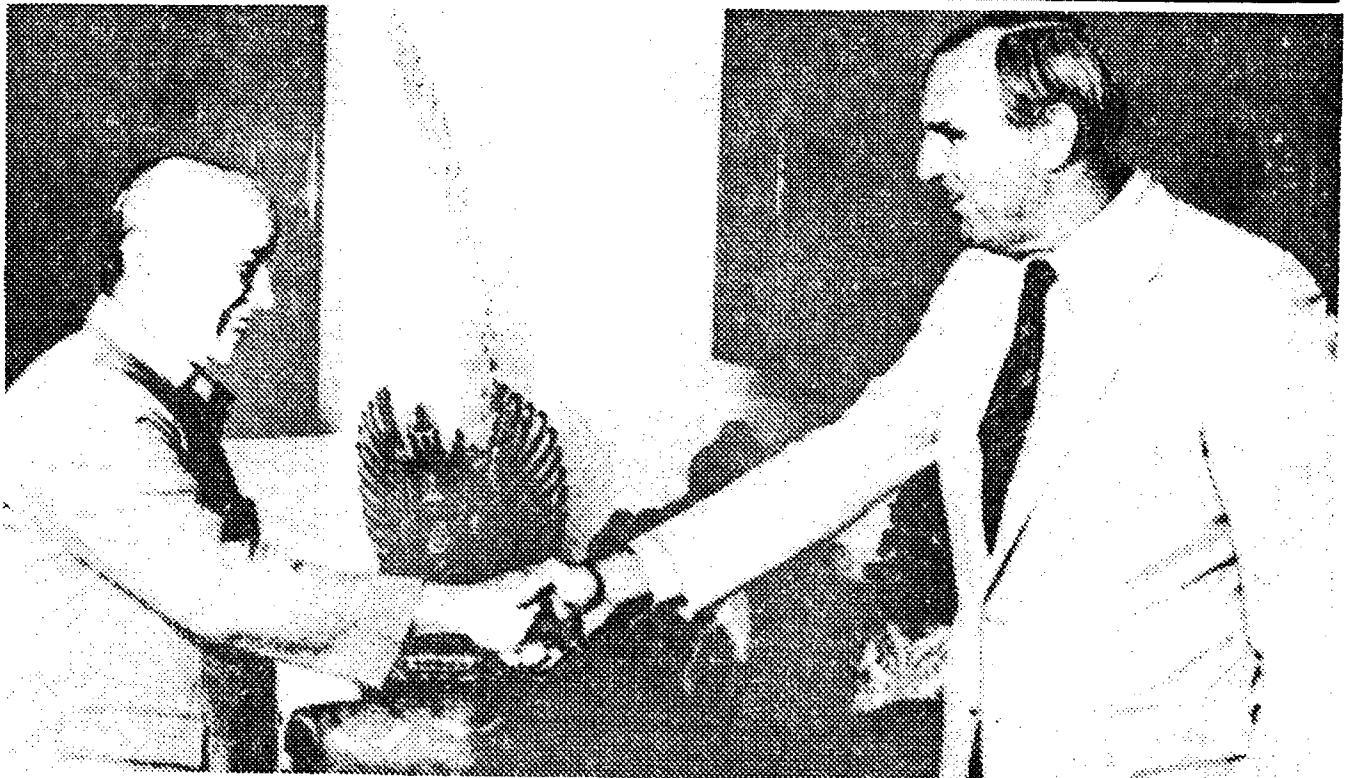
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Mr Sinclair, who was accompanied by the Secretary of the Department of Defence, Mr W. B. Pritchett, will meet other Indonesian Ministers before leaving for home on Saturday.

Mr Sinclair said on his arrival in Jakarta that Australia placed great importance on defence relations with Indonesia.

THE MERCURY, TUESDAY, 25-1-1983—5



● AUSTRALIA'S Minister for Defence, Mr Sinclair, being welcomed to Jakarta yesterday by President Suharto.

Sinclair seeks closer defence co-operation

JAKARTA, Tuesday (AAP-Reuters). — The Australian Minister for Defence, Mr Sinclair, today began a series of tours of Indonesian armament factories and military installations as part of efforts to forge closer defence ties with Jakarta.

Mr Sinclair, who met the Indonesian President, Mr Suharto, and the Minister for Defence, Mr Jusuf, yesterday, said Australia wanted to play a bigger part in developing Indonesia's defence industry by supplying Australian equipment and buying Indonesian hardware.

Mr Sinclair arrived on Sunday for a seven-day visit covering Java, Bali, East Timor and Irian Jaya. Today he toured the Nurtanio aircraft factory at Bandung, 180 kilometres south of Jakarta.

Officials said aircraft, small arms and naval equipment were the main areas where Canberra would like to see greater co-operation with Indonesia.

Antara newsagency reported that the Minister for Research and Technology, Professor Hahibie, said after meeting Mr Sinclair that the possibilities for closer co-operation were still being explored but referred to aircraft, shipbuilding and ordnance manufacture as likely areas.

Australia enjoys close links with Indonesia under a 15-year-old defence co-operation program and has supplied Nomad aircraft for coastal surveillance, Sioux helicopters, Attack class patrol boats and Land Rovers. In addition about 1,200 men of the Indonesian armed forces have trained in Australia.

Stressing these links, Mr Sinclair said that as close neighbours the two countries shared an interest in the security and stability of the region.

"We strongly believe in Australia that we must work for the stability in the region. Our defence co-operation program is to help the training of the individual soldiers to develop the hardware and we believe in playing a full part in developing the professionalism of the (Indonesian) armed forces," he said.

Later this week Mr Sinclair will visit naval dockyards at Surabaya in east Java, and military installations near Denpasar on the island of Bali.

On Friday he will become the first Australian minister to go to East Timor since its controversial annexation by Indonesia in 1975.

\$10m for joint projects

Aid scheme for Indonesia

CANBERRA
TIMES
27/1/83

By *TERESA MANNIX*

The Government will spend \$10 million from the Budget on joint projects to improve Australia's relations with Indonesia, the Minister for Defence, Mr Sinclair, announced yesterday.

Mr Sinclair is touring Indonesia and has talked with President Suharto and the Minister for Defence and Security, General Jusuf.

He announced eight joint projects which would begin later this year.

Relations between the two countries have been somewhat strained since four Australian journalists were killed in East Timor in 1975. Mr Sinclair, as part of his current tour, became the first government minister to visit East Timor since that time.

The projects announced yesterday were:

Australia to provide Indonesia with two more RAN Attack-class patrol boats.

A nation-wide maintenance and support system to be established for 18 Nomad aircraft provided to Indonesia by Australia since 1975.

Australian and Indonesian servicemen to work together to map the islands

to the west and east of Sumatra over the next four years.

Australian and Indonesian language instructors to fill reciprocal postings.

The two countries to combine for anti-malarial drug trials in East Timor.

Australian and Indonesian technicians to take part in a \$1.5 million project to convert four Sioux helicopters to gas-turbine engines.

Australia to provide Indonesia with a Riverina patrol craft for trials, in the expectation that Indonesia will buy 20 such craft from Australia.

More than 120 Indonesian servicemen to make training or study visits to Australia this financial year.

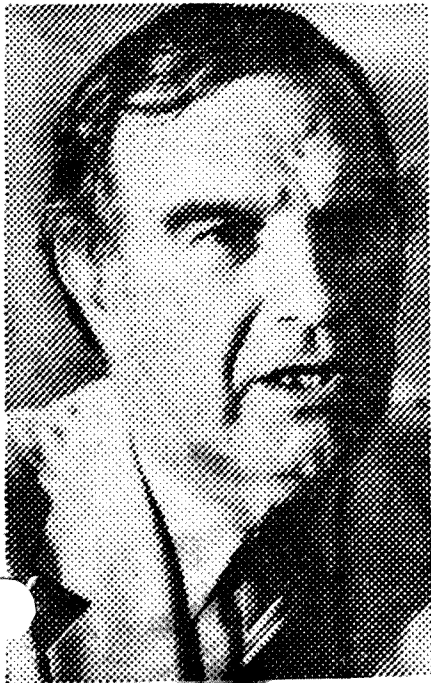
Mr Sinclair said the projects were an important means of "fostering contact between the armed forces of our two countries".

Describing his discussions with the Indonesian Government, he said, "The frankness and friendliness of the discussions maintain the close understanding which exists between the Governments of Australia and Indonesia."

Effort needed to improve relations. —


WORLD WIDE


Indonesia accepts offer on closer defence ties



● Ian Sinclair's aim is co-operation.

JAKARTA, Wed. — Indonesia has accepted an invitation to send observers to two military exercises in Australia later this year, Australia's Defence Minister Ian Sinclair said today.

Indonesian Army officers would attend Operations Platypus and Kangaroo, organised under a five-power defence arrangement with Singapore, Malaysia, Britain, New Zealand and Australia.

Mr Sinclair, who arrived on Sunday for a seven-day visit, told Reuters the Indonesian presence would mark another step in strengthening defence co-operation between Jakarta and Canberra.

The two countries have held joint small scale naval exercises in the past, but this would be the first time the Army was involved, officials said.

Australia already enjoys close links with Indonesia through a 15-year-old defence co-operation program, on which Canberra has spent more than \$73 million.

Mr Sinclair, who held talks with President Suharto and Defence Minister Mohammad Jusuf on Monday, stressed the importance of the program and Canberra's determina-

tion to foster closer co-operation in defence and armament production.

Mr Sinclair, whose visit takes in Java, Bali and Irian Jaya (West New Guinea), on Friday will become the first Australian Minister to visit the former Portuguese colony of East Timor since its annexation by Indonesia in 1975.

He said Australia recognised Indonesia's sovereignty over East Timor and described his visit as an application of Government policy.

He said he did not know if he would visit the island of Atauro, north of the East Timor capital of Dili, where about 3,000 East Timorese — officially described as "displaced persons" — are detained.

Officials, however, said present plans did not include a trip to the island, which has served as a focal point for international criticism of Indonesia's policies in the former colony.

On the question of reuniting East Timorese with their families who have settled in Australia, Mr Sinclair said he hoped discussions with the Indonesians would not prove "too protracted."



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA · THE SENATE

GORDON D. McINTOSH.
SENATOR FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT OFFICES
CITY CENTRE TOWER
44 ST GEORGE'S TERRACE
PERTH, W.A. 6000
(G.P.O. BOX B58, PERTH, W.A. 6001)

27th January, 1983

The Editor
"FINANCIAL REVIEW"
Box 506, C.P.O.,
SYDNEY. 2001.

Dear Sir,

Your leading article of 25th January, 1983 dealt with Indonesia's annexation of East Timor and acknowledges that "... Indonesia's treatment of its own citizens, and the manner in which it incorporated Irian Jaya and East Timor, are worthy of strong condemnation."

The article then went on to totally ignore the real issue in East Timor today - that of the denial of self determination.

Claims and lengthy dissitations of adequate food supplies and absence of famine in East Timor do not justify the loss of basic human rights.

Black people in South Africa are better fed than many people in neighbouring countries, yet this does not justify apartheid!

Reference to the Inquiry into East Timor by the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence was also a 'red herring'.

I am a member of that Committee and it is not true that a reading of the available transcript of evidence shows "... little but repetitious rumours."

When you refer to "... unsourced and tendentious reports about East Timor which are uncheckable...", you cast doubts on my colleagues and myself.

We received a total of 219 submissions from Australia and overseas. Much of the evidence given to us was in-camera and will only be revealed via our findings in our Report.

I must also comment on the recent visit to East Timor by P.P. McGuinness and D. O'Sullivan. They were in that country for three days and were accompanied by an Indonesian interpreter who writes for a military newspaper. He does not speak Tetum or Portuguese, the languages of the East Timorese people!.

Visual observations are useful but do not supply adequate information for authoritative statements.

The day the East Timorese people are given the FREE choice, taken from them in 1975 by the Indonesian aggressors, to determine whether they govern themselves or become an Indonesian colony will be the day I consider that justice has been done. I, too, look for truth and NOT prejudice in my dealings with the East Timor issue.

GORDON D. McINTOSH.
SENATOR FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CHART Digital

Sinclair in Timor a signal event

From MICHAEL RICHARDSON

SINGAPORE, 27 Jan. — The Defence Minister, Mr Sinclair, will be the first Australian Government Minister to visit Indonesian - controlled East Timor when he flies there tomorrow on the last leg of a week-long official visit to Indonesia.

He will not see or learn very much about actual conditions in the disputed territory during his four-hour stop.

From Bacau, on the north-east coast of the island where his RAAF aircraft will land, he will be flown to the capital, Dili, for a briefing by senior Indonesian military and civilian officials.

But observers say that the visit is intended by Canberra to signal clearly that while the Federal Labor Opposition is committed to continued opposition to Indonesia's annexation and military occupation of East Timor, the Government accepts that the territory is part of Indonesia and wants to forge close ties with Jakarta in all fields including defence and security.

When Mr Sinclair arrived in Jakarta to a red carpet welcome on Sunday, he said Australia considered military relations

with Indonesia to be of great importance and added: "I hope my visit will consolidate and diversify the existing defence links with our close neighbor."

After meeting President Suharto and the Defence Minister, General Jusuf, who is also armed forces chief, he was quoted by the general as telling them that Australia regarded Indonesia as its bridge with continental Asia.

Mr Sinclair himself told reporters that the two countries shared an interest in the stability and security of the region.

Australian officials said he told Indonesian leaders that Canberra wanted to play a greater role in Indonesia's defence industry, which is being modernised and expanded, by supplying Australian equipment including aircraft and small arms and buying Indonesian hardware.

Mr Sinclair disclosed that at Jakarta's suggestion and as part of Australia's \$10 million military aid programme to Indonesia for 1982-83, a team of Australian experts from the Defence Department would help their Indonesian counterparts to conduct field trials of anti-malaria drugs in East Timor, where the mosquito-borne disease is rife.

He also said Indonesia had ac-

cepted an invitation to send observers to two large-scale military exercises to be held in Australia over the next year.

Mr Sinclair said that during his Jakarta talks both sides had agreed on several new or extended joint projects under the defence co-operation programme. But the cost of Australian military aid to Indonesia would remain about the same as last year.

Canberra would supply two more "Attack"-class patrol boats.

Other assistance would include training for Indonesian pilots of Australian-supplied Sioux helicopters.

There are conflicting reports about conditions in East Timor, which was invaded by Indonesian forces in December 1975 after the Fretilin nationalist movement made a unilateral declaration of independence from Portugal, the colonial power.

Confidential reports from inside the territory published by 'The Age' last month painted a picture of food shortages, malnutrition and ill-treatment of the Timorese.

This has been denied by the Indonesian Government and by some other foreign visitors including a former Australian Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam.

AGE

28-1-83

Sinclair on way to E Timor

SINGAPORE, Thursday.— The Minister of Defence, Mr Sinclair, will be the first Australian Minister to visit Indonesian-controlled East Timor when he flies there tomorrow on the last leg of a week-long official visit to Indonesia.

He will spend four hours in the province during which time he will be briefed in the capital, Dili, by Indonesian military and civilian officials.

But observers say the visit is intended by Canberra to show that while the Labor Opposition is committed to continued opposition to Indonesia's annexation of East Timor, the Fraser Government accepts that the territory is part of Indonesia and wants to forge close ties with Jakarta.

When Mr Sinclair arrived in Jakarta on Sunday he said Australia considered military relations with Indonesia to be of great importance and added: "I hope my visit will consolidate and diversify the existing defence links with our close neighbour."

After meeting President Soeharto and the Defence Minister, General Jusuf, who is also armed forces chief, on Monday he was quoted by the general as telling them that Australia regarded Indonesia as its bridge with continental Asia.

Australian officials said Mr Sinclair told Indonesian leaders Canberra wanted to play a greater role in Indonesia's defence industry, which is being modernised and expanded, by supplying Australian equipment, including aircraft and small arms, and buying Indonesian equipment.

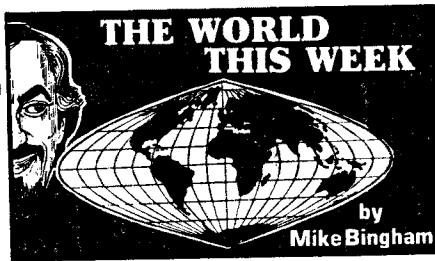
In Jakarta last night, Mr Sinclair said that at Jakarta's suggestion and as part of Australia's \$10 million military aid program to Indonesia this year an Australian team would help conduct field trials of anti-malaria drugs in East Timor where the disease is rife.

Mr Sinclair, who said Australia's military aid program would continue in 1983-84 at this year's level, announced that Canberra will supply two more Attack-class patrol boats (three have already been handed over) and give further help in maintaining the Nomad aircraft and Sioux helicopters supplied in recent years.

Mr Sinclair, who arrived in Bali this afternoon for an overnight stay, will also make a brief visit to Irian Jaya before returning to Canberra on Saturday.

— MICHAEL RICHARDSON

AFR 28/1/83



New alliance has many advantages

THE world's attention was focused this week on the resumption of the East-West arms talks in Geneva, but for Australia a far more significant event took place much closer to home.

While the Americans and the Russians, watched anxiously by the Europeans, began to debate missile numbers and missile ranges, Indonesia accepted an invitation to send army observers to two military exercises in Australia later this year.

Defence Minister Ian Sinclair made the announcement in Jakarta, and said it was part of closed defence co-operation between the two neighbors.

The arrangements confirmed by Mr Sinclair also include the supply of two patrol boats to the Indonesians, and plans to tie in arms manufacture in both countries.

The cost to Australia at this stage is only \$10 million a year, but it's obviously only a start as we continue the process of developing an understanding, and an interest in mutual security.

The takeovers of West New Guinea (Irian Jaya) and Portuguese East Timor and the tensions surrounding them have faded into history as the groundwork is laid for a new alliance.

The advantage to both countries of friendly relationships are obvious in terms of defence, trade and development.

Indonesia at last count had a population of around 160 million, spread through 6,000 islands. Australia, a wealthy and developed country, has the skills and technology to help the republic.

★ ★ ★

The oil men sat down at Geneva early in the week, then went home unable to agree.

Days later the world is still wondering what it all means.

Has OPEC, until now the most effective cartel ever seen, really collapsed?

Will some of the big producers step up production and glut the market

forcing a price slump for themselves and other African and Middle Eastern countries?

And what of Britain and her reliance on North Sea oil revenue. And what of Australia, and the price per litre to the ordinary motorist?

The best guess is that already attempts are being made to patch up the rift, and hammer out yet another compromise.

★ ★ ★

Dissent in the Soviet bloc has been limited in recent years to a few very brave individuals in the Soviet Union, and to the Solidarity movement in Poland.

But now, it seems the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has provoked daring protests within the Soviet Union.

According to a London report anti-war stickers have been pasted on walls and telephone booths in Moscow, Kiev, Leningrad, and in some of the Baltic States.

Some were drawings of a grieving widow standing among graves with the slogan "Out of Afghanistan." In the Ukraine, the posters read, "Why are our sons and fathers dying in Afghanistan?"

The Soviet media has failed to stem the swell of disapproval.

★ ★ ★

The world wasn't all politics and arms talks and cartels this week. People, pigs and pubs also made the news.

● Untidy people caused concern to the Nepalese Government because of the problem of litter left behind by climbers on Mt Everest.

● A pub in England organised maggot races to entertain its patrons. It might be fun but it won't do much for the counter lunch trade.

● Three pigs named Ralph, Betty and Mabel missed out on their first parachute jump because of low cloud in Florida. No one asked the pigs whether that was good news or bad news.

CT. 29/1/83

Sinclair visit to E. Timor

JAKARTA, Friday (AAP-AFP). —
The Australian Minister for Defence, Mr Sinclair, left Bali today for a few hours' visit to the former Portuguese colony of East Timor.

Mr Sinclair was scheduled to observe several development projects in East Timor and to be briefed by local military commanders on the security situation, a military spokesman said.

Mr Sinclair, the first Australian minister to visit East Timor since the territory was incorporated into Indonesia six years ago, was to proceed this afternoon to Irian Jaya, formerly Dutch West New Guinea, which Indonesia acquired 20 years ago.

SMH 31/1/83

Sinclair stresses Indonesia link

From JOHN SHORT

CANBERRA. — The Minister for Defence, Mr Sinclair, announced yesterday that Australian and Indonesian defence forces would undertake joint exercises in the future.

Speaking at Brisbane Airport on his return from Indonesia, Mr Sinclair said: "The development and maintenance of good relations between Australia and Indonesia is a prime defence policy objective."

He said arrangements had been made for joint exercises between elements of the Indonesian Armed Forces and the Australian Defence Forces.

The Minister was accompanied by the Secretary of the Department of Defence, Mr W. B. Pritchett, and the Chief of Defence Force Staff, Air Chief Marshal, Sir Neville McNamara.

The Minister attempted to pla-

cate any fears of the Indonesian Armed Forces — particularly concern over border intrusions into Papua-New Guinea from Irian Jaya.

Mr Sinclair said: "At no time did we see any signs of aggressive intent towards Papua-New Guinea.

"Discussions were held on border intrusions and we were assured that as a result of the visit by the Papua-New Guinea Foreign Minister a few weeks ago there is now a better understanding between the Government of Papua-New Guinea and that of Indonesia."

The Minister also said: "Perceptions of Indonesia are often inaccurate. Indonesian Armed Services indeed have a dual role — first in national defence and secondly, and in the Indonesian eyes at least as importantly, in assisting in economic and social development."

East Timor had a severe drought

but there was no evidence of starvation or famine, Mr Sinclair said.

He said the drought could cut the March harvest in half, but food distribution was being adequately handled by the Indonesian Government.

He said Fretelin, the guerilla group which had fought Indonesian troops since 1975, had been more or less integrated into the local community.

Mr Sinclair said cultural differences and Indonesia's military government had led to a lack of understanding of Indonesia by some Australians.

However, as Indonesia had 155 million people and was a close neighbour, it was very much in our defence interests to encourage rapport between the two countries.

This year Australia would slightly increase its defence aid to Indonesia under the defence co-operation program to \$10 million.

There would also be an extension

of existing projects, mapping and surveying, supply of Nomad aircraft and patrol boats and training of defence personnel in Australia.

Mr Sinclair said he had also asked for and received permission to visit Atauro island.

"Descriptions of the island as a concentration camp are not accurate. There is no barbed wire or forced confinement. Although the circumstances of living are not good."

He said there was some hope Australian journalists, virtually banned from Indonesia in recent years, would be allowed back in.

"I raised with the people responsible for journalists, with the Minister for Information, about allowing a select group of journalists, if not all journalists, back in," he said.

"There seemed to be sympathy in some sections of the Government for this."

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No famine in East Timor, Sinclair says

BRISBANE: Reports of famine in East Timor due to a severe drought were false, the Minister for Defence, Mr Sinclair, said on his return yesterday from a six-day visit to Indonesia.

He said relations between Indonesia and Papua New Guinea appeared to have improved with no sign of aggressive intent from Irian Jaya.

He said he was satisfied his visit to Indonesia had helped promote a better understanding between Australia and its closest ASEAN neighbour.

East Timor was suffering from a severe drought and it was estimated its March harvest would be only about half what had been expected, he said.

"I believe the food situation is being adequately managed," Mr Sinclair said, as food was being stored by the Indonesian authorities.

He said his visit to Irian Jaya had revealed no sign of aggressive intent toward PNG.

Discussions had been held on border intrusions and he had been assured that a better understanding between the two countries existed after a visit by the PNG Foreign Minister to Indonesia a few weeks ago.

Defence aid for Indonesia

THIS COUNTRY'S island-continent characteristics — vast coastline, extensive sea approaches, varied climate and terrain — make it exceedingly difficult to attack. The only two nations in the world able to offer it a massive, sustained conventional threat, let alone a nuclear one, are the Soviet Union and the United States. The USSR is only likely to threaten Australia, with a view to continental conquest, in a world so radically changed as to give Australia a strategic significance it now does not have and is unlikely ever to have. What would be the motive for such an attack? What end would it have in view? Australia's defence, bedevilling its choices of competing equipment systems and force structure, is regional. Even in this context restraints operate against regional powers becoming expansionist or great-power proxies. Our South-East Asian neighbours are now sovereign States and increasingly bound together in a web of social, political and economic relations. None of this denies that a regional threat might arise but it is likely to mature very slowly and, provided we are alert, to give a reasonably long warning time.

Regional threat, in fact, is a euphemism for Indonesia. On that country, because of its numbers, its resources, its proximity and its perceived track record in respect of Irian Jaya, confrontation and East Timor, so many Australian fears, on the Left and the Right of the political spectrum, tend to fixate. It is true that Indonesia is refurbishing its run-down defence capability. It now has some amphibious vessels, a troop transport capability and an archipelago surveillance capability in its 737s. It has some short-range fighters and intercept aircraft, missile-equipped.

Nevertheless, Indonesia's slowly improving military position is heavily biased towards a defensive rather than offensive role. Its forces are in fact very modest, in numbers and firepower in relation to the defence and security needs, including anti-piracy requirements, of a nation of 150 million people occupying

a huge, sprawling archipelago of 12,000 islands. Any change in Indonesia's present generally co-operative attitudes to Australia on a number of levels to one of hostility would not occur overnight or in isolation. A change of that nature would quickly distort its regional relations, especially with ASEAN. Australia would not be the sole target of Indonesian hostilities nor the only regional country to begin looking to its defences. Indonesia, in any case, looks north to its enemies, not south. Its fears for the future lie in the strains caused by Sino-Soviet rivalry over Kampuchea, in the underlying tensions of northern Asia, in the increasing global reach of the USSR, and in growing US insistence that Japan spend more on defence.

In this situation, Mr Sinclair's visit to Indonesia, the first by an Australian minister to East Timor and Irian Jaya, is timely. His offer of increased defence aid, to include Attack Class patrol boats, more positions for Indonesian defence personnel in Australian training courses, provision for Indonesian observers at future Rimpac exercises and further support of the Australian Nomad and Sioux helicopter programs in Indonesia is sensible, not least because Australia also seeks to sell more to Indonesia's modest defence industry.

In answer to critics of Australia's Indonesian defence aid program, now running at \$10 million annually, several things need to be said. Not one of the aid items could be redeployed against Australia effectively. The program, possibly expanding later to include a modest bilateral defence industry deal, gives the Australian Government important access to Jakarta's defence organisation planning and strategic thinking. It would be a mistake to overestimate the benefits of the present thaw in Australian-Indonesian relations; we need to go slowly. But Australians should realise that a relaxation in tensions would not even have been possible if Australia had not maintained its aid program, including the defence component, throughout the period, and despite the strains of the East Timor crisis.

Food shortage in Timor is Portugal's fault, says Sinclair

From DAVID BROADBENT

BRISBANE. — The Defence Minister, Mr Sinclair, yesterday blamed serious food shortages in East Timor on "400 years of neglect" by Portugal before the country was taken over by Indonesia.

Mr Sinclair, the first Australian Minister to visit East Timor since the Indonesian invasion, said drought had halved the country's expected harvest and Indonesian authorities were already preparing food distribution.

But Mr Sinclair said reports that East Timor was suffering severe famine were false. "Those who say East Timor is in the grip of a famine have not produced any evidence to support that claim," he said.

"While there is concern about the availability of food for distribution around the province, Indonesian authorities already have food in store at both Dili and other centres in Timor. I believe the food situation is being adequately managed.

"If there is an indictment of the situation in East Timor it is the product of 400 years' neglect by the Portuguese administration."

Mr Sinclair said the "extraordinary efforts" Indonesian authorities made to allow him to visit East Timor and Irian Jaya showed their desire to maintain close and harmonious relations with Australia.

He said it was vital for Australia to have extremely good relations with the closest and most populous ASEAN nation and that Indonesian officials were sensitive to "unbalanced criticism" from the Australian media.

But he said there would soon be moves to allow visits by Australian journalists as a result of his talks with Indonesian leaders.

"I am convinced that every effort is being taken by Indonesian authorities to develop the country. Many in Australia have an inadequate understanding of the magnitude of the tasks of nation-building confronting the Indonesian Government," he said.

Mr Sinclair said Indonesian authorities had agreed to his request to inspect conditions on Atauro Island, a "re-settlement camp" for known opponents of the Indonesian regime.

Mr Sinclair said reports that the island was like a concentration camp were wrong. The "circumstances of living" were not good but he said there was no barbed wire or "forced settlement".

"Included in our party was a female secretary who was on page

felt threatened in any way or at all apprehensive on the island," Mr Sinclair said.

Mr Sinclair said he was sure living standards on the island were no worse than in some other parts of the country, including the slums of the capital city.

He said it was Australia's view that the people on the island should be returned to the mainland as soon as possible and that this was already being done.

He said that at the end of December last year there were 3800 people on the island, including children. More than 300 had been returned to the mainland the day before he arrived.

After spending two days in East Timor Mr Sinclair spent a day and a half in Irian Jaya where he said he saw no "signs of aggressive intent towards Papua New Guinea".

Mr Sinclair said military commanders along the border assured him there was now much better understanding between them and the PNG authorities and the problems of border incursions during "hot pursuit" of Irian Jaya rebels were over.

Mr Sinclair said there was a strong desire in Australia and Indonesia to maintain sound defence relations. He said arrangements had been made for joint exercises between sections of both countries' defence forces.

Sinclair to E.

JAKARTA, Friday — The Australian Minister for Defence, Mr Sinclair, left for a 24-hour visit to the colony of East Timor.

Mr Sinclair was to discuss several developments in East Timor and to be briefed by military commanders on the situation, a military spokesman said.

Mr Sinclair, the first Australian Minister to visit East Timor since the territory was incorporated into Indonesia 20 years ago, was to proceed to Irian Jaya, former New Guinea, which was also part of the territory 20 years ago.