

JAPAN EAST TIMOR MEMO

***** From the Editors *****

Our apologies for the long lapse in communication. We hope you have not drawn the conclusion from our silence that the Japanese East Timor solidarity movement has been inactive. This is far from the case.

Matsuno Akihisa in Osaka and Jean Inglis in Kure are the people sending you Japan East Timor Memo. We aim to provide you with occasional updates on happenings related to East Timor originating in Japan. But we would also be happy to serve as a channel through which you can send your information/messages, etc. to the solidarity groups in this country. Here's to better communication!

***** NEWS *****

Japanese Parliamentarian Goes to UN with PET Mission

A member of the House of Representatives of the Japanese Diet joined five other members of Parliamentarians for East Timor (PET) in a meeting on the East Timor issue with United Nations Secretary-General Xavier Perez de Cuellar on March 25 in New York.



~~~~~  
Okazaki Hiromi of the Social Democratic Party of Japan (formerly the Socialist Party) commented at a news conference before departing for New York: "Why, when the situation is just the same as Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, is the reaction of the United Nations and of the Japanese Government so completely different in the case of East Timor? Japan formerly occupied (East Timor), and is now the largest donor of economic aid to Indonesia. Japan is by no means "far away" from this situation, and as a citizen of this country I want to ascertain the problem for myself and to make my views known."

The PET mission, headed by Lord Eric Avebury of the United Kingdom and including, besides Ms Okazaki, parliamentarians from Holland, Australia and Portugal, was told by de Cuellar that he firmly stands by all the UN Resolutions on East Timor and that East Timor is just as entitled to exercise its right to self-determination as the people of Namibia and the Western Sahara. (For a full report, see TAPOL Bulletin No. 104). The parliamentarians also met with Under-secretary-general Rafeeuddin Ahmed, de Cuellar's closest assistant on the East Timor issue, and held a press conference in New York to report on the mission's findings.

## Japanese Official Raises Human Rights with Indonesian Government

Japanese friends of East Timor, accustomed to official indifference to human rights abuses in East Timor, got a pleasant surprise from the following Kyodo item. The same article in the vernacular press carried the comment that it is "an extreme exception for the the Japanese Government to call on a country involved in an international dispute to show regard for human rights."

# Gov't Asks Indonesia to Protect Human Rights in East Timor

Kyodo

The government asked Indonesia in mid-March to show adequate concern for human rights issues with regard to its annexation of East Timor, informed sources said.

The sources said the issue was raised during high-level consultations between Japan and Indonesia in Jakarta on March 11 and 12.

Diplomatic sources said Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu also used his visit to Indonesia in May 1990 to call for greater recognition of human rights during his talks with President Suharto.

Indonesia annexed East Timor, a former Portuguese colony, in 1976. Human rights groups say as many as 200,000 of East Timor's total 650,000 people may have been

killed by the Indonesian military in its suppression of the Timorese independence movement.

Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada led the Japanese delegation to the March consultations, while Wiryo Sastrohandoyo, director-general of the Indonesian Foreign Ministry's Political Affairs Bureau, headed the Indonesian delegation.

The sources quoted the Indonesian side as saying there is a "mistaken view" outside Indonesia that people in East Timor are being "suppressed."

The Japanese officials reportedly responded by saying the East Timor problem has

been debated in the United Nations.

The U.N. Security Council has twice demanded the immediate withdrawal of Indonesian troops from East Timor, and the General Assembly has passed eight resolutions supporting the right of East Timorese to self-determination.

Japan has consistently voted against the resolutions.

At the March consultations, the Japanese officials reportedly said that while human rights issues are complicated by sociocultural factors, there are international standards, and they hoped Indonesia will pay due regard to its human rights problems.

*Asahi Evening News April 25, 1991*

## Speaking Tour Campaign Planned for Fall

The Free East Timor Japan Coalition is planning a speaking tour in November to carry the message of the Maubere people to the Japanese. This will be the seventh such speaking tour. Three overseas members of the East Timorese resistance will be invited to Japan in November to speak throughout the country and to attend a symposium on the East Timor issue at Sophia University.

## Human Rights Report Published in Japanese

"A Report on Human Rights Violations in East Timor", based on documents smuggled out of East Timor, and covering the period September-December 1990, was issued in Japanese in March by the Free East Timor Japan Coalition. The 18-page A4-format booklet is based on 49 pages of documents in Portuguese, English, and Indonesian compiled by the East Timor Clandestine Front. The report gives name, age, occupation, etc. of victims of execution, "disappearance," torture, and imprisonment in the three-month period. Background information on events connected with the severe repression in this period is provided. Price: ¥400.

新 海 本 日

1991年(平成3年)4月30日 火曜日 (18)



グスマオ司令官からの手紙を手話し合  
う市民グループのメンバー＝大阪市内

"Members of a citizens' group discuss a letter from Commander Gusmao==Osaka"

## Xanana Message to Japanese Group

The Free East Timor Japan Coalition received a letter earlier in the year from Xanana Gusmao, commander of the East Timor resistance forces, Falintil. In the letter, Xanana termed increased international solidarity "indispensable" in the face of pressure from a "powerful neighbor which is supported by other powers in the world."

Xanana said that, "After Kuwait, we believe more and more that the violation of international principles and rules cannot go unpunished, and that dialogue is the most appropriate way to solve conflicts, be they large or small."

The letter, from "Headquarters in East Timor" and signed "Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao", reached the Japanese coalition via the East Timorese clandestine network. It was released to the press by a solidarity group in Osaka. Group spokesperson Monju Mikio pledged to keep up appeals to the Japanese Government "to make Japanese economic aid to Indonesia conditional on withdrawal of Indonesian forces from East Timor."

### Japanese Company to Exploit Timor Gap Resources?

A major industry daily, Nikkan Kogyo Shimbun, reported in its lead article of April 3 that a Japanese petroleum company, Sekiyu Shigen Kaihatsu, and a Belgian firm, Petrofina, planned to jointly develop the oil and natural gas in the "Timor Gap". The article says the companies will contract for production sharing with the Joint Authority administering the area within the year and begin mining in 1992.

No mention is made of the territorial issue involved, nor of the fact that Portugal has challenged the Australian Government over its Timor Gap joint development treaty with Indonesia in a suit filed with the International Court of Justice in February.

European and Japanese East Timor solidarity groups sent letters of protest to the Japanese and Belgian companies.

Our inquiries to the Japanese company failed to produce a confirmation or rebuttal of the news report. The newspaper, meanwhile, said it stood by the article and that an official announcement would probably be made in June.

### East Timorese to Japan for YWCA International Youth Gathering

Ms Vininha Eugenia de Pina, 18, will participate in a program for youth/youth leaders in the Asia/Pacific region from August 23 to September 1. Ms de Pina, a resident of Australia, where she is active in Youth for East Timor, will also participate in youth-oriented programs organized by Japanese solidarity groups in the week prior to the IYG.

### A New International Group for East Timor

The 11th Consultative Meeting on East Timor, held in Lisbon in early April, decided to form a new international group for East Timor to coordinate activities on an international level. The organization's name is the International Federation for East Timor (IFET) and its secretariat is at the Kure YWCA, Japan. Thirteen groups which attended the Lisbon meeting have already joined the IFET. Please contact the IFET Secretariat for further information. (c/o Kure YWCA, 3-1 Saiwai-cho, Kure, Hiroshima, 737, Japan)

In keeping with East Asian practice, surnames appear first in Japanese names.

Please address correspondence to:  
Japan East Timor Memo  
c/o Kure YWCA  
3-1 Saiwai-cho  
Kure, Hiroshima 737  
Japan