

# East Timor

monthly memo  
news

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## MONTHLY MEMO Nº 3 1990

(Information received during March 1990)

### 1 EAST TIMOR

#### a. Aftermath of January 17 demonstration:

A FRETILIN Newsbrief, issued in March, gives further details of the events following the demonstration which took place on January 17 during the US Ambassador's visit to Dili (see UC 5 and MM 32). It gives the number of injured as 60.

It also refers to a 3-page letter which the students gave to the Ambassador calling for international intervention to put an end to the Indonesian occupation of the territory. They refer to hunger and disease as being the "daily companions of many Timorese" and to "thousands of innocent people massacred in military action" and they draw attention to the fact that Indonesia is exporting under its own name many products of Timorese origin, including the coffee for which Timor was in the past renowned, and also to the signing away of the oil exploitation rights in the Timor Sea.

They ask the Ambassador to act as an intermediary to put the case for the liberation of the people of East Timor from "Javanese colonialism", to the US government and senate and also to act as intermediary in the international arena, particularly at the UN. Finally they ask the US in its capacity as "super-power" to prevail on Indonesia to enter into dialogue with the FALANTIL Commander-in-Chief Xanana Gusmão with the aim of achieving a "lasting peace in Timor" by political means rather than by force of arms.

During the actual dialogue with the Ambassador the students said that they wanted:

- freedom and independence.
- the immediate withdrawal of all Indonesian troops.
- the presence of an international force in East Timor.
- the liberation of all political prisoners from 1975 to the present date.

Mr Monjo replied that :

- the USA supports the liberty of East Timor.
- he would tell the USA and the UN sincerely and completely

"what I have seen and what I have heard of your anxious requests"

- he had no power over an international force but could be an intermediary.

The sequence of events subsequent to the original demonstration and its suppression are as follows:

On the evening of January 17 the young people at the Bishop's house were visited by the Governor, Mário Carrascalão, who spoke to them in Tetum and inquired after the injured. He asked them to return to home and school. Before leaving he expressed his solidarity with the demonstrators, saying "what they did for you, they did for me".

On the following day, January 18, the head of East Timor Intelligence, Lieutenant-Colonel Gatot, visited the demonstrators in the early morning. Like Carrascalão, Gatot asked them to return home. He apologised for the events of the previous day. He said it was a failure on the part of the police and of KODIM (the district command). He promised that there would not be any persecution or imprisonments if they returned home. The young people called for the release of political prisoners and insisted that it should be announced in the media, radio, TV, papers and magazines, that there would be no more persecutions, arrests or torture. Gatot replied "Yes, it can be done, you can be confident that there will not be any more of that. I'll even swear to it. If you want to be independent, that can also be done".

There was a further demonstration on the afternoon of January 18. Bishop Belo spoke to the demonstrators in the Episcopal Square in Lecidere and then they formed a seven person commission, which included one young woman, to meet the Indonesian authorities. This commission, accompanied by the Bishop, met the Governor of the Regional Peoples Representative Council (DPRD). Also present were the police commander and the commander of the Indonesian forces stationed in East Timor (Panglima). The commission demanded independence from Indonesia and the cessation of persecutions and imprisonments. The chairman of the DPRD threatened "strong measures" against any future demonstrations.

There was a further demonstration on the following day, January 19, which dispersed after the Bishop had appealed to the young people not to have further demonstrations.

We have received copies of three letters from East Timor dated 2 February, 3 February and undated February, which give more details about the foregoing events. The latter gives the words of the various protagonists verbatim in Tetum, Bahasa Indonesia and Portuguese. (FRETILIN Newsbrief No1 March 1990; Letters from East Timor; Letter to US Ambassador)

b. Visits to East Timor by Moerdani and Prabowo:

The Indonesian Defence Minister, L B Moerdani, held a meeting at the DPRD office at Caicoli in Dili in January after the US

Ambassador's visit. A secret tape of his address to the 400 assembled, most of whom were military officials, was published by the Sunday Herald in Australia.

General Moerdani said that any future demonstrations during a visit by foreign delegations or parliamentarians would be met by the Indonesian military using "the muzzles of their guns". He informed the audience that a batallion called "Merpati Putih" is already in East Timor to destroy any anti-Indonesia movement and it is equipped with teargas and anti-terrorism weapons. "There will be no independent East Timor" he asserted. General Moerdani accused some senior officials of being "traitors" who actively supported FRETILIN guerrillas and paid student dissidents.

Colonel Prabowo, the commander of the 328th squadron was also in Dili on an informal visit to plan new military operations. (FRETILIN Newsbrief No 2 March 1990; Letter from East Timor 2 Feb. 1990; Sunday Herald 11 March 1990)

c. Resistance Military actions:

Student leaders claimed that, in February, the East Timorese Liberation Army (FALINTIL) ambushed and killed 8 Indonesian soldiers in Los Palos, 10 in Viqueque, 6 in Baucau, 4 in Same and 3 in Manatuto.

Meanwhile the Indonesian Intelligence has intensified its intelligence gathering activities and is reported to be teaching children to act as spies and offering them 25,000 rupiahs for informing on clandestine groups. (FRETILIN Newsbrief No 2 March 1990)

d. Bishop Belo's Christmas letter :

A Christmas homily from Bishop Belo was published in "Osservatore Romano" in January. The homily, it would appear, was in Bahasa Indonesia rather than Portuguese which is the customary language of Bishop Belo's letters to the faithful, and its content is more conciliatory to Indonesia than the Bishop's recent public writings. It is markedly similar to the Pope's homily during his visit to East Timor last year.

The Bishop says that "divine love calls on us to eliminate all kinds of difference between us. This mystery (of Christmas) invites us to pardon each other and forget our bitter past and unrealistic wishes; instead we must concentrate all our strength to develop our common future. (...) Let us be guided by the principle « SOLUS POPOLI, SUPREMA LEX » (...) May the love of God (...) be with us (...) so that we have the courage to avoid activities which could cause unrest, such as demonstrations, youthful revolt or distribution of illegal pamphlets" (non-official translation) (Osservatore Romano 20 Jan 1990; O\_Jornal 16 March 1990; Independente 16 March 1990)

Comment:

At the time of the Pope's visit in October last year, the problem of what language would be used by him, both in the

liturgy and in his homily, was the point on which Bishop Belo and the clergy were most firm (see the letter from the Dili Diocesan Council to the Nuncio, ETN MM 32) and they were successful in their appeals for Bahasa Indonesia not to be used. It is therefore difficult to understand the fact that no other version of the Christmas Pastoral Letter is known, either in Portuguese or Tetum, apart from the version in Bahasa Indonesia.

The Bishop would be aware that, apart from some rare exceptions, his priests would refuse to read out a letter in the language of the occupying power. He would also be aware that they would not be in accord with parts of the message which he was giving them and that writing in Bahasa he would facilitate their refusal to read it to the faithful and also hinder its translation.

We could conclude that, under pressure to write a Pastoral Letter, Bishop Belo did so in such a manner as to avoid it being read in the churches of East Timor. Who could have given the order for the letter in such a way that the Bishop could not refuse? Considering that it was published in the "Osservatore Romano" on January 20, we may suspect that the content of the letter originated from the Nuncio in Jakarta.

Bishop Belo later, on January 19, calling for an end to demonstrations, would appear, given the circumstances of the demonstrations of the preceding days outlined in ETN UC5, MM32 and MM33, to be in rather a different ambit to the statements contained in the Christmas letter.

Furthermore, Bishop Belo, from November onwards, has had a number of meetings with the Chairman of the Indonesian Bishops Conference (possibly at the insistence of the Nuncio). The result of these pressures appears to have given rise to a mounting tension between the Bishop and his clergy.

("A Paz é possivel em Timor Leste")

e. Bishop Belo addresses ABRI:

Bishop Belo is reported by the Jakarta Post as saying that the Church will fully assist the Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI). He was addressing 1,350 soldiers from two infantry battalions (who, according to the paper, are in the territory to "help development efforts conducted by local people") in Dili in March before they were sent out to take up posts in various villages. "If ABRI members don't use guns and violence against the East Timorese and take a friendly attitude towards them, then the local people will weep when they leave." (Jakarta Post 19 March 1990)

f. Bishop Belo "hurt" by lack of response:

In a telephone conversation with a journalist on March 7, Bishop Belo said that he was "hurt" by the silence on the part of the Secretary-General of the UN and also the Portuguese President, Mario Soares, since his letter to the former of February 6 last year calling for a referendum in East Timor and his subsequent letter to the Portuguese President asking for his support for this initiative.

The Bishop mentioned the presence of special troops throughout the territory who "keep us under permanent surveillance" but commented that the Indonesian authorities had publicly apologised for the violence of the police reaction on January 17 in Dili. He added that all the young people detained at the time were now at liberty "including those who took refuge here in my house"

The prelate regards these events as part of "a new method on the part of the military to win the sympathy of the people". With this objective "many of the checkpoints where we had to present our passes, have been done away with." He further added that he has been receiving correspondence and "greetings cards from friends" which had not been occurring before. He did not however appear excessively enthusiastic with "these few signs of openness", adding that "it is necessary to see how far this goodwill <of the military> reaches" (Expresso 10 March 1990)

8. January edition of "Neon Metin":

"Neon Metin", the clandestine magazine of the Timorese National Student Resistance, has reappeared with an 11 page issue after a break of 8 months since its first issue in May 1989. It is written in Portuguese with the occasional English expression although the title comes from the Tetum meaning "confidence".

In its editorial the magazine reflects on the necessity, or not, of having a political party. It concludes that a political party is merely "an instrument which the political person makes use of to attain the political objectives he has proposed for himself." Accordingly, like any other instrument, if it becomes unusable or suffers from "wear-out" (sic), the user will come to abandon it or, at the very least, link it to another instrument to make it more efficacious.

It then goes on to consider Xanana Gusmão's decision to "proclaim himself, FALINTIL and the National Student Resistance" as separate from FRETILIN and as non-party-aligned. It speaks of the confusion and heart-searching generated among Timorese activists when this decision on the part of Xanana became known. It concludes, however, by saying that Xanana is the national leader, above party boundaries and that he has the support of the students and the will of the people behind him.

The other articles, written in a style which is often both ironic and combative, are as follows:

"Letter from the Editors" - explains its non-appearance for eight months as having been caused by the "dismantling by the enemy" of a part of the editorial board in May 1989.

"The armed front" - a summing up of events in 1989 which says that, overall, the guerrilla forces had been rejuvenated and had a successful year militarily in spite of some reverses at the end of 1989.

"The politico-clandestine front - Christmas in Becora" deals with the cost of living and commercial domination by Indonesia which led to the burning of Becora market and speaks extremely disparagingly of the role of the Governor, Mario Carrascalão.

"The politic-diplomatic front - Kangaroo in Batik-skin" covers the historical links with Australia and the sense of betrayal felt by the Maubere people at present because of that country's role in the Timor Gap Treaty.

"Them and us" - an account of the various activities of the Student Resistance Movement. It mentions a student seminar held in Semarang, Central Java, on the Timor Gap Treaty which was attended by prominent Indonesians, including Professor Herman Johannes of Gadjaja Mada State University who is quoted as saying that "the treaty needs to be re-examined". It also mentions events in Bali, Jakarta and Dili which have been reported in ET MM 31 and MM 32.

"What they say about us - Tony Hall's provocation" - describes Indonesian government pique at Tony Hall's petition to the US Congress.

"What we say about ourselves - poses the question "what is a Maubere combatent?"

"Supplement - East Timor in photos" contains just one photograph; it shows FALINTIL guerrillas posing with captured arms.

g. Deaths and disappearances:

Los Palos: Miguel da Costa shot dead.

Baucau: Tomas Pinto shot dead.

Dili: Vicente Ximenes arrested in January; present whereabouts unknown. Octavio Monteiro, a clandestine FRETILIN cadre killed. About 200 people are obliged to report weekly to Indonesian command centres.

Gleno: About 1000 residents interrogated; "an atmosphere of terror" since January in this small town 60 km west of Dili. (FRETILIN Newsbrief No 2 March 1990)

h. FRETILIN Australia rejects Secretariat proposals:

The FRETILIN committees in Australia have issued a communique in which they reject the proposals for the formation of an International Secretariat (see MM 31 and 32), as being "tendentious and divisive".

i. Documents Received:

1. FRETILIN Newsbrief No 1 March 1990, Lisbon, 3p (English), ETN/241
2. FRETILIN Newsbrief No 2 March 1990, Lisbon, 3p (English), ETN/ 242

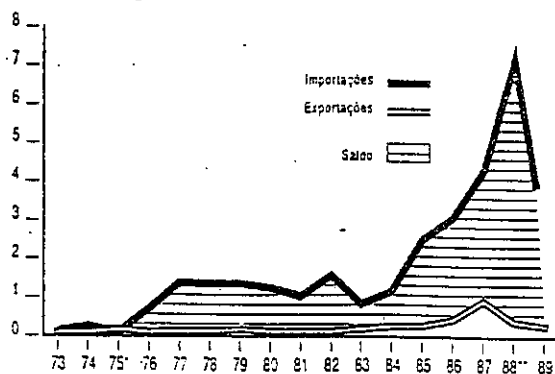
3. Letter from East Timor, (anonymous) 2 Feb. 1990, Dili, 1p (Portuguese), ETN/ 243
4. Letter from East Timor, (anonymous) 3 Feb. 1990, 2p (Portuguese), ETN/ 244
5. Letter from East Timor, (anonymous) undated Feb. 1990, 3p (Portuguese, Tetum and Bahasa Indonesia), ETN/ 245
6. Letter to the US Ambassador, Dili, 13 Jan. 1990, 3p (Portuguese), ETN/246
7. Neon Metin, N01 Jan. 1990, 11 p, ETN/247
8. Australia East Timor Consultation on East Timor, Draft minutes, Melbourne, 4 Feb. 1990, 12 p (English), ETN/248
9. "My visit to East Timor", Park Kyung Seo, World Council of Churches, 15 Nov. 1989, 2 p (English), ETN/249
10. Question to the Council of the EC by MEP Barros Moura, 9 March 1990, 1p (Portuguese). ETN/250
11. Tapol Press Communique on the protest to the Australian High Commission, London 12 March 1990, 1 p (English), ETN/251
12. Communique from FRETILIN Committees in Australia, Sidney, 27 Jan. 1990, 1 p (English), ETN/252
13. ACPE Communiqué, Paris 4 March 1990, 1 p (Portuguese), ETN/253
14. Tapol Press Communiqué, London, 1 p (English), ETN/254
15. Communiqué from FRETILIN Committees in Australia, Sidney, 27 Jan. 1990, 1 p (Portuguese), ETN/255

## 2. ADMINISTERING POWER: PORTUGAL

### a. Trade with Indonesia has increased since the invasion of East Timor:

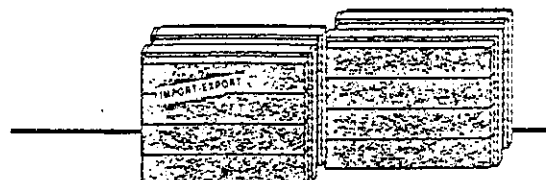
The newspaper "Público" revealed that since the invasion of East Timor in 1975 the volume of trade between Portugal and Indonesia has increased dramatically, having its greatest value in the years from 1986 to 1988 (see graph) - the period in which Portugal began to take a more aggressive political position internationally regarding Indonesia's occupation of East Timor. In fact in 1988 Portugal's imports from Indonesia exceeded the sum of its imports from all its former African colonies combined, for that year; this, in spite of the fact that Portugal cut diplomatic relations with that country in 1975 and has not resumed them to this date.

The principal imports are coffee (part of which comes from East Timor), cassava root, oil and rubber; the principal exports are products of the chemical industry, paper pulp and cork. The graph below represents the imports, exports and trade balance between Portugal and Indonesia in millions of Portuguese contos (1 conto 0 6.6 \$US) since 1975.



NEGÓCIOS DO IMPORT-EXPORT  
(em milhões de contos)

\* Invasão em 7 de Dezembro  
 \*\* Neste ano, Portugal rompeu de Indonesia  
 mais de 60 de um milhão de contos do que das ex-colônias de África.



Government representatives claim that the trade involved was not under government control because it involved private companies or was governed by Community regulations. According to the "Público" however, official figures reveal that the publicly-owned company, Petrogal, had a short-term contract for processing Indonesian oil in the 1987/88 period to the value of 1 million 452,000 contos (approximately 9.6 million \$US) and the publicly-owned chemical firm, Quimigal, exported products to Indonesia with a profit of 100,000 contos (approx. 660,000 \$US) in 1988.

The same newspaper also notes that the EEC, for its part, has been increasing annually its trade with Indonesia and since 1986 the balance of trade has been in favour of the latter. The European Commission justifies the increase on the basis of a trade agreement signed in 1980 between the EEC countries and ASEAN, the politico-military bloc in which the Suharto regime has a high profile. (Público 16 March 1990)

b. Negotiations on visit by Portuguese parliamentarians continue:

In the latest round of talks on March 20, between Portuguese and Indonesian representatives in New York, under the aegis of UN Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar, it has been agreed that the visit will take place in the first fortnight in September. Jakarta claimed that the earlier date in August requested by Portugal was unacceptable because of the celebration on August 17 of Indonesia's national day, but the "Diário de Notícias" quotes "independent" UN diplomatic sources in New York as believing that Indonesia is using delaying tactics and "playing for time" and the "Público" quotes sources commenting that "Indonesia has been adopting "a very rigid negotiating position".

It has now been agreed that neither the Portuguese parliamentarians nor the seven Portuguese journalists and three camera operators will be required to have entry visas but Indonesia still insists that the six foreign journalists chosen by Portugal will need visas. The visit is expected to last between 10 and 12 days and the Portuguese Foreign Minister has said that Indonesia has guaranteed freedom of circulation and contact within the territory. Portugal has drawn up a list of 13 locations to be visited in Timor which include Dili, Aileu, Uato-Sari, Viqueque, Venilale, Lospalos, Tutuala and Betano. Negotiations continue as to whether the Portuguese delegation will meet with the Indonesian President in Jakarta.

Portugal is drawing up a list of Timorese whom the delegation would wish to meet and it is known that this list is headed by Xanana Gusmão. This list is to be delivered to the UN and the International Red Cross.

The next round of talks has been programmed for May 7. (Diário de Notícias 27 March 1990; Público 16 March 1990)

Freitas do Amaral and Adriano Moreira, leaders of one of Portugal's minority parliamentary groups, the CDS (christian



democrats), have said they are against the parliamentary visit. They maintain that the visit would be manipulated by Indonesia to its advantage and would not help Timor. (Diário de Notícias 17 March 1990; RTP National TV News 20 March 1990)

José Ramos-Horta, interviewed by the "Diário de Notícias", called for an immediate cease-fire in East Timor, superintended by a UN mission and the International Red Cross. He said that Indonesia was negotiating with Portugal in New York while at the same time intensifying its military activity in the territory with a view to capturing Xanana Gusmão before any Portuguese visit takes place. It has committed 20,000 soldiers, including 10,000 special commandos, to achieving a military victory. (Diário de Notícias 21 March 1990)

Meanwhile, it is reported that the UN is preparing proposals for a possible UN visit to the territory at the discretion of the Secretary-General and that firm proposals will be ready to present to the participants in the next round of Luso-Indonesian talks in May. (Diário de Notícias 27 March 1990)

c. Parliamentary prize fund set up for work on East Timor:

The National Timor prize has been initiated, with funding from the Oriental Foundation, to reward investigative work on the identity, history, international situation or future prospects of East Timor. The first prize will be 600 contos (approx. 4,000 \$US). (Diário de Lisboa 26 March 1990)

d. Portuguese communities support Timorese people:

The Assembly of Portuguese Communities in Europe (ACPE) in its meeting on the 3rd and 4th of March in Paris voted unanimously to support the Timorese people and all organizations which fight for the rights of the people of East Timor. The meeting was attended by 16 council members, representing communities in 7 European countries. (ACPE Communiqué March 1990).

### 3 INTERNATIONAL

a. Papal Nuncio refuses to take 1025 letters for Bishop Belo:

Msgr. Luciano Angeloni, Papal Nuncio in Lisbon, refused to accept, on the part of the Holy See, 1025 letters of support and sympathy for Bishop Belo in Dili. The letters had been collected by "A Paz é possível em Timor-Lest" and delivered to him by the Portuguese section of Pax Christi. The Nuncio said that to deliver the letters could be interpreted as "a public and political gesture" but that he would accept one letter to take to the Vatican which could later be conveyed to Timor via diplomatic channels. (Publico 15 March 1990; O Jornal 16 March)

b. EEC/PCA meeting defers debate on Timor:

At the meeting of parliamentarians in the Assembly of EEC/ACP countries in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, a motion concerning Timor, which had been proposed by 4 Portuguese MEPs, was deferred for debate at the next meeting of the Assembly in Rome in September. According to Torres Couto, one of the proposers of the motion, this was because of pressures brought to bear on the host government by Indonesia and Australia. Likewise another motion on the territory which had been proposed by a Dutch representative.

c. Australia - East Timor Consultation:

We have now received the draft minutes of the East Timor Consultation meeting hosted by the Australia East Timor Association in Melbourne on February 4 which we mentioned in MM 32 as having been addressed, among others, by the Portuguese Ambassador and José Ramos-Horta.

The proposed plan of activities for 1990 was as follows:

1. Spotlight on Decolonisation:

Key dates and campaigns

1. UN Decolonisation Committee, August 1990, New York: Australian Representation: Peter Philp(CISET), MP (PET).
2. Dec. 1990 15th anniversary of Indonesian invasion. Canberra gathering and action.
3. Decolonisation meets in Vanuatu, probably in May.
4. Timor: to UN NY - April/May
5. Weapons

2. Timor Gap Treaty

Key Date

Autumn session of parliament when Treaty is to be ratified.

Actions

1. Seminars on Treaty
2. Letter and circulation of document (ACFOA briefing in preparation) to members of PET particularly.
3. Activities directed to Australian missions overseas.
4. Letters to Portuguese Government.
5. BHP sharehold action at AGM of BHP.
6. Ads in press.

3. Human Rights abuses:

Key dates:

1. UN Commission on Human Rights, Feb - March, Geneva.
2. UN Sub-Commission, August.

Actions:

1. Publishing abuses in the media.
2. Letters of concern to the Australian Government.
3. Representatives CHR; Andrew McMillan currently attending.
4. Presence in Dec. 10 (Human Rights Day) activities.

4. Church:

Actions:

1. Approaches to Australian Bishops to dialogue with Bishop Belo re ways of support.
2. Continued reports in Church media.
3. Other expressions of support for Church in East Timor.

5. Development of Educational Resources

Actions include a photo exhibition, cultural performances, production of audio-visual material, theatre, youth campaigns, one-off publications which will include a publication "Xanana Gusmão: the man and his mission" and a poll of Australian opinion.

d. Australia - East Timor Foundation established:

A group of Australian politicians and intellectuals have established a foundation to increase public awareness about East Timor.

After the Australian elections on March 24 the Foundation hopes to publish an open letter in the principal Australian newspapers on April 18, entitled "Will Australia benefit from the Timorese holocaust?". (Público 14 March 1990)

e. Support groups meet in London:

The meeting took place on March 10 and 11 in London. See appendix for the press release which followed.

On March 12 a delegation visited the Australian High Commission in London to protest at that country's part in the Timor Gap Treaty. They were received by the Political Councillor, Peter Zoller who stated that although Australia had "been unhappy" with the manner of the incorporation of East Timor in 1975, that had decided to "accept reality" and could thus continue to dialogue with Indonesia "over issues that concern us such as human rights". (Tapol Press Communiqué 12 March)

f. Questions to the European Parliament:

The Portuguese MEP Barros Mouro speaking in Strassbourg drew attention to the fact that although the Parliament condemned Indonesia's human rights record it still supports the country financially. "The perfect symbol of opprobrium has been the the loan of 18.9 million ecus which the EEC made to Indonesia, 4 days after the recent executions". (Diário de Notícias 16 March 1990)

The same MEP put a question to the European Council on March 9 asking for information on the follow-up to the resolutions on East Timor passed by various meetings of the ACP/EEC Assembly.

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**East Timor News** is a service which publishes information in three forms - the Monthly Memo (MM) and the occasional publications, Subject Memo (SM) and Urgent Communiqué (UC). It can also make available, on request, copies of all documents mentioned in these publications.

It is produced by two Portuguese NGOs, CDFM (The Commission for the Rights of the Maubere People) and "Peace is possible in East Timor".

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APPENDIX

# PRESS RELEASE

Representatives of East Timor solidarity groups from the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Portugal, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom held their Tenth Consultation in London on 10 and 11 March 1990. The Consultation invited the leaders of the East Timor National Convergence, Abilio Araujo of Fretilin and Paulo Pires of UDT. The meeting was also attended by representatives from solidarity groups in Japan and Australia.

The leaders of the East Timor National Convergence presented a detailed account of the re-organisation of the national resistance inside East Timor and the Peace Plan formulated by Xanana Gusmao, leader of the East Timor National Resistance. The Consultation once again stated their support for the right of selfdetermination of the East Timorese people. Efforts and political initiatives to pursue this fundamental right were wellcomed, if the full participation of East Timorese representatives is guaranteed. The Consultation also decided to write a letter of support to Mgr. Belo, Apostolic Administrator of Dili, who advocated under difficult circumstances, the idea of a referendum. The meeting expressed once again admiration towards the courage of the Bishop.

The meeting discussed recent events in East Timor where there has been an upsurge of resistance in the cities particularly among the youth. The meeting listened to an eyewitness account of an Australian visitor of a peaceful demonstration during the visit of the US ambassador to Dili. This demonstration was violently repressed by the Indonesian police forces.

The discussion took place in an atmosphere of optimism based on profound changes in many countries of the world and took note of the encouraging signs of democratic opposition in Indonesia.

The meeting emphasized the political importance of the newly established Parliamentarians for East Timor. It welcomed the growth of PET which now has more than two hundred members from ten countries in all parts of the world and discussed ways of intensifying solidarity work among parliamentarians. It condemned the Timor Gap Treaty signed last December between Indonesia and Australia which involves the division of property stolen from the people of East Timor between the two signatory countries and welcomed the PET's decision to undertake an investigation of this illegal Treaty. The Consultation are urging the Portugese Government to file a complaint about the illegality of the Treaty at the International Court of Justice .

It discussed the work of solidarity groups at the UN Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of

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Discrimination and Protect of Minorities and agreed to step up activities to lobby in support of the resolution on human rights in East Timor adopted last August by the Sub-Commission. The meeting also discussed mutual efforts to organise a hearing on East Timor within the European Parliament and a general Plan of activities was discussed and endorsed by the meeting.

It was decided that on Monday 12 March 1990 a delegation will register a protest to the Australian High Commissioner, whose Government is one of the signatories of the Timor Gap Treaty. The Consultation wellcomed that on 13 March the two representatives of the East Timorese National Convergence are invited by the Portugese Embassy to meet British MPs and Euro MPs who have visited the country, and other public figures who have shown concern with East Timor from an academic, human rights or journalistic viewpoint.

The meeting also adopted an appeal addressed to President Suharto of Indonesia not to carry out the execution of six political prisoners. The Consultation wellcomed a similar appeal which had been made by the Twelve EC Countries through the Italian Ambassador in Jakarta.

London 11 March 1990