

# East Timor

monthly memo  
news

R. Pinheiro Chagas, 77 - 2º E 1000 Lisboa Portugal  
☎ (01) 57 47 18 / 54 13 08 Telex 64 062 CIDAC P

NOV 07 1990

Ref MM39  
20 Oct 1990

## MONTHLY MEMO Nº 9

(Information received in September 1990)

### 1. EAST TIMOR

#### a. Demonstration during Anniversary Mass:

Banners and posters calling for independence for East Timor were raised during an open-air mass at Lecidere, Dili, on September 4, held to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of Dili diocese. The mass was attended by about 20,000 many of whom joined in the demonstration, shouting "Viva Xanana Gusmão" and "Viva a FRETILIN". The mass was being concelebrated by the Papal Nuncio to Jakarta Msgr. Canallini and Bishop Belo, assisted by clergy from 24 Timorese parishes and was attended by the Governor Mário Carrascalão.

An eye-witness who telephoned Lisbon immediately after the event said that Bishop Belo spoke to the demonstrators appealing for calm and saying that he felt ashamed at what was taking place and that if the protests continued "we cannot guarantee peoples' safety and so the cause is lost".

The people then dispersed, many leaving in large groups, carrying sticks and stones and singing the FRETILIN anthem. It is reported that Governor Carrascalão intervened to prevent the Indonesian security from responding violently.

The capital was said to be very tense immediately after the demonstration and a number of detentions were reported during the days that followed. These were said to include Aleixo Gama (21) a student at St José school, Vicente Amaral (19) also a student and Evaristo Menezes, from Viqueque. Governor Carrascalão, however denied that there had been any detentions, saying "there weren't any and it is a pity because acts of thuggery were committed" (Público 5 Sep 1990; Diário de Notícias 5 Sep 1990; O Português na Australia 12 Sep 1990)

#### b. Tensions between the Timorese priests and their bishop:

The indigenous clergy in East Timor produced a document last May entitled "Reflections of the indigenous priests" which reached Lisbon in September. The document contains some outspoken criticism of developments in the diocese and of Bishop Belo. Of the 22 Timorese clergy present in East Timor (a further 15 are in exile), 16 signed the document - the

Vicar-General and the Chancellor of the diocese abstained because they, with the Bishop, form the Diocesan Curia and a further 4 either were not contacted or did not wish to sign.

The writers say that they are writing with the intention that their "reflections" would be read by the Pope but that because of the nature of some of their observations, they fear it will not reach his hands.

They begin by recalling the previous apostolic administrator Msgr. da Costa Lopes who "as a reward for his courage was forced to resign and leave his country". The selection of Ximenes Belo, the only Timorese member of the Salesian order and who at the time was only 35 years old and had been a priest for only three years was "a clear political choice, either on the part of the Indonesian government or the Vatican".

The priests then go on to criticise in detail Bishop Belo's tenure as bishop. According to them, the bishop does not delegate responsibilities, the diocesan organizational structures are over-centralised and do not function satisfactorily. They also claim that he has not been diligent in upholding the use of Tetum, the official language of the diocese, in the liturgy; that control of the seminary has passed from Portuguese to Indonesian Jesuits and that likewise the Catholic schools have come under the control of "newcomers" and school standards have fallen to a very low level.

In the socio-political area they complain of contradictions and inconsistencies in the positions adopted by the bishop which make him appear "more a man manoeuvred by the government or by the Salesian order than a man of the Church."

The Timorese priests also have strong criticisms to make of the missionaries coming from outside, both Indonesian and others. They say these often arrive with "airs of superiority", use Indonesian rather than Tetum in the liturgy and are known by the people as the "bapak" fathers (this being an Indonesian word which in its original sense denotes respect for the person addressed but which has come to have a pejorative meaning in East Timor) (Diário de Notícias and O Jornal 28 Sep 1990)

c. Bishop Belo visits Rome:

On September 12 Bishop Belo visited Rome and met with the Pope for the obligatory 5 year "ad limina" visit (although it was not listed as such by Observatore Romano as is the norm). His audience with the Pontiff is reported to have lasted about 20 minutes which "O Jornal" commented was "manifestly brief for the head of one of the more troubled dioceses and one which by special canonical decree has the Pope as its bishop."

The bishop later visited Portugal where he had previously lived for eight years as a student. It is reported that he travelled from Rome to Portugal on a Portuguese passport specially issued to him at the Portuguese embassy in Rome. He had an audience with the Patriarch of Lisbon, Cardinal António

Ribeiro where he is believed to have asked for more Portuguese priests for his diocese.

In an interview with the "Público" he said that he thought the Pope was "au fait with events" in East Timor and had said that "the crisis appeared to him to be a difficult one to resolve and that he prays for East Timor every day".

Bishop Belo made it clear before the press interviews that he wished to speak only about ecclesiastical affairs and not politics. Indeed in a telephone interview on Antena 1 Radio he said that he visited Portugal less often than he would like because "the Portuguese media do nothing but talk about FRETILIN and the Left".

Referring to the "Reflections" document he told the "Expresso" that "it wasn't known about back home, it's only here on the outside that it has generated discussion" He added that all of the priests had come to say goodbye when he was leaving to go to Rome.

When asked about threats and pressures he replied "There are always pressures. They send me letters, send me messengers". Regarding the possibility of being transferred he said "As a priest, I work in any part of the world".

Asked whether he was still in favour of a referendum on self-determination he replied carefully "I support any response which upholds the rights of the people" (O Jornal 28 Sep 1990; Público 26 Sep 1990; Expresso 28 Sep 1990)

d. Death of US journalist denied:

On September 1 the North American state department denied reports coming from FRETILIN sources in Darwin that a US journalist had been killed by Indonesian soldiers, and his travelling companion seriously injured, while photographing military installations in Same region in the south of Timor. The journalist, Allen Nairn, was said to be on an assignment for New Yorker magazine.

To date, it has not been possible to ascertain what happened. Sources in Dili contacted by the Portuguese press denied any knowledge of such an event and the US embassy in Jakarta said that the journalist had returned alive to Jakarta from East Timor. On the other hand Portuguese diplomatic sources in Washington reported that "something serious" had taken place during the journalist's visit to the territory. (Público 23 Sep 1990)

e. Reconciliation between Ramos-Horta and FRETILIN:

After meetings in Lisbon on Sep 17 and 19 between Abílio Araújo, head of the FRETILIN External Delegation (DEF), and José Ramos-Horta, former FRETILIN UN representative who resigned last year, it was announced that there is to be a restructuring within FRETILIN.

Abílio Araújo revealed that the CNRM (National Maubere Resistance Council), meeting in the mountains in East Timor last May, had called for a restructuring of the movement and a

broadening of its consultative base. "In future, in line with new orientations coming from the Armed Struggle Leadership in the mountains of Timor, the leaders of FRETILIN in the exterior are to be elected by the activists and members in the exterior and not the movement members within the territory, as formerly occurred."

The DEF leader said that "seeing as these orientations coming from the Armed Struggle Leadership endorsed the proposals which had originally been put forward by Ramos-Horta" in terms of bringing about "a greater openness and dynamization" of the movement, he "considered it very important that the latter participate in the restructuring process."

Ramos-Horta, for his part, said that he "considered the present DEF leadership entirely legitimate, namely for the launching and organization of the restructuring process."

The two leaders said that a wide-ranging debate would be promoted within the movement to achieve a real national unity by harnessing all available strength and goodwill. In parallel with this a census of all FRETILIN activists would be carried out in the period up to the end of this year.

In the wake of these changes, which would also obviously effect the Nationalist Convergence the two leaders suggested that the International Resistance Secretariat (SIR), which had been initiated by Ramos-Horta, could "be of service not only to FRETILIN and the UDT but also to all Timorese Resistance."

Referring to the present crisis within the UDT (see 1f below) they characterized it as stemming from "growing pains" and expressed their hopes that the organization would emerge renewed and ready to invigorate the Nationalist Convergence. They stated their willingness to participate constructively in any activity considered useful by the UDT, "to help put behind it this present phase".

The two leaders further announced that they considered it very important to have an International Conference on East Timor in Australia next year.

Also present at the meeting was Prof Barbedo de Magalhães, who is the organizer of the Oporto seminars on East Timor and a member of "Peace and Justice for East Timor" group. (ETN/307)

f. Rift within UDT leadership:

João Carrascalão, the UDT Vice-President and Domingos de Oliveira, Secretary-General, who are both normally based in Australia visited Lisbon in August for 10 days and held "intense consultations" with UDT supporters. They then, in a document dated August 28, declared that the Portuguese-based UDT leadership structure had been dissolved on the instructions of the Central Committee (which is also Australia-based) and that in the future all matters pertaining to the UDT should be referred directly to that body.

The document said that the leadership structure in Portugal was founded on statutes set out in 1979 but which had never

been formally accepted by the Central Committee and that the leaders' actions had been "divisionist".

Paulo Pires and Vicente Guterres of the UDT Political Commission in Portugal declared themselves "perplexed" by this development. They repudiated the charges levelled against them and said they would not accept the dissolution. (Público 31 Aug and 7 Sep 1990)

When later interviewed in Sydney, Carrascalão continued to uphold the position he had taken in Lisbon. He also denied earlier reports that he had spoken out against the existence of the Nationalist Convergence. (Público 26 Sep 1990)

g. Social conditions within East Timor:

- 362 students of two privately-owned high schools (SMA) in Dili have quit and asked to be enrolled in state schools. It is believed that the students have difficulty in paying the fees at the private schools. The state schools are said to be of lower quality and to suffer from overcrowding. Last year between 3,000 and 4,000 students who graduated from junior high school in the territory were unable to be offered senior high school places. (Jakarta Post 13 August 1990)

- A crowd of 30,000 soccer fans turned out in Dili to watch the visiting Darwin team play the local side. It has also been announced that a 5 member "top Brazilian coaching staff" has come to Dili as part of a five-year governmental project to improve the standard of the local football game. (Darwin Sunday Territorian 19 and 26 Aug 1990)

h. Documents received:

1. Notes on the meeting between Dr Abílio Araújo and Dr José Ramos-Horta, Lisbon 19 Sep 1990, 3p (Portuguese); ETN/307
2. Address by the Prime Minister of Portugal to the 45th session of the UN General Assembly, 26 Sep 1990, 16p (English); ETN/308
3. Reply by the Indonesian Ambassador to the UN, 27 Sep 1990, 3p (English); ETN/309
4. Progress Report by the UN Secretary-General on the Question of Timor, 45th session of the UN General Assembly, 1p (English); ETN/10
5. Memo from the Mission of Portugal-UN on the EEC Presidential Address to the 45th session of the UN General Assembly, 1p (Portuguese); ETN/311
6. Resolution to the ACP-EEC Joint Assembly, 26 Sep 1990, 2p (English); ETN/312
7. "East Timor: the show goes on", João Boavida, Sep 1990, 6p (English); ETN/313
8. "Treading carefully in East Timor - an account of a visit", Kirsty Sword, 3p (English); ETN/314
9. Letter from Xanana Gusmão to Timorese Students, undated, 5p (Portuguese); ETN/315
10. Letter from Fr Carbonell and Fr Locatelli, of Don Bosco School Fatumaca, to the Indonesian authorities, Oct 15 1989, 2p (English); ETN/316
11. Report by Col. Purwanto, Koopskam Commander, Dili 24 March 1990, 7p (Bahasa Indonesia); ETN/317

2. ADMINISTERING POWER: PORTUGALa. UN Mission to East Timor this year:

The Portuguese Prime Minister, Cavaco Silva, announced on September 26 that, following talks at the UN under the auspices of the Secretary-General, it had been agreed that an "exploratory" mission would visit East Timor before the end of the year. The mission is to be under UN leadership but will contain both Portuguese and Indonesian members. It is not seen as a substitute for the long-discussed Portuguese parliamentary mission but rather a technical visit to prepare for it.

The Diário de Notícias comments that this new initiative arose as a formula to resolve the impasse in the negotiations surrounding the visit of the Portuguese parliamentary mission and to "pacify the Timorese population who were awaiting (it) with great expectation". The paper further notes that the formula also stipulates the postponement until 1991 of a debate on the East Timor question "at a moment when the international community is showing itself increasingly more concerned by what is happening in Dili". (Diário de Notícias 26 Sep 1990)

b. Cavaco Silva UN address:

The Portuguese Prime Minister in his address to the 45th session of the UN General Assembly drew attention to the parallels between the situations in Kuwait and East Timor and to the dangers of the use of a "double standard" in such situations. The pertinent section of his address is included in the appendix along with the Secretary-General's progress report. (ETN/308; ETN/310)

The Indonesian representatives did not exercise their right of reply but did reply in writing. They claim that the Portuguese statements were designed to "keep alive a non-issue" and that any attempts to draw an analogy with Kuwait were unfounded because, whereas Kuwait was an independent state when invaded, East Timor was "a non-self-governing state in the process of decolonization, a process (...) utterly mishandled by the erstwhile colonial power, Portugal." (ETN/309)

See also section 3a below.

c. Cavaco Silva visits Japan:

The Portuguese PM visited Japan on September 19 for talks on "bilateral relations" with the Japanese PM, Toshiki Kaifu.

A letter from the Free East Timor Japan Coalition welcoming Cavaco Silva and urging Portugal to challenge the Timor Gap Agreement at the International Court of Justice, received considerable coverage in the Portuguese press. Likewise the issue of Timor was raised in the Japanese press during the visit.

Mr Silva said that he had explained the Portuguese position on the Timor question "in a careful way" in his audience with Mr Kaifu (Japan is a major investor in Indonesia and has strong commercial and economic links with that country). The Portuguese press reports indicate that the Japanese PM had indicated he would support the UN Secretary-General's efforts on the East Timor question and that Kaifu's office had, for the first time, made an explicit reference to the issue in a memorandum.

Mr Silva also told the Portuguese press that he would have liked to have talked to the pro-Timor lobbies in Japan but that none had contacted him. (Público 19, 20 Sep 1990; Diário de Notícias 19, 20 Sep 1990)

d. Reaction to Ahmed's comments:

Opposition MPs in the Portuguese parliament called for Portugal to adopt a "tougher position" in the wake of the press coverage of the comments by UN Under-Secretary-General Raffeudin Ahmed (see ET MM 38) comparing East Timor with Macau.

In New York both Mr Ahmed's office and the Asian Affairs UN Subcommittee declined to comment to the press on the subject but Sidney Jones of Asia Watch, in an interview with the "Público" said Mr Ahmed had expressed the same opinion in private conversations. "This is Ahmed's opinion, but it is important to make clear that not all at the UN are of the same opinion" she stressed. She further added that, in her opinion, there was not the slightest possibility that Timor would be debated in the General Assembly of the UN and that, even if it were, the possibility of Indonesia winning were considerable. (Público 6, 13 Sep 1990)

3. INTERNATIONAL

a. "The twelve" harden the EEC position on Timor at the UN:

Portuguese diplomatic circles were claiming a diplomatic advance because of a significant hardening of the tone of the references to East Timor in the address by the Italian Foreign Minister speaking on behalf of the twelve EEC countries at the 45th session of the UN General Assembly. In the relevant section quoted below, those phrases which did not appear last year are underlined.

"The twelve have followed closely the developments in East Timor, including the human rights situation. the European Community and its member states reiterate their support for the contacts being held between Portugal and Indonesia under the auspices of the Secretary-General. They express the hope

that a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable settlement may soon be achieved, in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter thus fully respecting the legitimate interests of the East-Timorese.

The wording of the final phrase is particularly noteworthy in that it acknowledges the separate identity of the East Timorese as a group with legitimate interests whereas last year's statement merely referred to "the interests of East Timor's population". (ETN/311)

b. EEC-ACP Assembly takes first step towards recognition of East Timor?:

The EEC-ACP assembly meeting in Luxemburg on September 27 approved a motion which aims to prepare a report on East Timor with particular respect to the legal aspects of the territory eventually joining the countries which are signatories of the Lomé Convention. The motion, see appendix, was passed by a large majority (with seven abstentions and one vote against). It will be remembered that a motion on East Timor was withdrawn from the agenda at the last meeting of the assembly in Papua New Guinea, allegedly because of Australian and Indonesian pressure. (See ET MM 33 and 34)

It is noteworthy that the motion recognises explicitly the right of the people of East Timor to self-determination and accepts the Nationalist Convergence as their representative. This is the first time that this assembly, which is attended by representatives of the 69 African, Pacific and Caribbean countries which are signatories of the Lomé Convention, as well as MEPS from the EEC countries, has mentioned the Convergence in its official documents. (Diário de Notícias 28 Sep 1989)

c. Council of Europe decides to prepare report on East Timor:

When the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe met in Warsaw in the third week of September it accepted a motion put forward by the Portuguese MEP Carlos Candal regarding the violation of human rights in East Timor. It also decided that it should prepare a report on the subject and that this would be under the responsibility of the French senator Robert Pontillon.

The motion was supported by MEPS and senators of various ideological persuasions but opposed by the Dutch representative Peter Stoffelen. (Público 20 Sep 1990)

---

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, CDPM (The Commission for the Rights of the Maubere People) and "Peace is possible in East Timor".

The annual subscription is 100\$US.

The text in East Timor News may be freely quoted but in the event of the quotation of a significant portion of its contents, ETN should be credited.

Address all correspondence to East Timor News, R Pinheiro Chagas 77 2<sup>a</sup> E, 1000 Lisboa, Portugal; Tel. Lisbon (1) 574718 / 541308; Telex 64 062 CIDAC P.

---

APPENDIX

Address by Portuguese Prime Minister, Cavaco Silva to the UN General Assembly, September 26 1990 :

Mr. President,

The fundamental rights and liberties of the peoples must not be handled in a selective or discretionary way. The use of double standards in the application of essential principles can lead to inconsistent action and to tolerance of potential violators, and constitutes a threat to international peace and security. The international community cannot endorse conquest by force or territorial gains won by blatant military invasion, with the intent of imposing a policy of "fait accompli".

In the case of the invasion and occupation of East-Timor, non compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, combined with accommodation to a de-facto situation, has set a grave international precedent, unfortunately a precedent given further credence by the invasion and annexation of Kuwait.

Portugal has systematically called the attention of the international community to the need for respect of the rights of the East Timorese people, as well as of their cultural and religious identity. We act in accordance with the responsibility incumbent upon us, recognized by the United Nations, in conformity with its Charter and pertinent principles and resolutions. It is for my country a moral, historic and constitutional imperative - based on the unanimous consensus of all our political parties - to defend, by all legitimate means, the rights of the people of East Timor, particularly the right to self-determination and to its identity as a people. One cannot expect that Portugal cease to strongly denounce the systematic violations of human rights and fundamental liberties of the Timorese, which continue to occur, as reported by unbiased and reliable sources.

Portugal has been completely open to dialogue and to the search for a negotiated solution with all the parties directly involved, in accordance with UN Resolution 37/30, adopted by this Assembly. We have cooperated closely with the Secretary-General in his mediation efforts to achieve that goal. I would like to reiterate, unequivocally, our willingness to pursue that cooperation, in order to achieve an internationally acceptable, just and comprehensive solution. Only this could bring real peace to the martyred people of East Timor and allow them to voice their concerns; otherwise their legitimate rights are not respected.

**ACP - EEC JOINT ASSEMBLY**

26 September 1990

Doc. ACP-EEC 261/90

**COMPROMISE RESOLUTION**

by Mrs BELO, Mr TELEKAMPER, Mrs AULAS, Mr MELANDRI, Mr TARADASH,  
Mrs Van PUTTEN, Mr BARROS MOURA, Mrs NAPOLETANO, Mr GUTIERREZ DIAZ  
Mr MENDES BOTA, Mr BERTENS

on the situation in East Timor replacing  
resolutions 94, 106, 116 and 140

The ACP-EEC Joint Assembly,

- meeting in Luxembourg from 24 to 28 September 1990,
- A. reaffirming the position adopted in its previous resolutions on the situation in East Timor and that adopted by the United Nations Security Council, General Assembly, and the European Parliament,
- B. having regard to the letter of the apostolic administrator of East Timor, Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo to the Secretary General of the UN, Peres de Cuellar on 6 February 1989, calling for a referendum in East Timor and stating 'we are dying as a nation and a people',
- C. whereas East Timor is still occupied by Indonesia since 1975, in breach of international law, and is still subjected to violations of human rights, to the suppression of free expression, the right to self-determination and, cultural identity be it linguistic or religious,
- D. having regard to the repeated reports from Amnesty International and other humanitarian organizations on serious violations of human rights in past years and the continued 'disappearance', torture and detention during peaceful demonstrations of political opponents of the Indonesian authorities,
- E. having regard to the reports of violent breaking up of peaceful demonstrations, some of which are as recent as October 1989 at the end of the Pope's visit and on 16 January 1990 when at least 100 East Timor people demonstrated in front of the Hotel Turismo in Dili,
- F. having regard to the recent agreement between Indonesia and Australia to share the exploitation of oil resources of the seas around Timor,
- G. whereas the Community, under the treaties, has relations with the ASEAN countries, of which Indonesia is a member;
- H. whereas, owing to presumptuous diplomatic representations by the Indonesian Government, this motion for a resolution was not put to the vote at the previous ACP-EEC meeting in Port Moresby,

1. Condemns the continued unjustified occupation of East Timor and abuses of human rights and calls for recognition by all States of the right to self-determination, cultural autonomy, freedom to use own natural resources and independence of the people of East Timor;
2. Calls for the opening up of a full-scale and independent judicial inquiry forthwith into reports of arbitrary arrest and mistreatment of peaceful demonstrators with a view to finding a long-term solution to the conflict which has now lasted 15 years and a clear code of conduct for the police and security force particularly as regards peaceful demonstration;
3. Demands the unconditional release of those arrested before and since 1981 for opposing the Indonesian occupations, a halt to summary executions, free access and free movement for international observers and human rights organizations to examine, freely, conditions in the country and to investigate reports of human rights violations;
4. Calls on the UN Secretary General, in his effort to find a solution, to consult not only with Portugal and Indonesia, but also with the representative of the people of East Timor;
5. Calls on the Indonesian Government to authorize international observers and humanitarian organizations to enter the region of East Timor so that the application of the international provisions on human rights can be monitored;
6. Condemns the agreement between Indonesia and Australia to divide up the exploitation of the oil resources of East Timor;
7. Calls on the members of the Joint Assembly to urge their Governments and other Community and ACP-EEC institutions to bring pressure to bear on Indonesia;
8. Proposes to the Bureau of the Joint Assembly that an ad hoc Group be set up to draw up a report on the situation in East Timor with the view to making a positive contribution to resolving the conflict in East Timor;
9. Also proposes that this report looks into the legal aspects of a possible accession by East Timor to the Group of ACP States given her right to self-determination;
10. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers, the Commission, the Governments of Australia, Indonesia and Portugal and to the Convergencia Nacionalista of Timor.



## General Assembly

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/45/507  
17 September 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

Forty-fifth session  
Item 119 of the provisional agenda\*

### QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR

#### Progress report of the Secretary-General

1. In my last progress report (A/44/524), dated 14 September 1989, I recalled that, within the context of my efforts to facilitate a comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the question of East Timor, Indonesia and Portugal had agreed in principle that a delegation from the Portuguese Parliament would undertake a visit to the territory in order to obtain first-hand information. I further reported that the two sides were considering the terms of reference and modalities of such a visit.
2. Since then, there have been seven rounds of the substantive talks between Indonesia and Portugal under my auspices. These talks are continuing in a constructive and serious manner, and I am encouraged by the considerable progress that has been made so far. I have reassured the two sides that I will make every effort to assist them in the realization of the proposed visit, for it is my belief that this visit could help to create an atmosphere conducive to achieving a comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution.
3. During the year, I and Under-Secretary-General Rafeeuddin Ahmed, who has been assisting me in these endeavours, have continued our consultations with the two Governments. Discussions were held with the Portuguese President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and with the Indonesian President and Foreign Minister, as well as with other Indonesian Ministers. In July, I also addressed personal messages to the Presidents of Indonesia and Portugal. Both countries have given me assurances of their continued commitment to achieving a comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the question. I therefore hope that it will prove possible through continued consultation and negotiation to attain that goal.

-----

---

\* A/45/150 and Corr.1.

# AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR OVERSEAS AID

(INCORPORATED IN THE ACT)

## ACFOA HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE

124 Napier St. Fitzroy, 3085

Australia. Tel: (03) 417-7505

Fax (03) 416 2746

DATE: 22 October 1990

### Re reports of recent conflict in Dili, East Timor

Sources in Indonesia have reported a series of clashes in Dili during the last two weeks involving mainly East Timorese youth and the Indonesian police and military. The sources concur on some aspects and differ on others. Further detail and confirmation is being sought.

1. On October 8, students at a government high school in Dili (possibly Fatu Hada) hooted and jeered a Javanese public servant who came to talk on Pancasila. The official left, deeply offended, and reported the incident to the authorities who sent in dozens of armed military and police who occupied the school for three days and interrogated and beat students. The students complained to Governor Carrascalao about the over-reaction of the military and the attitude of the Indonesian lecturer. The Governor reportedly agreed with the students.
2. A few days later, 'subversive' literature was allegedly found at another secondary school. The military interrogated students, beating some with rifle butts. The school was closed for the week. The school was possibly the Catholic school in Bairro Central, Dili.
3. Another account states that tearing up or burning of an Indonesian flag led to the security intervention referred to above.
4. During the same period, Dili was subject to increased security sparked by the theft of a firearm. Searches, random detentions and beatings ensued involving police, soldiers and masked men (who, according to Governor Carrascalao are Apodeti collaborating with the military). Another account claims that two weapons were seized by Timorese youth during clashes with the security on 15 and 17 October.
5. Four parts of Dili were reportedly declared 'red zones' (no go areas): Taibesse, Bemori, Santa Cruz, Haudian. In addition, the area in the close vicinity of Hotel Turismo was cordoned off reportedly to prevent Timorese youth gaining access to visiting diplomats who included Dutch, British, French, Malaysian and German officials.
6. One source claims 4 Timorese youth were killed: Balapo, Joao Lay, David da Conceicao, Tomas Aquino. Another: six, adding the names Carlos and Sergio Fontura, and that two Indonesian soldiers were shot, accidentally, by their own comrades. Yet another source, which is aware of the reports of deaths, has not been able to obtain reliable confirmation. However, all sources concur that there have been injuries (e.g. one Indonesian soldier is in a serious condition in hospital after being beaten by youth, while a Timorese youth is hospitalised following a beating by Indonesian military) and that

FIRST FLOOR, BAILEY'S CORNER, EAST ROW, CANBERRA CITY - GPO BOX 1567, CANBERRA ACT 2601

TELEPHONE (06) 247 4822, FAX (06) 247 5536

Chairperson: Neville Ross Executive Director: Russell Rollason

ACFOA is the coordinating body for some 90 Australian non government organisations working in the field of overseas aid and development.

Printed on 100% recycled paper

2.

there have been detentions. Detainees included Candido Soares, Tomas Soares, Marques Soares (18), Cancio (19) and two adult men Joao Hau and nurse (infirmario) Manuel.

7. It has also been reported that Aleixo Vicente, from the Sao Jose Catholic High School, was arrested 15 days ago and has been repeatedly tortured.
8. East Timorese students in Bali are reportedly being harassed and an attempt has been made to run over a student named Lucas.
9. Young people in Dili are allegedly trying to contact Bishop Belo, who is currently in Europe, requesting him to return home immediately because of the situation in Dili.
10. Bishop Belo has reportedly written to a colleague in Australia advising that he will not visit in November as planned as time does not permit a comprehensive pastoral visit to the whole Timorese community in Australia.

Request: enquiries regarding these reports, particularly those relating to deaths and detentions, and appropriate representations.

Ends

NOTE FROM CDPM

Referring point 7: It is not Aleixo Vicente but Aleixo Gama and Vicente Moniz.