

Speech by Geraldo Magno, FRETILIN, to the 6th NFIP Conference  
1-7 November, 1990, Aotearoa.

COMRADES, BROTHERS, SISTERS & FRIENDS,

FIRST OF ALL WE WANT TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE FOR THE INVITATION EXTENDED TO US TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 6TH NFIP CONFERENCE.

BEFORE WE ENTER INTO EXPOSITION ABOUT THE STRUGGLE OF OUR PEOPLE, ALLOW US TO CONVEY TO YOU FRATERNAL GREETINGS FROM OUR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, XANANA GUSMAO TO ALL OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN THIS CONFERENCE.

BEING HERE TODAY ON MAORI LAND, WE FEEL DIMINISHED BY THE GREATNESS OF MAORI HISTORY AND CIVILIZATION AND INSPIRED BY YOUR DETERMINATION THAT HAS BROUGHT SOME NOTABLE VICTORIES. LIKE YOU AND ALL OTHER INDIGENEOUS INHABITANTS OF THIS WORLD WE ARE PROFOUNDLY ATTACHED TO MOTHER EARTH AND BEING HERE IN THIS LAND OF YOURS ALLOW US TO PAY TRIBUTE TO YOUR ANCESTORS, TO THE PRESENT WHO HAVE KNOWN HOW TO PRESERVE THIS GREAT CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL HERITAGE.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH OUR STRUGGLE, ALLOW US TO SAY AS AN INTRODUCTION THAT LONG BEFORE THE EUROPEANS CONQUEST OF OUR REGION, OUR PEOPLE LIVED AS INDEPENDENT ENTITIES WITH WELL DEFINED POWER STRUCTURE ENJOYING INTERNATIONAL TRADE WITH FAR AWAY NATIONS SUCH AS CHINA, ARAB COUNTRIES ETC..

THE ISLAND OF TIMOR IS SLIGHTLY BIGGER THAN THE ISLAND OF FIJI, AND IN TERMS OF TERRITORIAL EXTENSION AND <sup>IN</sup> POPULATION IT IS LARGER THAN 30 INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES - MEMBERS OF UNITED NATIONS. IN TERMS OF POPULATION AFTER THE NAMIBIA INDEPENDENCE, EAST TIMOR IS THE LARGEST OF ALL THE REMAINING TERRITORIES.

ON THE BASIS OF THE 2.3 PER CENT POPULATION GROWTH OF THE 70'S THE TOTAL POPULATION OF EASTTIMOR TODAY SHOULD STAND AT WELL OVER 900,000. HOWEVER, INDONESIAN STATISTICS TODAY INDICATE A POPULATION OF LESS THAN 650,000. THIS INCLUDE MORE THAN 100,000 NON-TIMORESE WHO HAVE TRANSHIPPED TO EAST TIMOR IN THE PAST 10 YEARS AS PART OF DELIBERATE AND WELL PLANNED STRATEGY IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE INDIGENEOUS POPULATION AND MAKE US ~~THE~~ MINORITY IN OUR OWN COUNTRY. IN THIS CENTURY, EAST TIMOR MUST BE THE ONLY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD THAT HAS EXPERIENCE A DRAMATIC NEGATIVE POPULATION GROWTH.

ALL OF US REPRESENTED HERE, INDIGENEOUS PEOPLE OF THE PACIFIC REGION HAVE EXPERIENCED THE SAME POLICIES OF GENOCIDE.

IT HAS BEEN 15 YEARS OF BATTLES, OF VICTORIES, OF SETBACK, PERSISTANCE AND AS OUR COMANDER-IN-CHIEF XANANAA GUSMAO STATED, HAS BEEN OUR POLITICAL MOTIVATION AND THIS HAS GIVING US THE UNSHAKEBLE MORALE.

DEAR COMRADES, BROTHERS, SISTERS AND FRIENDS

15 YEARS AFTER THE INDONESIAN INVASION, WE MUST SAY THAT WE HAVE WON THE POLITICAL BATTLE ALREADY.

WE WON THE POLITICAL BATTLE BECAUSE IN THIS 15 YEARS, OUR NATIONAL UNITY HAS BEEN CONSOLIDATED. WE ARE NOT FIGHTING AS TRIBES. WE ARE FIGHTING AS A NATION UNITED BY COMMON HISTORY, COMMON CULTURE, COMMON LANGUAGE AND COMMON ASPIRATIONS.

WE HAVE WON THE POLITICAL BATTLE BECAUSE OUR CURRENT GENERATION HAS RECEIVED THE HEROIC HERITAGE OF OUR FOREFATHERS AND CARRIED ON THE STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION.

DEAR COMRADES, BROTHERS, SISTERS AND FRIENDS

WE WAGE OUR STRUGGLE AT SEVERAL LEVELS AND FRONTS.

A WAR OF AGRESSION WAS IMPOSED UPON US. WE CHERISHED PEACE AND HARMONY BUT OUR PEOPLE NEVER TURNED THE OTHER CHEEK IN THE FACE OF OPPRESSION AND AGGRESSION HENCE OUR RESISTANCE IS ALSO THROUGH ARM STRUGGLE.

THE ARM STRUGGLE IS CONDUCTED BY THE ARMED FORCES OF NATIONAL LIBERATION - FALINTIL, WHICH IS A RESISTANCE ARM WHICH INVOLVES ALL SECTORS OF OUR SOCIETY, WOMEM, MEN, CHILDREN AND ADULTS REGARDLESS OF THEIR RELIGION OR POLITICAL AFFILIATION. FALINTIL IS TRULY A NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY.

AT ANOTHER LEVEL OUR RESISTANCE TAKES THE FORM OF PEACEFUL PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS THAT HAS ALWAYS MET WITH BRUTAL FORCE BY THE ENEMY"S ARMY.

THE UNDERGROUND RESISTANCE IS AN INTEGRAL COMPONENT OF THE ARMED FACTION.

AT ANOTHER LEVEL, NO LESS IMPORTANT IS THE CULTURAL RESISTANCE. IT IS KNOWN TO ALL OF US THAT, AS LONG AS WE KNOW HOW TO PRESERVE OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE EVEN WHEN EVERYTHING ELSE HAS BEEN DESTROYED AND ROBBED BY THE ENEMY WE, EXIST AS A NATION, AS A PEOPLE, WE GUARANTEE OUR SURVIVAL WHEN EACH OF US KNOW HOW TO KEEP OUR CULTURE ALIVE. IN THIS REGARD WE ARE HAPPY AND PROUD TO SAY THAT OUR CULTURE, OUR LANGUAGE, OUR ESPIRITUAL HERITAGE ARE VERY MUCH ALIVE.

ALLOW US TO QUOTE OUR COMANDER-IN-CHIEF XANANA GUSMAO IN A MOST RECENT AND FIRST INTERVIEW CONDUCTED IN THE RUGGEDED MOUNTAINS OF EAST TIMOR:

"OUR PEOPLE ARE ESSENTIALLY ROOTED TO THEIR CULTURE AND TRADITIONS, THEY HAVE THEIR OWNN CONCEPTS OF LIFE, OF EXISTENCE AND LIVE TO REALISE THEM. THEY ARE IMPREGNATED SPIRITUALLY AND EXISTENTIALLY WITH THAT CONCEPT, THEY CONCEIVE THEIR PASSAGE THROUHG MOTHER EARTH AS A TEMPORARY TIME, EPHEMERAL, IN WHICH THEY HAVE TO RĀLISE THEIR TRADITIONAL CONCEPTS. OUR PEOPLE ARE FONDLY ATTACHED TO MOTHER EARTH, ALL THEIR ACTS, CULTURAL MANIFESTATIONS, AND EVEN LIFE, ARE DESTINED TO CONSECRATE TO HONOUR, TO WORSHIP MOTHER EARTH AS LIFE."

AT ANOTHER LEVEL OUR RESISTANCE IS WAGED IN THE INTERNATIONAL FORUMS. IN THIS REGARD WE ARE HAPPY TO SAY THAT IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS WE HAVE SOME SIGNIFICANT VICTORIES:

1. ADDRESSING THE UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY, THE ITALIAN MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPEAKING IN HIS CAPACITY AS A PRESIDENT OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY STATED THE SUPPORT OF THE 12 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES FOR OUR LEGITIMATE POLITICAL RIGHTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNITED NATION'S CHARTER;
2. THE LAST MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY/AFRICA, CARABBEAN AND PACIFIC MEETING IN LUXEMBURG ADOPTED A RESOLUTION ON EAST TIMOR WITH ONLY ONE NEGATIVE VOTE;
3. THE UNITED NATIONS SUB-COMMISSION MEETING IN GENEVA IN AUGUST ADOPTED A RESOLUTION ON EAST TIMOR CONDEMNING THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY INDONESIAN TROOPS AGAINST OUR PEOPLE;
4. IN NEW YORK ALSO IN THE MONTH OF AUGUST THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DECOLONIZATION DEVOTED A WHOLE DAY OF DISCUSSION ON EAST TIMOR.

IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS AND MONTHS A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES WILL BE HELD ON EAST TIMOR - THE MOST SIGNIFICANT OF WHICH WILL BE A 2-DAY SEMINAR IN WASHINGTON IN APRIL 1991.

THESE ARE SOME OF OUR RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE PART AND PARTIAL OVERHAUL STRATEGY FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION.

A COMBINATION OF THE MILITARY WING OF OUR RESISTANCE, THE POLITICAL UNDERGROUND RESISTANCE, CULTURAL RESISTANCE AND THE DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN ARE ALL PART OF THE STRATEGY.

IN CONTRAST WITH THE GROWING RECOGNITION OF OUR RIGHTS, AUSTRALIA, OUR SO CALLED NEIGHBOUR, AND INDONESIA IN SIGNING THE TIMOR GAP AGREEMENT ARE IN VIOLATION OF OUR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION.

REFERRING TO THE TIMOR GAP OUR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF SAID:

" IT IS A UNILATERAL, ILLEGAL DECISION, ILLEGITIMATE AND CRIMINAL, IN THE CONTEXT THAT WE ARE BEING EXTERMINATED BY A PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT. AUSTRALIA WITH THIS TREATY BECOMES AN ACCOMPLICE. AUSTRALIA TALKS LOUDLY ABOUT INTERNATIONAL LAW, BUT WE CAN ONLY EXPLAIN THIS AGREEMENT AS DISRESPECT FOR PRINCIPLES".

A COUNTRY THAT DECIDES TO SEND TWO WARSHIPS TO THE GULF SUPPOSED TO APPAUL THE RULE OF LAW OR AS PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA, BOB HAWKE SAY THAT:

" AUSTRALIA HAS IMPORTANT INTERESTS IN THE GULF. BUT ALSO IT IS IMPORTANT FOR AUSTRALIA THAT THE WORLD UNDERSTANDS THAT BIG COUNTRIES CANNOT INVADE SMALL NEIGHBOURS AND GET AWAY WITH IT".

HOW SHOULD WE DEFINE THEN AUSTRALIA'S ATTITUDE IN REGARDS TO EAST TIMOR. WE CANNOT HELP BUT BE TEMPTED TO REPEAT AGAIN THE WORDS OF OUR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF THAT "AUSTRALIA HAS AHAS TAKEN AN ATTITUDE OF ACCOMPLICE IN THE GENOCIDE PERPETRATED BY THE OCCUPATION FORCES".

LAST BUT NOT LEAST, COMRADES, BROTHERS, SISTERS AND FRIENDS, WE BELIEVE THAT WE - INDIGENEOUS PEOPLE OF THE PACIFIC, ARE SUBJECTED FOR CENTURIES TO WARS OF GENOCIDE, WHERE OUR PRE-STEEM FORESTS AND LAKES HAVE BEING CONTAMINATED, OUR SEAS AND HEAVENS HAVE BEEN DISEASED BY NUCLEAR TESTS, OIL SPILLS, INDUSTRIAL WASTE, WE MUST JOIN EFFORTS TO CO-ORDINATE OUR ACTIONS, PULL OUR RESOURCES IN ORDER TO FIGHT BACK.

IN PROTEST AGAINST THE DUMPING OF NUCLEAR WASTE AND WEAPONS IN JOHNSTON ATOLL. OUR PACIFIC MUST BE FREE FROM ALL NUCLEAR TESTING. WE HEAR THAT THE FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING IN THE PACIFIC OF THE NUCLEAR WASTE IN JOHNSTON ATOLL ARE HARMLESS. IF SO, WHY WASTE TIME AND ENERGY IN CARRYING THIS TEST AND NUCLEAR WASTE ALL THE FROM THE NORTHERN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA TO OUR REGION, IT WOULD BE SIMPLER AND EASIER TO BURY THEM IN WASHINGTON, PARIS BERLIN AND TOKYO.

A LUTA CONTINUA.            THANK YOU.

draft resolution

to

1. Support the right to Independence of Maubere People in accord of U.N. Charter and the General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).
2. Support the UN Security Council Resolutions 384 (1975) and (389) (1976), and demands that Indonesia withdraw all the troops immediately and unconditionally.
3. Recognise FRETILIN/UDT as the only Maubere people representative.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Demands the unconditional release of those arrested before and since 1981 for opposing the Indonesian occupation, 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Condemns the agreement between Indonesia and Australia to divide up the exploitation of the oil resources of East Timor.