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April 20, 1993

Dear Friends,

Enclosed find an East Timor Alert Network **NEWS UPDATE**. This **UPDATE** was prepared in between the regular newsletter issues to give you information on a Canadian speaking tour by Constancio Pinto and Abe Barreto Soares, and to give a report on political developments and a call for action.

Also included is a comprehensive table of Canadian assistance programs to Indonesia from 1984 through 1991, which illustrates the extent of Canada's support for Indonesia.

Thank you again for your work and support for the Timorese people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray Funk".

Ray Funk, M.P.
Prince Albert/Churchill River

RF/sb
PASS

EAST TIMOR ALERT NETWORK

NEWS UPDATE



APRIL, 1993

**EAST TIMOR NORTH AMERICAN
SPEAKING TOUR**

On March 27, five young East Timorese nationalists arrived in New York to begin a two month tour that will cover the United States and Canada. In addition to meeting with officials in Washington and Ottawa and at the UN, our guests will speak at universities, press conferences and community meetings in more than a dozen states and three provinces.

The participants of the tour were infants or children when Indonesia invaded their homeland 17 years ago. They represent a new generation of resistance, the human embodiment of a yearning for independence which cannot be eradicated by terror and "education." Although they were forced to leave their country, these people have committed their lives to struggle for the day they can go home again.

The Canadian leg of the tour will feature Constancio Pinto and Abe Barreto Soares.

Constancio Pinto, 30, was a leader of the November 12, 1991 peaceful demonstration that ended with Indonesian troops massacring over 271 people. He was Executive Secretary of the underground National Council of Maubere Resistance (the coalition of most Timorese nationalist groups) in East Timor from 1989-92. He has been arrested several times and tortured. He escaped East Timor last May, after being intensively hunted by the Indonesians for seven months.

Abe Barreto Soares, 27, official representative of the National Council of Maubere Resistance to North America, went into exile in 1991 and now lives in Toronto,

Ontario. He is a student of English literature. Although parts of the tour are still being organized, many public events are already set up. In addition, the Timorese will be meeting with journalists, academics and public officials to help Canadian and American opinion-makers understand their situation and determination.

The Canadian dates are as follows:

April 17-18, 1993: Vancouver, BC

For further information, please contact Elaine Briere at (604) 264-9973

May 4-6, 1993: Ottawa, ON

May 5 - 7:30 p.m. at the Stone Angel Institute, 314 Lisgar St., For further information, please contact Peter Monet at (613) 238-6933

May 6-8, 1993: Montreal, PQ

May 6 - 8 p.m. at Centre St. Pierre, 1212 Panet. For further information, please contact Genny Ross at (514) 843-8404

May 9-12, 1993: Toronto, ON

May 10 - 7:30 p.m. at the Brigantine Room, Harbourfront. For further info, please contact either (416) 531-5850 or 531-6154

*****URGENT*****

On April 12, 1993, Gabriela Lopes da Cruz Pinto, the wife of Constancio Pinto, was arrested by the Army. She was interrogated at the Colmera military headquarters and released. Since then, she has been interrogated several times about Constancio's whereabouts and ordered to report daily for further interrogation. This is severe harassment, intended to pressure her husband to stop his activities on behalf of East Timorese self-determination. Please express your concerns to addresses listed at back.

**UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION PASSES
RESOLUTION WITH CANADA'S SUPPORT**

On March 11, the Canada's reversed its 10-year record at the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva (UNHRC) and supported a strong resolution criticizing Indonesia over East Timor.

Last year, Canada along with the United States, Australia and Japan blocked meaningful action at the UNHRC and successfully lobbied for a weak resolution concerning the Santa Cruz massacre.

This year when the resolution was introduced by the European Community, the Bush holdovers representing Washington in Geneva actively opposed it. This contradiction with Clinton's announced concern generated critical reaction in the United States, including a Boston Globe editorial which ruminated "Whether because of inertia, the confusion of a transition or a change of heart, US policy under Clinton seems to be no different from what it has been since the Indonesians first invaded...".

The Canadian delegation was briefed in January, 1993 by the East Timor Alert Network, Amnesty International and the Canada-Asia Working Group, on the continued human rights abuses in East Timor. This year, Canada was the Chair of the Western countries to the Human Rights Commission and was seen by observers in Geneva as once again actively seeking a watered down resolution.

In response to the criticism generated in the United States, Washington sent new instructions to its diplomats in Geneva, and the US co-sponsored the strong European resolution at the last minute. The resolution was adopted 22-12 with 15 abstentions; the US, Canada and Australia voted for it, while Japan abstained. It is important to note that Canada only changed its position after the US chose to support the resolution. In addition to European countries, Angola, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius and Zambia supported East Timor's position. Pakistan and South Korea abstained, breaking Asian unity.

Indonesia, feeling in a strong position as head of the Non-Aligned Movement and Vice-Chair of the Commission, overplayed their hand and refused to negotiate a consensus statement. They got Malaysia to move to remove East Timor from the UNHRC agenda, but the "no-action" motion was defeated, the first time this has happened in four years.

The strong international reaction was partly a response to the previous day's "re-election" of General Suharto, who has ruled Indonesia for 27 years and will be nearly 77 when this term ends.

Suharto chose General Try Sutrisno, former commander of the armed forces, as vice president and heir apparent. When the November 1991 Santa Cruz massacre occurred under his command, General Try described the peaceful demonstrators: "Delinquents like these agitators have to be shot, and we will shoot them."

East Timorese nationalist leader Jose Ramos-Horta called the UN vote a humiliating defeat for Indonesia and sees it as an important precedent:

"All the democracies in the world supported us. ... Equally important, East Timor destroyed the myth of the Asian block. There were Latin Americans and Africans voting with us, and important Asian and Muslim states abstained."

The Commission criticizes Indonesia for failing to honour its commitments made in last year's consensus statement, and is "gravely concerned at continuing allegations of serious human rights violations." It calls for the release of prisoners not involved in violent activities, and for human rights for all. The Human Rights Commission "regrets the disparity in the severity of sentences" between nonviolent civilians and the military involved at Santa Cruz, and calls for information and access to the territory for both UN officials and independent observers.

Testimony was heard by a number of representatives for East Timor, including Barnabe Barreto Soares of Toronto, Ontario, who is the North American Representative for the CNRM.

While the vote was widely reported in the major US newspapers, including the New York Times and the Washington Post, not a single word was mentioned in any of the Canadian dailies on this significant vote.

**INTERNATIONAL EAST TIMOR
SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT THRIVES**

The 1991 Santa Cruz massacre motivated the Timorese resistance and its supporters worldwide, and the energy continues. In February, representatives of East Timor solidarity groups from a dozen countries met in Amsterdam to share information and co-ordinate actions. Twenty-nine groups described progress in public awareness and the level of pressure exerted on their own governments, but acknowledged that there is still a long way to go. The East Timor Alert Network was represented by Sharon Scharfe of Ottawa.

Participants discussed a coordinated approach to the UN human rights conference in Vienna this

summer, continued pressure on countries funding Jakarta, particularly through the CGI, and focused pressure on the United Kingdom and Germany because of massive new warship and warplane sales to Indonesia. The movement will use of electronic mail to improve communications, and

will work together at the July UN Decolonization Hearings in New York.

The next international solidarity meeting will be in Manila, Philippines, in November 1993. Contact ETAN/Ottawa at P.O. Box 2002, St. D, Ottawa, ON K1P 5W3 if you would like more information.

**CANADA'S DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS -- DISBURSEMENT PROFILE --
INDONESIA (\$ millions)**

CHANNELS	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	TOTAL
Government-to-Government (Bilateral Program)	33.83	74.94	41.65	43.89	51.02	51.90	41.31	338.54
Canada Fund	-	-	0.35	0.50	0.49	0.47	0.50	2.31
Institutional Co-Operation and Development Services Program	0.18	0.09	0.92	1.39	1.12	1.13	1.58	6.41
Non-Governmental Organizations Programs	1.07	0.68	1.04	0.92	2.17	4.55	0.67	11.1
International Non-Governmental Organizations Programs	0.01	0.02	-	-	-	-	-	0.03
Industrial Co-Operation Program	1.03	0.71	0.84	0.80	0.64	1.36	2.54	7.92
International Humanitarian Assistance Program	-	-	-	-	0.03	-	0.18	0.21
Food Aid	-	-	0.03	-	0.03	-	-	0.06
International Development Research Centre	0.94	0.89	1.24	1.05	1.32	1.38	1.52	8.34
Provincial Government Contributions	-	0.16	0.36	0.11	-	-	-	0.63
TOTAL	37.06	77.49	46.43	48.66	56.82	60.79	48.3	375.55

Statistics Compiled From:

- 1) External Affairs and International Trade Canada, Survey of Bilateral Economic Relations Between Canada and Indonesia (1990).
- 2) Canadian International Development Agency, CIDA Programs in Asia -- Indonesia (June, 1992).
- 3) Canadian International Development Agency, Annual Report -- 1989-90 (April, 1991).
- 4) Canadian International Development Agency, Annual Report -- 1990-91 (April, 1992).

Commentary

ETAN/Ottawa has compiled this list in order to illustrate the magnitude of the Canadian government's development assistance program with Indonesia. Putting these statistics into perspective, Indonesia is Canada's second largest recipient of bi-lateral aid (government-to-government). As such, Canada gives more bilateral aid than the United States to Indonesia. In terms of world donors, Canada is Indonesia's seventh largest donor.

While Canada froze \$30 million in new aid projects after the Santa Cruz massacre in December, 1991, the suspension only affected approximately \$150,000 in actual aid disbursements. Even after the massive restructuring at CIDA earlier this year, Indonesia's privileged position remains unaffected.

Statistics for 1991-1992 are not yet available.

*****EAST TIMOR URGENT ACTION*****

On April 3, 1993, the Indonesian military arrested Antonio Gomes da Costa (Ma'Hunu) who replaced Xanana Gusmao as leader of CNRM when Xanana was arrested on November 20, 1992. The new arrest of another leader once again highlights the occupation and the need for a negotiated settlement of the conflict in East Timor.

"I call upon the Indonesian government to provide immediate, unrestricted access to Ma'Hunu by independent international organisations," Jose Ramos-Horta, Foreign Minister for East Timor, said today. "Jakarta must abandon the show-trial methods they have been using to try to deal with the legitimate resistance of the East Timorese people." As with the capture of Xanana, Ma'Hunu's capture in no way diminishes the strength and determination of the Resistance. With serenity and determination the leadership of the East Timorese resistance, both inside and outside the country, will continue the struggle.

Once again, we are calling on supporters to

write letters to the Minister for External Affairs, Barbara McDougall and to the Indonesian embassy as we are now concerned for the safety of Ma'Hunu and Xanana. Also, please send a copy of your letter to Ray Funk, MP.

The response to the recent Urgent Action concerning the capture of Xanana was significant. It is reported that External Affairs has received hundreds of letters from concerned Canadians. As a result of this pressure, External Affairs has petitioned the Indonesian government to see that Xanana be treated fairly according to International Law. As such, External Affairs claims to be sending a representative from the Canadian embassy in Jakarta to monitor the trial of Xanana in Dili.

Letters concerning the safety of Ma'Hunu and Xanana are urgently needed. It is also important that we continue to press the Canadian and Indonesian governments on a number of other issues.

On Ma'Hunu and Xanana, your letter should include the following concerns:

- 1) Canada should condemn the Indonesian government for the arrest of yet another Timorese leader. Indonesia has no legal jurisdiction over Xanana and Ma'Hunu. As such, request their immediate release;
- 2) Immediate access of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to Ma'Hunu;
- 3) Note that members of Xanana's family have either been detained or arrested while his trial is ongoing, suggesting testimony under duress. They should also be released;
- 4) Ensure that Xanana and Ma'Hunu are afforded the minimum protection provided under relevant United Nations conventions;
- 5) A lawyer of Ma'Hunu's choice should be present while he is being questioned, as provided under Indonesian law.

On Canadian Foreign Policy, ask:

- 1) What will Canada do to enforce the recent resolution at the UNHRC?
- 2) How will Canada promote the issue of human rights in Indonesia?
- 3) Will Canada finally call for an international arms embargo on Indonesia as it has done in the case of Burma and Sri Lanka, who are also gross violators of human rights?

Honourable Barbara McDougall
Secretary of State for External Affairs
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