



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA

Timor link, no. 5, April 1986

This is the Published version of the following publication

UNSPECIFIED (1986) Timor link, no. 5, April 1986. Timor link (5). pp. 1-8.

The publisher's official version can be found at

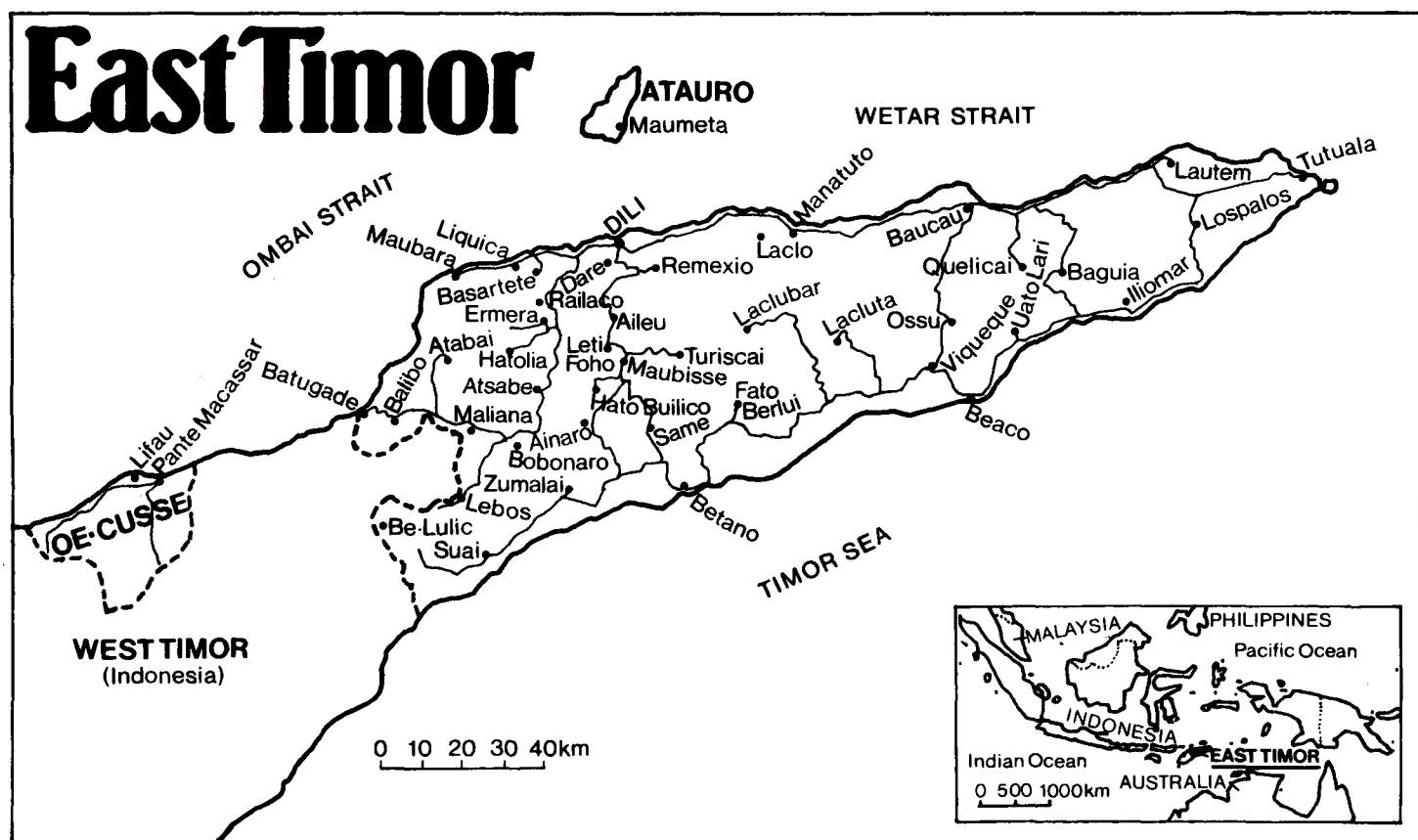
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No 5, April 1986

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NEWS FROM INSIDE

by John Taylor

Trials

At the end of 1983, the Indonesian military first began to try East Timorese who were members or supporters of Fretilin. Since then, 195 prisoners have been tried in the District Court in Dili, most of them under articles 106, 108 and 110 of the Indonesian Criminal Code, for being involved in 'armed rebellion' or 'conspiring to bring about the secession of a part of state territory'. Sentences have varied from two to 17 years. A recent article published in the Indonesian daily paper Sinar Harapan (3 Sept 1985) highlighted the conditions under which these trials have been held. A representative of the Third Parliamentary Commission, which deals with issues of 'law and justice' in the Indonesian parliament - one Albert Hasibuan - was told by the head of the Dili District Court, L.P. Siregar, that,

If all trials could be like those in East Timor, the task of the legal profession would be easy... Those who come before the green baize (ie those who are tried) are all honest... When they're asked if the accusation of the prosecutor is correct, they always say yes...

When Albert Hasibuan asked officials why no-one ever denied the charges against them, he was told that virtually all the evidence was complete, and most of the accused had been caught in the act. From these statements it seems clear that the presumption of innocence of the accused is being openly violated, in the Dili court. Hasibuan was also informed that 'district prosecutors' were behaving in a similar way in areas outside Dili - in Liquica, Oecussi, Maliana, Baucau and Ermera. When we add this account in Sinar Harapan to earlier information that all defendants have to be represented by a government-appointed defence team, the whole 'trials' procedure becomes somewhat farcical. According to an Amnesty International report, East Timor: Violations of Human Rights, a defendant in the Dili court tried to claim that the court was not competent to try him, since it was an Indonesian court. 'When he persisted in his attempt, he was reportedly threatened with death, and desisted.' Of the 199 prisoners tried, 43 have been imprisoned in Cipinang and Jangerang prisons, some 2500km away, in the totally alien society of Java. The remainder are detained in Dili.

Atauro

For several years, the Indonesian military have been claiming that prisoners held without trial on Atauro island, north of Dili are being released. On 1 August last year, for example, the Indonesian representatives to the UN Human Rights Commission stated that, although 1171 prisoners remained on Atauro, 2535 had been returned to their home villages. Piecing together information from church and Fretilin sources in East Timor, the Portuguese publication, Em Timor-Leste a paz e possivel has found that, far from being returned to their villages, many of the detainees have simply been transferred to prisons or strategic hamlets on the mainland, located miles from their homes. For example: over 600 prisoners from the Ainaro region, 'freed' in October 1984, were actually transferred to a detention camp in Bunuk, on the malaria-infested south coast; similarly 500 prisoners from the Ainaro region were discovered by the Red

Cross in detention in Dare, west of Dili. A paz e possivel also documents the growing number of prisoners on the mainland controlled in each locality by the military, and cites the existence of 'prison camps' in places such as Sae Lari (near Laga) and Halikou (between Cailaco and Maliana). These camps each appear to have their own 'military tribunals'.

Village Guidance

The Indonesian occupation of East Timor has always been characterised by a rigorous control over daily life. The strategic camps are full of official and quasi-official personnel whose tasks are to 'guide' the Timorese towards the norms of Javanese culture. An insight into the views of such officials was given recently in the Armed Forces daily paper, Angkatan Bersenjata (24 Oct 1985), which ran an article entitled 'Binpolda: The spearhead of the police force in East Timor'. The Binpolda, or 'village-level guidance officer' is the lowest level police unit in East Timor. According to the article, 'The basic task of Binpolda is to cultivate the consciousness, participation, and responsibility of the village community in security and order affairs so as to improve the resilience of society against social disorders.' The writer went on to argue that Binpolda's arduous duties are decisive to the success or otherwise of (achieving) social order, especially in a primitive and backward community like that in East Timor. What then constitutes this 'backwardness'? Angkatan Bersenjata gives us a direct answer - 'the feeble mental outlook of East Timorese society which is a matter of grave concern'.

Feeble mentality is still very evident among the Timorese, particularly among the older generation. They still like to spend most of their time getting drunk, gambling, cock-fighting and dancing at festivals. These low social, economic and mental conditions are the source of many negative features.

They 'explain' the extreme level of hostility of the local population: 'suppressed feelings that have been bottled up for such a very long time make people extremely temperamental, very difficult indeed to control.' Hence '... society so greatly yearns to be guided and directed in all spheres of life'. Nothing yet available from the Indonesian military so cogently expresses the arrogance of the military and police officers towards the people of East Timor.

Weaponry

Photographs taken by Fretilin members in East Timor arrived recently in Lisbon. One of these (published in the Guardian on 16 Jan) shows an Indonesian tank convoy passing through the village of Uato Carabau on the south coast during October 1985. The tanks are soviet-made PT-76 models, supplied to the Indonesian military by the Soviet Union early in the 1960s. Because they are essentially obsolete, the Indonesian government would like to replace them with modern light tanks. They may buy British Scorpions which are made by Alvis Ltd. Scorpions would be more suited to the war in East Timor, being light, easily transportable, highly manoeuvrable, and capable of day or night operation. A second photograph shows a multiple rocket launcher, mounted on the back of a truck. This launcher, popularly known as the 'Stalin organ' was similarly supplied by the Soviet Union in the early sixties.

APPEAL TO AUSTRALIA

CISET Newsletter reports (March issue) that, during a visit to East Timor by Mr Tuxworth, Chief Minister of the Northern Territory in Australia, two journalists accompanying his party met secretly with several East Timorese, who gave them the following statement:

1. The majority of the East Timorese people want independence. They reject all forms of integration and neo-colonialism and so the struggle will continue until complete liberation is achieved.

2. The Indonesian invaders are most cruel and inhuman, since from the beginning of the invasion until now, they have continued to torture, murder, massacre, rape and imprison the population. This is to intimidate them and prevent them from reacting and expressing their views to foreign delegations who visit Timor to collect facts about the wishes of the majority. The invaders rape girls as young as 13, 14, or 15 years old, by threatening both the girls and their fathers with death if they do not submit. They say they would be murdered, or else falsely accused and then executed.

As part of this cruel and inhuman action by the invaders, many Timorese are imprisoned through false accusations; many are arrested late at night and then murdered at sea; many are sent away to the most unpopulated islands far away from Timor, so that their whereabouts is still unknown; many are prisoners; many

are obliged to work without pay; many men are murdered because the invaders want to kill the population which supports the struggle and which has opted to and continues to opt for independence.

3. The Timorese people appeal to the Government and people of Australia, recalling the help which Timorese gave to Australia during WWII. They appeal for moral and material support in the liberation struggle. They appeal to the Australian Government to convey to the UN, the desire and struggle for independence of the East Timorese people.

4. We ask the Australian Government and people, and other peoples and nations, not to believe the information and propaganda put out by the Indonesian Government and also by one or two Timorese already paid and bought by the Indonesian Government. This propaganda says that the majority of the people want integration, whereas in reality they want independence, not integration.

5. We suggest that the following proposals be conveyed to the UN through the Australian Government. Withdrawal of Indonesian invading forces.

- Intervention of international UN forces to control the territory of East Timor.

- Carry out decolonisation with a vote on two alternatives, to see whether the majority vote is for independence or for integration. This is to prove what is the will of the majority in choosing their future, in case any nations might still be in doubt.

6. We are very grateful for the goodwill of the delegation in meeting with us, and we sincerely hope that they will convey our aspirations and desires to the Australian Government and through it to the world.

LETTER FROM LISBON

by Jill Jolliffe

With the arrival in Portugal on 22 January of 31 East Timorese, the first stage of a Portuguese-Indonesian agreement on the repatriation of former Portuguese civil servants was implemented.

The agreement was arrived at during talks last year between Portuguese and Indonesian diplomatic representatives in New York under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General's office. The first phase was confined to humanitarian questions but the next rounds, which will take place this summer are scheduled to deal with substantive political issues - in particular, the participation of Timorese representatives in consultations over the territory's future, and the issue of sovereignty.

UN officials hope that progress in these very much more sensitive areas can be made before the next meeting of the General Assembly, and the completion of Mr Perez de Cuellar's current term of office at the end of 1986.

Under the repatriation agreement, around 400 East Timorese are due to arrive in Portugal in the coming period, representing the families of 52 former civil servants. They will arrive in small batches at intervals of around a month, brought by the International Red Cross, which is supervising the operation. The agreement also extends to East Timorese in Portugal who may wish to return to Timor, and one family has expressed its intention of doing so.

Limits on immigration

The Portuguese government has set its own limits on the number of East Timorese who may enter Portugal. A decree of 22 October 1985 defines once and for all who

is eligible. This decree defines the status of civil servants, and is the yardstick used to draw up the ICRC list under the current agreement. It could have the effect of closing Portugal's doors to the East Timorese after the current programme is completed, despite the fact that in international law, which Portugal asserts when convenient, East Timor is still a Portuguese territory and the East Timorese therefore Portuguese citizens. The termination of Australia's Special Humanitarian Programme in April 1985 (which allowed East Timorese to join any family members they had in Australia, under an extension of the normal emigration rules which only allow reunion with close relations) means that there will be no more direct sponsorship of East Timorese to Australia, although those who can risk their safety to get from Dili to Jakarta for an interview with the embassy and who have direct family in Australia may still qualify. East Timorese may now need to seek a third country willing to accept them.

It should be noted that, even though the East Timorese arriving in Portugal know through family connections that conditions there may be difficult, many are still opting to leave. The reason why is quickly established from conversation with any refugee. Even in the normalised situation in Dili, there is no rule of law in East Timor. Regardless of political beliefs, under the Indonesian occupation all Timorese are subject to arbitrary arrest or disappearance, not to mention the uncertainty engendered by the ongoing blaze of war in the countryside. In short, they prefer poverty in Portugal, with freedom, to the loss of liberty in their homeland, which all leave with reluctance.

Indonesian harassment

It should also be noted that some of those who applied to leave Timor under the current agreement have been refused permission by the Indonesian government even though they have met Portuguese and ICRC standards. In the case of one mother in Portugal who hoped to be

reconciled with her daughter, the Indonesian authorities pressured the daughter, who is still a minor, saying that her mother was living in reduced circumstances. The woman concerned is one of the few survivors of a prominent Fretilin family, whose surname alone is a risk to their security in Timor.

With international doors slamming in the faces of the East Timorese, Indonesian authorities will have greater impunity in their conduct in East Timor, especially after the departure of a key section of the educated class under the current programme. The doors are closing largely because the international

community refuses to acknowledge that a war is under way in Timor. The Portuguese are reluctant to accept the East Timorese as Portuguese citizens, yet they have no international status as refugees. If there was no war, no occupation, the East Timorese would not be seeking to leave. Only a negotiated political settlement recognising the East Timorese right to self-determination will end that. Until it does - and it is to be hoped that the 1986 round of Portuguese-Indonesian talks will move events in this direction - the East Timorese require recognition of their status as refugees of war.

INTERNATIONAL ROUND-UP

U.N. TALKS

The run-up to the next General Assembly meeting of the United Nations has already begun. This year it will be particularly important for East Timor. There is a new government and a new President in Portugal; and it is the final year of Mr Perez de Cuellar's first term - a fact which makes it likely that he will report more definitively on the issue than in 1984 and 1985.

Talks between the Portuguese and Indonesian governments are due to take place during the summer, in advance of the 1986 General Assembly, by which time those involved hope substantial progress will have been made on the crucial question of sovereignty and self-determination.

If Mr de Cuellar cannot point to such progress, he will face a difficult decision, whether to support further rounds of discussion, or acknowledge the willingness of Indonesia to recognise the fundamental rights which the UN is pledged to uphold.

THE UNITED STATES

Several statements have been made since the last issue in the United States. On December 10 Congressman Tony Hall introduced a resolution of the House of Representatives. This was subsequently referred to the Congressional Committee on Foreign Affairs, and, on December 16, by Mr Gus Yatron, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Human Rights and International Organisations of the same Foreign Affairs Committee, sent a statement to Mr Perez de Cuellar, signed by 33 members of Congress.

Congressmen and Senators are also circulating letters calling upon President Reagan to discuss East Timor when he visits Indonesia in May. We will report on these in the next issue of East Timor Link.

These initiatives demonstrate the concern about East Timor which remains in the American Congress.

CONGRESS RESOLUTION (No.244) ON EAST TIMOR

Whereas an estimated 100,000 East Timorese out of a population of less than 700,000 have died since the invasion and occupation of East Timor by the Government of Indonesia, which began on December 7 1975;

Whereas armed conflict persists in East Timor;

Whereas threats of food shortages and medical problems persist in some areas of East Timor;

Whereas international access to and the free flow of information from East Timor remain restricted;

Whereas the Roman Catholic Church in East Timor is denied full freedom of expression and is subject to intimidation by Indonesian authorities;

Whereas Indonesian authorities have instituted a birth control program in East Timor without the full knowledge and consent of the people of the territory and despite large-scale loss of life there since 1975;

Whereas Indonesian authorities have placed many East Timorese in resettlement areas against their wishes where many of them are prevented from raising crops;

Whereas Amnesty International issued a report in June 1985 which called attention to systematic violations of human rights in East Timor;

Whereas in a statement made in July 1984 Pope John Paul II expressed concern over the human rights situation in East Timor and the need for international relief agencies to operate freely in the territory, and expressed the hope that particular consideration would be given to the ethnic, religious, and cultural identity of the people of East Timor;

Whereas in August 1985 the United States Catholic Conference called attention to a letter sent in June 1985 by Cardinal John O'Connor of New York to Msgr. Carlos Ximenes Belo, the head of the Roman Catholic Church in East Timor, which expressed support for the struggle to preserve and enhance the dignity of life of the East Timorese people and for their right to live in peace and freedom; and

Whereas 157 East Timorese political prisoners were tried in Indonesian tribunals between December 1983 and June 1985 without the presence of qualified international observers; Now therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That is the sense of Congress that the President should take all appropriate measures to encourage the government of Indonesia to -

(1) maintain and expand access to and guarantee freedom of movement in East Timor for humanitarian organisations so that such organisations can carry out their humanitarian operations to the fullest extent feasible;

(2) allow unhindered access to East Timor for journalists, church delegations, and human rights groups that seek to visit the territory;

(3) guarantee full freedom of expression for and end intimidation of the Roman Catholic Church in East Timor;

(4) allow an impartial international examination of population limitation measures instituted in East Timor and end all such measures that do not have the full consent and knowledge of those directly concerned;

(5) allow qualified international observers to be present at trial proceedings that involve East

Timorese political prisoners;

(6) allow an impartial international investigation of the conditions that exist in areas of East Timor where East Timorese have been resettled by Indonesian authorities; and

(7) work with the governments of Portugal and the United States to develop initiatives that address the sources of conflict in East Timor and that bring an authentic peace to East Timor.

LETTER TO MR PEREZ DE CUELLAR

Dear Mr Secretary General,

We are writing to express our deep concern over existing conditions in East Timor. Since the Indonesian invasion of 1975, the East Timorese have been subjected to oppression and extreme brutality. As a result of this harsh treatment, there are reportedly 200,000 fewer East Timorese alive now than at the time of the occupation.

Indonesia now has as many, and possibly more, troops in East Timor than on the day of the invasion. The Indonesians maintain that the East Timorese are content under their leadership, but many Timorese vehemently disagree. These citizens of East Timor contend that the human rights situation in their country is deplorable.

Two months after the Indonesians invaded East Timor in 1975, a unanimous UN Security Council called upon them to withdraw. It is our understanding that similar actions have not been undertaken by the UN since this initial statement was delivered ten years ago. Many appeals have been made to the UN concerning East Timor. In April of 1985, Amnesty International submitted information about its concerns in East Timor under the UN procedure for confidentially reviewing communications about human rights violations. Amnesty International asserted that the evidence revealed a 'consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights' warranting UN investigation.

We ask you, Mr Secretary General, for your assistance in facilitating a discussion within the UN of the events in East Timor. We also ask you to inform us of actions which are now being undertaken, or which have been initiated in the past within the UN regarding East Timor. The US Congress is closely monitoring events in this region. Whatever the UN can do to help us with this very worthwhile undertaking would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We recognise your valuable leadership as well as the many contributions you have made to the UN and the world at large.

Sincerely

Gus Yatron, Chairman
Subcommittee on Human Rights and International
Organisations Committee on Foreign Affairs

ARMS CAMPAIGN IN UK

The publication in the Guardian of two new photographs from East Timor, demonstrating that tanks and heavy military equipment are being employed by the Indonesian army, stimulated the Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT) and Tapol to call on the British government once again to stop selling arms to Indonesia.

Their campaign dates back to the early days of Indonesia's occupation of East Timor. There was a

flurry of protest in 1979-1980, when it first became known that Britain intended selling a squadron of Hawk trainer fighters to the Indonesian airforce. Since then, Britain has sold frigates, anti-aircraft missiles and armoured personnel carriers.

The latest protest has been inspired by fears that the Indonesian government is close to signing an agreement to purchase a number of Scorpion light tanks from Britain and build many more in Indonesia under license. Scorpion light tanks are an ideal design for use in the sort of rough terrain found in East Timor.

Tapol Bulletin also reported in January that Indonesia hopes to buy more Hawk fighter aircraft, and that a squadron of its Hawks have been armed. When the British government granted export licenses for these planes, it claimed they would and could only be used as trainers. This is the first evidence that they may be used in combat. Moreover, according to Fretilin representative Mr Jose Ramos Horta, Hawks have recently been flying missions from the airport at Baucau. (Tapol Bulletin, Jan 1986.)

British members of parliament have tabled questions on the issue, and a Motion has been circulated which 'calls upon Her Majesty's Government to halt the sale of arms and military equipment to Indonesia and to enable the people of that country to exercise their right to self-determination'.

British Campaign Against the Arms Trade: 11 Goodwin Street, London N4 3HQ

Tapol: 8a Treport Street, London SW18 2BP

JAPAN

70 members of the Japanese Upper and Lower House wrote on April 17 to Mr Perez de Cuellar, expressing their concern about the situation in East Timor. It is the first time that Japanese politicians have taken such an initiative.

Support for Indonesia

Japan has voted in support of Indonesia at the United Nations and accepts Indonesia's presence in the territory. According to a parliamentary answer given on March 18 this year, Japan's position is based on the view that 'what is of urgent importance is the restoration of normal life to the inhabitants of East Timor, and that appropriate recognition should be given to the fact that the Government of the Republic of Indonesia is effectively administering East Timor.' Merely criticising Indonesia 'will not contribute to a solution of the issue'.

The Japanese government therefore goes further than European governments in accepting Indonesia's invasion and occupation. More surprisingly, in the same parliamentary answer, the Japanese government declared that from 'on-the-spot' accounts 'by staff from our embassy in Indonesia, and from the explanation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, (...) the government has not received a report that the human rights situation was bad.'

As it stands, this statement is difficult to justify factually. Once again, the ICRC - which refuses to make public its assessments of the situation in territories where it has an emergency programme - has been quoted in support of claims that normality is returning.

Readers may wish to write to the Japanese Prime Minister Mr Nakasone Yasuhiro, through the local embassy, asking for further information about the reports his government's answer refers to, and drawing attention to Amnesty International's long-standing concern, to Amnesty International's report on East

Timor in 1985, and to frequent reports of abuses which have been made public by church and other organisations since 1975.

Criticisms from Japanese Diet

In their letter to Mr de Cuellar, the Japanese Diet members criticise the Japanese government for its position, which they claim was taken 'without any adequate survey of the situation and without any debate' in Japan. They support the Secretary-General's attempts to promote a just settlement of the conflict and recognise 'the great difficulty and delicacy' involved. But - as many European and Australian parliamentarians have done - they also point out that 'discussions which do not include the East Timorese, notably Fretilin, could not possibly lead to any meaningful solution' and express concern that any solution which does not involve an act of self-determination by East Timor's people would be 'in contradiction to the very principles upon which the United Nations was founded' and could not but be viewed as an act of cynicism.'

PORTUGAL

Election of Mr Soares

The Socialist Party leader Mr Mario Soares took office in March as the new President of Portugal - after snatching victory from the right-wing candidate Freitas do Amaral, who led the first round vote with a comfortable majority. Mr Soares takes over from General Ramalho Eanes, with whom his relations when he was Prime Minister were not always easy. Whereas President Eanes held a firm position on East Timor throughout his presidency, the stance of Mr Soares was always felt to be less than certain. Now that he is responsible for sustaining the constitution, will his attitude change?

The first signs have been positive. Mr Soares was the first of the four presidential candidates to commit himself to sustaining Portugal's commitment to its international obligations over the issue. In a meeting with representatives of East Timor's nationalist movement, including members of Fretilin and UDT, he declared that while he was President the rights of East Timor's people would be protected.

In his speech of accession, moreover, Mr Soares referred directly to East Timor. 'During my election campaign,' he stated, 'I voluntarily made political and cultural pledges which I wish to reiterate(...) I also wish to express here my concern in relation to the situation of East Timor which has been followed by Portugal over the last few years with realism and persistence, in harmony with the rules of international law. In terms of the Constitution, Portugal remains tied by binding responsibilities in relation to East Timor. It is in fidelity to these principles and responsibilities that we will continue to affirm and fight within our power for the undeniable right of the people of East Timor to self-determination and independence.'

Support from Portuguese Parliament

Members of the Portuguese parliament have also reiterated their commitment to East Timor. On December 5, 250 MPs unanimously approved a resolution calling on Mr de Cuellar to help find solutions which would respect 'the norms of international law and the free will of the people of Timor'. 'The Portuguese Republic,' they declared, 'cannot remain indifferent in the face of the policy of genocide imposed on the people of Timor.'

As of January, Portugal is a member of the European Economic Community. This should offer the government and new President an additional lever of influence if parliamentarians care to use it. Will they do so? For that matter, will interested parliamentarians from other EEC countries use the new opportunity to liaise with their Portuguese colleagues to influence both Portuguese and European opinion?

SHORTS

JESUITS UNDER PRESSURE

A Paz e Possivel em Timor Leste reports a story that the Portuguese Jesuit priests teaching at the Seminary in Dili were recently asked to consider returning to Portugal. They would presumably be replaced either by Timorese priests or priests from Indonesia, since very few foreign missionaries have been given permission in recent years to work in Indonesia - still less East Timor - by the Indonesian government.

It is understood that when this proposal became known, the clergy and lay Catholics protested, rather as they did when Mgr da Costa Lopes was instructed to resign. A letter was circulated and signed supporting the extension of the period of service of the priests concerned.

SOLIDARITY WITH TIMORESE CHURCH

As a result of Mgr da Costa Lopes' visit last Autumn (to Switzerland, Austria and Germany), letters of support were sent to Mgr Belo, the present head of the diocese of Dili.

Mgr Belo has written to Christian Solidarity International saying that he received some 3000 letters and giving thanks for the support they had expressed. News recently arrived from Dili describes the delight of local people when they learnt about this show of solidarity. (A Paz e Possivel)

EUROPEAN-INDONESIAN RELATIONS

The European Economic Community (EEC) has opened an office in Jakarta to manage its relations with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), to which Indonesia belongs, with the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Brunei.

According to a spokesman at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Jakarta was chosen because Indonesia is both the largest ASEAN member and receives most EEC assistance. (Indonesia Development News)

The EEC is the third largest investor in ASEAN, and relations between the two groups of countries are increasingly important. Significantly for issues like East Timor, both groups attempt to co-ordinate their foreign policies and tend to vote together on issues which concern one of their members. The EEC abstains on East Timor and does not accept the Indonesian invasion of the territory in 1975. In contrast, all six members of ASEAN have voted consistently in favour of Indonesia's position.

PRESIDENT TO STOP-OVER IN BALI

The American President, due to attend the Tokyo Summit in April, is planning to stop briefly in Bali, according to reports. He is not going to Jakarta, but will meet President Suharto.

If confirmed, Mr Reagan's visit will coincide with an ASEAN meeting, which he would attend.

It will be the first visit to Indonesia by an American president since President Ford visited on the eve of Indonesia's invasion of East Timor in 1975.

NEW AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

Mr Paul Wolfowitz has been named new American Ambassador to Indonesia. A Southeast Asian specialist, he succeeds Mr John Holdridge.

Mr Wolfowitz has been Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs since 1982.

An influential figure, he is nevertheless thought to be a conservative pragmatist rather than one of the group of ideologues in the presidential circle.

THE UN AGENDA AND TIMOR

Sue Roff in New York has written to us to point out that it is wrong to say that East Timor is no longer an item on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly. Last year it was agenda item 108 - and it will be on the agenda again in 1986.

What in fact has happened is that some of the parties, including Fretilin, agreed not to debate the item.

It can therefore be recalled for discussion in September, if Fretilin and other governments wish.

REVIEWS

Det Grymma Spellet - Sveriges roll i Indonesiens folkmordi i osttimor 1975-1985

A new book, edited by Bjorn Larsson and timed for the tenth anniversary of the invasion of East Timor in 1975, has been published by the Swedish East Timor Committee.

According to Finngeir Hiorth, writing to us from Oslo, Det Grymma Spelet contains useful information about Swedish arms sales to Indonesia under both conservative and social democratic governments since 1975, and about Swedish aid to East Timor. There are chapters on the arms trade, and Sweden's aid programme and trade policies, an analysis of Sweden's record at the United Nations, and a critique of Sweden's membership of IGGI (the Inter-Governmental Group on Indonesia).

It can be ordered from Riddargatan 38, 2 tr., 114 57 Stockholm (tel: 08 674969). 95 pages, map, photographs. Written in Swedish

East Timor and the Shaming of the West

by Alexander George. Foreword by Lord Avebury.

In this vigorously worded pamphlet Alexander George marshals the case against the British and other Western governments for failing to apply their moral standards to politically inconvenient issues like East Timor. It conveys the author's strong feelings of outrage at the cynicism of governments, and of the press and media.

60p. Illustrations. Published in 1985 by Tapol, 8A Treport Street, London SW18 2BP.

Timor Link is published by the Catholic Institute for International Relations in association with the English edition of *Em Timor Leste A Paz e Possivel*.

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