

Mr Sparrow
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FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SECRET

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FILE No. 3038/10/3

DATE 16 November 1976

SUBJECT

EAST TIMOR : ADMISSION OF FRETILIN
"MINISTERS" INTO AUSTRALIA

FOR Mr Parsons
Mr Campbell
Mr Greet
Mr Mott
Mr Gavin
Williams

In a discussion with the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs on 15 November, concerning the request by Mr Rogerio Lobato, the Fretilin "Minister for Defence" who has been in Peking for the past few months for a visa to enter Australia, Mr Peacock and ~~Mr Mackellar~~ agreed that as from now on it would be Government policy that any person representing himself as a Fretilin "Minister" should not be granted a visa to enter Australia. The two Ministers also agreed that requests for entry visa from any other persons claiming to be Fretilin "officials" or office holders of any kind would be considered ad hoc.

2. It was decided, according to Mr G. (Andy) Watson, FAS, Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, that the above decisions would not be communicated to all Posts as a standing instruction. The present instruction requiring all visa applications by persons having any connections with East Timor to be referred to Canberra should ensure that no "Fretilin" applications slip through unconsidered.

3. The foregoing for information. As at this date it is understood that the Ministers do not intend to make this decision known publicly.

(G.J. Price)

Acting First Assistant Secretary
South East Asia and PNG Division

Mr Ser...
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me for Mr Centin (OR)

→ Cam william

Geo 16/4

Copied to
Tom Sparrow
(PMA)

Nov 17/76

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