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OFFICE OF
THE PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

Mr. Holdaway 76/055
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CENTRAL REGISTRY
OCT 19 11 11 AM '76
FILE NO
MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION
AND ETHNIC AFFAIRS

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

My dear Prime Minister,

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Following our discussion on Fretelin activities in Australia, you asked me to give you my thoughts on the risk that Australia could provide a convenient base for Fretelin activity outside East Timor.

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A number of people who appear in varying degrees to be involved in some form of Government-in-exile have visited Australia this year. They include:

- Jose-Manuel Ramos-Horta (described as Fretelin spokesman on Foreign Affairs);
- Francisco Cristovao Santos (described as Fretelin Information Officer);
- Abilio Araujo (described as Minister of State for Economic and Social Affairs in the Government of the Democratic Republic of East Timor - from Lisbon University);
- Miss Amelia Sequeira (described as a member of the Fretelin Political Committee from Lisbon University);
- Estaniflau da Silva (described as a member of the Fretelin Political Committee from Lisbon University);
- Rogiero Tiago de Fatima Lobato and Augusto Morato Jap (described respectively as university professor and student from Mozambique who visited Australia to attend the conference arranged by the Campaign for an Independent East Timor).

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Tilman

All the foregoing have left Australia except Santos and da Silva. Santos came to join his wife and children who were evacuees from East Timor and has sought to remain here as a resident. Da Silva has remained as an overstayed visitor and is thus a prohibited immigrant. Action to enforce his departure has been deferred because we understand that charges are to be laid against him under the Wireless Telegraphy Act for operating an illegal radio recently seized in the Northern Territory.

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Another aspect of the Timorese problem is that nominations are now being lodged on behalf of relatives by some of the 2,000 or so Timorese who came here as escapees. Some 412 people have already been nominated. Almost half of the nominees are spouses and dependent children. A substantial number are parents with their dependent children and the rest are siblings or fiance(e)s. As soon as the possibility opens up for people from East Timor to enter Australia legally I expect the number of nominations to escalate. 22

I doubt whether the majority of the East Timorese already in Australia have Fretelin sympathies - certainly they did not display any sympathy towards Mr Horta who was on the wharf at Darwin when most of them arrived - but there are undoubtedly some who do.

Quite apart from my concern about our playing host to Fretelin sympathisers who could continue their political activity with varying degrees of radicalism and even violence, I do not think we would want to repeat the situation that developed in the United States of America in relation to Cubans where 600,000 Cubans moved into Florida.

The issues involved are complex and the information on which judgment should be made is not concentrated in any single department. Perhaps the best course would be to establish an interdepartmental working party to examine the whole question and report urgently on it. I would see at least your Department, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Attorney-General's Department and A.S.I.O. as well as my own department being involved.

In submitting these thoughts, I realize that this is essentially a matter for government consideration and decision. I should therefore appreciate your instructions on any further action you would like me or my department to take.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Mackellar

M.J.R. MACKELLAR

412 from Darwin
+ 300 from all other points.

The Rt. Hon. J.M. Fraser, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600