

INWARD CABLEGRAM

~~3038/7/2~~
3038/10/3

137

O.JA11379 AC11/NAS
TOR 1745 14.2.77

O.JA11379 1215 14.2.77 CLA

TO.
RR CANBERRA/9156

RP.
RR LISBON/802

FM. JAKARTA / REF O.LB1229

S E C R E T

EAST TIMOR

WE HAVE REFERRED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO THE LONG-TERM IMPORTANCE TO THE AUSTRALIAN-INDONESIAN RELATIONSHIP OF OUR AVOIDING AUSTRALIA BECOMING A BASE FOR FUTURE ACTION AGAINST INDONESIA BY EAST TIMORESE OR OF ALLOWING AUSTRALIA TO BECOME THE SEAT OF A FRETILIN GOVERNMENT IN EXILE.

2. ANY SITUATION COMPARABLE TO THAT OF THE OPM IN THE NETHERLANDS OR TO THE CROATIAN NATIONALIST MOVEMENT IN AUSTRALIA COULD PROVE A SERIOUS LONG TERM IRRITANT IN OUR FUTURE RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA, ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE PROXIMITY OF EAST TIMOR TO NORTHERN AUSTRALIA COMPARED WITH THAT OF THE NETHERLANDS IN RELATION TO INDONESIA OR AUSTRALIA IN RELATION TO YUGOSLAVIA.

3. HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS ARE, OF COURSE, VERY IMPORTANT AND WE CANNOT RESTRICT THE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF IMMIGRANTS BUT THE LONG TERM POLITICAL PROBLEMS WHICH WOULD BE POSED BY THE PRESENCE IN AUSTRALIA OF A TIMORESE EMIGRE GROUP COMMITTED TO "THE STRUGGLE FOR THE DISOCCUPATION" OF EAST TIMOR AND ITS INDEPENDENCE (LB1229) COULD BE VERY SERIOUS.

4. THIS ISSUE HAS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE HANDLING OF EAST TIMORESE FAMILY REUNIONS. THE INDONESIANS ARE LIKELY TO BE SUSPICIOUS OF THIS ASPECT OF THE SITUATION. THEY BELIEVE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE COMMITTEE FOR AN INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR IS A COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATION WHICH WILL ATTEMPT TO KEEP HOSTILITY TO INDONESIA ALIVE IN PART BY SEEKING TO INFLUENCE EAST TIMORESE IN AUSTRALIA. INDONESIA'S CONTINUING SENSITIVITY ON TIMOR IN RESPECT OF AUSTRALIA WAS EVIDENT DURING PARKINSON'S VISIT WHEN MOST PERSONS TO WHOM PARKINSON SPOKE, INCLUDING SUDHARMONO, SPOKE STRONGLY ABOUT DUNN'S RECENT ALLEGATIONS AND THE DAMAGE THIS SORT OF THING COULD DO TO OUR FUTURE EFFORTS TO PUT THE TIMOR ISSUE BEHIND US AND LOOK TO THE FUTURE.

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5. I THINK SOME PUBLIC COMMENT BY THE MINISTER OR PRIME MINISTER TO THE EFFECT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE FIRMLY OPPOSED TO ANY ATTEMPTS BY EAST TIMORESE OR AUSTRALIAN SUPPORTERS OF FRETILIN TO USE AUSTRALIAN TERRITORY AS A BASE FOR ACTION AGAINST INDONESIA WOULD BE BOTH A USEFUL WARNING TO THOSE WHO MAY CONTEMPLATE THIS COURSE AND PROVIDE TIMELY AND WELCOME REASSURANCE HERE. AN ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE A PRIVATE MESSAGE TO THIS EFFECT FROM THE MINISTER TO MALIK BUT WE THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER TO BE SEEN TO GRASP THE NETTLE PUBLICLY IF MINISTER FEELS HE CAN DO SO.

....WOOLCOTT

PRIME MINISTER
FOREIGN MINISTER
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
MIN AND DEPT DEFENCE
JIO
PM AND C

ACTION: MS MCPHERSON

MR HENDERSON MR ROWLAND MR PARSONS MR DUNN MR PRICE MR CURTIN
MR SADLEIR MR WILSON MR DALRYMPLE MR LAWREY MR FERNANDEZ
MR WALKER MR BRADY MR OSBORN MR CAMPBELL MR DAN MR WILSON
MR MOTT MR ROBERTSON