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PRIME MINISTER AUSTRALIA

CANBERRA ACT

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MOST CONCERN FATE FIVE AUSTRALIAN NEWSMEN WE HAVE ENDEAVOURED AND MOBILISED SEVERAL PATROLS TO FIND ACCURATE INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR FATE STP INFORMATION REACHING DILI INDICATE THEY WERE KILLED BY INVADING FORCES STP RADIO KUPANG REPORTED LAST NIGHT OCTOBER 20 7PM NEWS THAT QUOTE UDT FORCES HAVE CAPTURED FIVE COMMUNIST JOURNALISTS WHO SUPPORT FRETILIN AND THEY GOT A LESSON UNQUOTE STP THIS EXPRESSION MEANS THAT THE NEWSMEN WERE KILLED BECAUSE THEY WERE CONSIDERED AS FRETILIN SUPPORTERS WHICH IS RIDICULOUS STP ACCORDING TO EYEWITNESSES THE NEWSMEN WERE REPORTING IN FILM AND SOUND THE SHELLING OF BALIBO BY INDONESIAN WARSHIPS LYING OFF BATUGADE IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR TERRITORIAL WATERS STP WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE NEWSMEN HAD IN THEIR POSSESSION VALUABLE DOCUMENTARY ON INDONESIAN INVOLVEMENT IN EAST TIMOR STP FRETILIN MILITARY COMMANDER HAS CALLED FRETILIN SOLDIERS ALONG THE BORDER TO OBSERVE ONE MINUTE SILENCE TOMORROW OCTOBER 22 AT TWELVE NOON STP I APPEAL TO YOUR EXCELLENCY TO STOP INDONESIA CRIMINAL ACTIONS AGAINST OUR PEOPLE WHOSE RIGHT TO NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE CANNOT BE SUFFOCATED IN BLOOD BY INDONESIAN ARMY STP THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR STILL PLACES HIGHEST CONFIDENCE IN AUSTRALIA AND WE HOPE THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY WILL FULFILL THE RESPONSABILITIES OF A GREAT NATION IN SUPPORT OF THE RIGHT FORSELF DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE FOR THE TIMORESE PEOPLE STP MY PERSONALLY WARMEST REGARDS

FRANCISCO XAVIER DO AMARAL PRESIDENT FRETILIN

(20 7PM UDT 22 DO) 58

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