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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

QUESTION OF TERRITORIES UNDER PORTUGUESE ADMINISTRATION

Letter dated 30 September 1975 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to previous communications on this matter, I have the honour to convey herewith to you the text of a communiqué issued by the Portuguese National Decolonization Committee, on 23 September 1975, regarding the decolonization process of Timor, in the light of the latest events that have taken place there and of the declarations made before it by the Governor of Timor, Lieutenant Colonel Lemos Pires, and by Brigadier-General Oliveira Rodrigues.

I would appreciate it if Your Excellency would direct that this letter and its annex be circulated as an official document of the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 23 and 88.

(Signed) Antonio da COSTA LOBO
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Portugal
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Communiqué issued by the Portuguese National Decolonization Committee
on 23 September 1975

The National Decolonization Committee heard a detailed explanation of the situation in Timor, given by Governor Lemos Pires and Brigadier-General Oliveira Rodrigues, who had just arrived from the Far East. The problem was examined with all its implications and political and military aspects. The conclusion, already previously reached, that the problem can only be resolved through political means, that is, through talks with all the political parties together or separately was confirmed. In this respect, the National Decolonization Committee reaffirmed once again that negotiations exclusively with one of these groups or any solution that does not meet with the wishes of the people of Timor are out of the question. The National Decolonization Committee, underlining the necessity of a constructive and flexible attitude on the part of all the interested parties, charged the political parties which have not yet acted to clear the path for dialogue, with responsibility for the delay in negotiations; specifically, it proposed one or more dates and one or more locations which could be acceptable to the interested parties, for simultaneous or non-simultaneous negotiations to be held in the same or in separate locations and to abandon the demand for purely bilateral negotiations. In this respect, while the Portuguese Government does not consider any exclusively bilateral negotiations to be conducive to a viable solution, it is flexible and willing to accept any place and any date. The National Decolonization Committee, while acknowledging the good offices of the Australian Government in facilitating a solution to the problem of Timor, hopes that in the continuation of these good offices, it will offer one or more sites within Australian territory in which negotiations can take place. It also reaffirms the complete injustice of the continued detention of Portuguese soldiers and civilians by the UDT and regrets the speculations that have resulted, in the sense that, in so far as they have not and cannot, constitute an effective pressure tactic to make the Portuguese Government deviate from its respect for the wishes of the people of Timor, they necessarily cause concern. The National Decolonization Committee reaffirmed the willingness of the Portuguese Government to continue to honour the historical and moral responsibilities of the Portuguese people for the people of Timor, as long as possibilities for leading the territory's decolonization process on the basis of political solutions are ensured.
