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Item 103 of the preliminary list*

QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR

Letter dated 21 April 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text, in English and French, of a statement of the European Community and its member States on East Timor, issued at Lisbon and Brussels on 13 February 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 103 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador of Portugal
Permanent Representative to the
United Nations

* A/47/50.

ANNEX

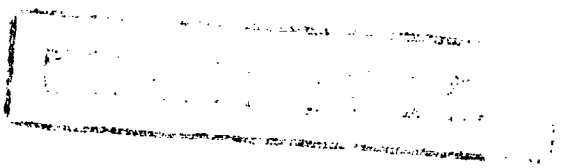
Statement on East Timor issued by the European Community and its member States on 13 February 1992

The Community and its member States, recalling their declarations issued on 13 November and 3 December 1991 on the violent incident that occurred in Dili on 12 November, have continued to follow very closely the situation in East Timor.

The Community and its member States are encouraged by the prompt response that the summary report of the National Investigation Commission elicited from the highest Indonesian authorities, especially their criticism of the actions of the armed forces and the decision to dismiss the two senior commanders responsible for East Timor and to proceed with further investigation into the actions of the armed forces on 12 November and into the fate of those unaccounted for. They welcome the condolences expressed by the President of the Republic of Indonesia to the people of East Timor and his commitment that such an incident must not happen again.

Although they view favourably these developments, expressing the hope that they will be followed by concrete and effective steps to improve significantly the human rights situation in East Timor, the Community and its member States remain concerned about other aspects of this question. Referring to the measures already taken by the Government of Indoensia, they hope that further investigations will result in all those responsible being identified and, where appropriate, disciplined or brought to trial, and that the investigations will also produce clear information about the number killed and the fate of those still missing.

They welcome the involvement of the United Nations in this process and the appointment of Mr. Amos Wako, as the personal representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to undertake a visit to Indonesia and to East Timor in order to obtain clarifications on the tragic events of 12 November, and they look forward to a report on his visit. They note with satisfaction that the Indonesian authorities have indicated their willingness to cooperate fully with him.

The Community and its member States call on the Indonesian authorities to ensure that all the East Timorese arrested on the occasion of the Dili shooting are treated humanely, that those not involved in violent activities are released without delay and that those brought to court are assured of proper legal representation and fair trials.

The Community and its member States support the endeavours by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to achieve a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable settlement of the question of East Timor, with full respect for the legitimate interests and aspirations of the East Timorese. They support the start of a dialogue without preconditions between Portugal and Indonesia under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General, as contained in the constructive Portuguese proposal.