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LETTER DATED 22 JANUARY 1976 FROM THE ACTING PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF INDONESIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On behalf of my Government I have the honour to reply to certain allegations made by the Permanent Representative of Portugal concerning the visit of Foreign Minister Adam Malik to East Timor which were circulated in document S/11934.

The members of the United Nations and of the Security Council have previously been informed in document A/31/42-S/11923 of the establishment of the Provisional Government of East Timor, headed by representatives of the APODETI, KOTA, UDT and TRABALHISTA parties.

The Provisional Government was established in view of the vacuum of authority in the Territory which resulted from the incapacity and irresponsibility of Portugal, as the administering Power, in an effort to ensure the maintenance of government and the administration of law and order, so as to restore normal life to the people of East Timor.

After months of strife marked by bloodshed and suffering for the people of East Timor, there is a markedly progressive return to normal life in the Territory. By virtue of the authority vested in the Provisional Government by the people, it invited the Foreign Minister of Indonesia, Mr. Adam Malik, to visit East Timor.

It is obviously not necessary, and indeed would be inappropriate, for the Provisional Government to seek the permission of an absentee and impotent administering authority before inviting the Indonesian Foreign Minister, or for that matter, whomever it might choose to invite, to visit the Territory.

It should be noted also, that in the past visits to East Timor have frequently been made by Indonesian officials, including the Governor of the province of Nusa Tenggara and others, upon the invitation of the local authorities and that such visits have never before been considered illegal by the Portuguese Government.

The view of the Portuguese Government as expressed by its Permanent Representative is all the more surprising in light of the fact that the visit of Foreign Minister Adam Malik was undertaken not only in response to the invitation of the Provisional Government of East Timor, but also for the purpose of persuading its members to react positively to the visit of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in accordance with the spirit of resolution 384 (1975). As

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Your Excellency is aware, the Provisional Government of East Timor was initially very reluctant to receive the visit of the Special Representative, having requested in its letter of 22 December 1975 that it be postponed.

It was in this context that the Indonesian Foreign Minister decided to make a personal effort to persuade the Provisional Government of East Timor to agree to the visit of the Special Representative and it is due to this effort that the Provisional Government has finally agreed to receive the Special Representative. Thus, Mr. Adam Malik's visit can in no way be considered contrary to the resolution adopted by the Security Council, but in fact was carried out in pursuance of its aims.

I would be grateful if Your Excellency would direct that the text of this letter be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) August MARPAUNG
Ambassador
Acting Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Indonesia to the
United Nations
