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LETTER DATED 17 FEBRUARY 1976 FROM THE DEPUTY PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF INDONESIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit the text of a communication from the Provisional Government of East Timor. I would be grateful if Your Excellency would arrange for it to be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) August MARPAUNG
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 13 February 1976 from Mr. Arnaldo Dos Reis De Araujo
addressed to the Secretary-General

Following Portuguese allegation concerning the assertedly illegal visit of the Foreign Minister of Indonesia, His Excellency Mr. Adam Malik, to the territory at our invitation, the Portuguese Government has again made allegations concerning the presence of Indonesian vessels on the southern coast of East Timor. In view of these allegations, I wish on behalf of the Provisional Government of East Timor to make the following statement:

Indonesia has been providing extensive humanitarian assistance to the people of East Timor for some time, reflecting the great sympathy and deep concern that Indonesia has felt for the suffering of its brothers in East Timor. The supply of this aid, which included large quantities of food, clothing, medicine, farming equipment and educational materials, has required the use of transportation and distribution facilities such as ships, planes and other vehicles.

While my Government was doing its utmost to restore life to normal in the area, armed remnants of the discredited Fretilin minority were making the countryside unsafe by committing acts of terror and by stealing food from the destitute farmers. In order to return peace, law and order to the island, forces of the Provisional Government of East Timor have conducted mopping-up operations against these Fretilin bandits in the area of Sama. Therefore it scarcely seemed necessary to note, that, while those actions were taking place, the safety of Your Excellency's special representative, Mr. Guicciardi, in these areas could not be guaranteed by my Government. At present if Your Excellency still wishes to send Your Excellency's special representative to East Timor, we are prepared to welcome him.

The Provisional Government of East Timor finds the presence of Portuguese warships and troops in the area at this time rather surprising, particularly in view of the fact that the last semblance of Portuguese authority fled East Timor many months ago. Although the Portuguese Government still claims to be the administering authority in East Timor, in the past it has consistently failed to display any concern whatsoever for the plight of the people in the strife-torn territory. In these circumstances it is not surprising that the people do not want East Timor to be occupied once more by a colonialist power which refuses even to acknowledge its essential responsibility to ensure the well-being of the territory's inhabitants.

It is high time for the Portuguese Government to adopt a more positive and realistic attitude and to display a proper respect for the wishes of the majority of the people of Timor who have already demonstrated their strong

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desire to be reunited with the Indonesian people in the exercise of their right of self-determination. This view has been communicated to Your Excellency's special representative.

I should be grateful if Your Excellency would direct that this cable be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Arnaldo Dos Reis De ARAUJO
On behalf of the Provisional
Government of East Timor
