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LETTER DATED 5 APRIL 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
Mr. Arnaldo dos Reis Araujo, Chief Executive of 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 under the item "The situation in
Timor".

(Signed) August MARPAUNG
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative

Annex

Telegram dated 25 March 1976 from Mr. Arnaldo dos Reis Araujo
addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Provisional Government of East Timor, I have the honour to reply to the allegations made by the so-called representative of the Fretilin, in his letter to the distinguished members of the Security Council. The letter, among other things, quoted the Deputy Head of the Provisional Government, Mr. Francisco Lopez de Cruz as saying that "... 60,000 Timorese people were killed during the last six months". Making capital of this, the so-called representative tried to mislead the distinguished members by asserting that the figure mentioned "confirmed the Fretilin's accusation of indiscriminate pillaging, shooting and outright massacre against the people of East Timor committed by Indonesian soldiers, etc., etc. ..."

In relation to these insinuations, the Provisional Government of East Timor deems it necessary to convey the following clarification:

1. The 60,000 victims of the civil war during the last six months since the outbreak of hostilities in the former Portuguese colony, as mentioned by Mr. Lopez de Cruz, was the total number of victims, including the more than 40,000 refugees who had fled from Fretilin's brutal persecution. All this occurred during the time of Fretilin's high-handed rule of Dili and other places in East Timor.

2. Regarding Indonesia, we can only say that the people of East Timor are very grateful to what the Indonesian people have given us when they were requested to help. The world knows that the Indonesian Government was the only foreign Power which sent humanitarian aid in the form of food, medical supplies and teams, and other necessities to the refugees and victims of Fretilin's terrorism. Many a time, the Indonesian people themselves were caught off guard in their territory by bands of the Fretilin who infringed the border, plundering and stealing food and cattle.

3. Soon after East Timor came under its control, the Provisional Government conducted extensive search parties for missing persons and prisoners taken away by Fretilin forces when they fled before the advancing joint forces of the Apodeti, UDT, Trabalhista and Kota parties. Relying upon the reports and directions given by the population, fresh, shallow mass graves were discovered along the road from Maubesse to Same and near other places where the people were predominantly in favour of the four parties. When the graves were dug open, everybody present was disgusted with what they saw. The sight was horrible. It is beyond human comprehension how such savagery could have been committed by man upon his fellow-man. All the victims were tied with wires, and many of them had broken arms and legs, fractured skulls and their necks twisted. There were indications that many of them were buried alive. One of the victims was my own son, Casiemero. Furthermore, the mass graves between Lautem and Viqueque revealed that thousands of supporters

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of the four parties, men and women, children and old people were murdered with assegals or had their heads blown off. Identifications disclosed that among the political prisoners massacred by the Fretilin were the Vice-President of the Apodeti party, members of its Presidium, the Secretary-General, the Secretary of Social Affairs, the Treasurer and the head of physical education, as well as members of the political directorate of the Kota party. A documentary film and photos of this tragedy can be shown by our representatives who are in New York now to attend the Security Council.

4. The cruelty of Fretilin's terrorists, who were, in general, professional soldiers of the former Portuguese colonial army, has again been borne out by statement and testimony made by Mr. Rex Sydell, an Australian, before Indonesian and foreign pressmen, in Jakarta, on 15 March 1976. He and his wife had lived on their plantation at Los Palos, East Timor, for eight years until their evacuation to Jakarta, on 23 February 1976 for medical treatment of Mr. Sydell. They were, together with other white people and East Timorese people, kept prisoner by Fretilin forces for five months, with no decent food. Mr. Sydell testified that on the eve of Dili's fall only last December, about 30 white people were executed by the Fretilin.

Arnaldo dos Reis ARAUJO
Chief Executive of the Provisional Government
of East Timor
