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LETTER DATED 19 APRIL 1976 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF GUINEA-BISSAU TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit the text of a communication from the Democratic Republic 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) Gil FERNANDES  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 19 April 1976 from Mr. Francisco Xavier do Amaral  
addressed to the Secretary-General

I. The Democratic Republic of East Timor is a free, independent and sovereign nation whose independence was proclaimed unilaterally by the Frente Revolucionaria de Timor Leste Indepente (FRETILIN), on 28 November 1975 after about three months of de facto government by FRETILIN in place of the Portuguese colonial Government that voluntarily abandoned the ex-colony at the end of August last year.

II. During this period of time the de facto Government under the enlightened leadership of FRETILIN unequivocally proved its capacity to execute the policy of the people of East Timor and the administration of the Territory.

III. The unilateral declaration of independence was in response to the supreme aspirations of the people of East Timor, which have been demonstrated during the de facto FRETILIN Government - this independence has also been recognized by several countries.

IV. The Republic of Indonesia, in a blatant violation of the rights of a free, sovereign and independent nation, attacked the borders of East Timor since October 1975. In spite of the failures suffered on 7 December last year she invaded our territory in a desperate attempt to oppress and exploit our people and force them, with threats of firing weapons, to pronounce for a forced integration into Indonesia.

V. The Security Council of the United Nations Organization, in its resolution of 22 December last year demanded, among other points, the withdrawal without delay of Indonesian aggressor forces. Indonesia not only did not abide by the resolutions but reinforced the aggression with increasing arrivals of new military units, for reinforcement by land, sea and air, massacring, pillaging and assassinating the defenceless population of East Timor.

VI. In spite of the military superiority of the Indonesian invaders there is not a single soldier of the puppet groups fighting in our country. Our people did not submit to the invader, and they will not submit, because our decision has been made, and it is to struggle for our total and complete freedom, independence and sovereignty.

VII. FRETILIN forces control more than 80 per cent of our territory.

VIII. If there should be any doubt about the self-determination of the people of East Timor, then the four months of people's resistance generalized against the Indonesian invaders is an unquestionable proof of the will of the people of East Timor to be free, independent and sovereign under a unique, legitimate and glorious leadership of their true vanguard, FRETILIN.

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IX. Therefore, we request Your Excellency to use your good offices in order to persuade the Government of Indonesia to withdraw voluntarily and immediately its forces from our fatherland in respect for the principles of non-interference by one country in the affairs of another; for the defence of the right of a free and independent and sovereign nation. We do not wish, under any pretext, that Indonesia promote, as it has been doing, the instability of the geo-political region in which we are living, with armed provocations against a small but conscious nation of East Timor.

X. The people of East Timor, guided by their revolutionary vanguard, FRETILIN, is prepared to struggle until the total and complete withdrawal of the Indonesian invaders, whatever the consequences may be.

(Signed) Francisco Xavier do AMARAL  
President of FRETILIN  
President of the Democratic  
Republic of East Timor

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