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LETTER DATED 28 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 a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gil FERNANDES
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 27 April 1976 from Mr. José Ramos-Horta
addressed to the Secretary-General

As you are most certainly aware, since the Indonesian invasion of the Democratic Republic of East Timor on 7 December 1975, there has been in effect a land, sea and air blockade of the Territory. Upon the invasion, the International Red Cross operatives who had been working in the Territory left, together with representatives of other aid and humanitarian organizations. This action has left the people of East Timor at the peril of Indonesian military aggression and the diseases and medical hazards attendant on biological warfare being practised by the aggressors.

In response to this violation of basic human rights, several humanitarian organizations in Australia - supported by funds and messages of solidarity from similar organizations in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and European countries - have decided to make a concerted effort to break the illegal blockade of the Territory of East Timor to enable medical personnel and materials to reach the distressed areas.

The Australian Council of Trade Unions, together with a broad coalition of church and aid organizations, has chartered a 96-foot, three-masted schooner, powered by a Gardner diesel engine and capable of carrying 100 tons of cargo, including 15 tons of refrigerated volume. This vessel will be manned by a volunteer crew of six members of the Seamen's Union; it is capable of carrying 20 passengers, mainly newsmen, and is serviced by a radio transmitter with a range of 1,000 miles. It is anticipated that this vessel will be ready to leave the northern coast of Australia for East Timor in 12 to 14 days from now.

Your Excellency, it is imperative that medical personnel and materials reach the people of East Timor in their suffering at this time. It is essential, too, that independent observers are enabled to return to East Timor to act as inhibitors on the Indonesian excesses, of which increasingly information is reaching the outside world.

I ask you, Sir, to use your good offices to facilitate the success of this mission, initiated by people and organizations in a truly humanitarian spirit, by prevailing upon the Government of Indonesia not to obstruct the passage of this vessel. May I take this opportunity to appeal to United Nations Member States to endorse this mission.

(Signed) José RAMOS-HORTA
Minister of External Relations and Information
Democratic Republic of East Timor