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QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR

Letter dated 1 October 1979 from the Permanent Representative  
of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman  
of the Fourth Committee

I have the honour to refer to the document of the Fourth Committee A/C.4/34/3 dated 28 September 1979 regarding the request by Mr. Paulo Pires to be heard as a petitioner before the Committee when the question of East Timor is considered.

As is well known, the process of decolonization has been carried out in East Timor in conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and of General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV), thus terminating the colonial status of the former Territory. Consequently, East Timor was formally integrated into the Republic of Indonesia on 17 July 1976 as its twenty-seventh province with equal rights and obligations as the other provinces.

In this regard, my delegation reiterates its view that further consideration of the question by this Committee is inappropriate and would constitute interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign Member State. Therefore, any granting of a hearing to any petitioner before this Committee would serve no useful purpose.

I would like, therefore, to express my delegation's strong opposition to the participation of Mr. Pires in the deliberations of the Committee as a petitioner.

I would highly appreciate it if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Fourth Committee.

(Signed) Abdullah KAMIL  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative