



UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



IN LIBRARY

SEP 30 1977

SECTION

Distr.
GENERAL

S/12408
30 September 1977

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 30 SEPTEMBER 1977 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF MOZAMBIQUE 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) José Carlos LOBO
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 29 September 1977 from Mr. José Ramos-Horta
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have been entrusted by the Standing Political Committee of the Frente Revolucionaria de Timor Leste Independente - FRETILIN - and by the Government of the Democratic Republic of East Timor to draw the attention of all United Nations Member States to the savage war of aggression being waged by the Armed Forces of Indonesia against the people of East Timor.

While the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Adam Malik, claimed in his speech before the thirty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly, on 27 September 1977, that "the problem of East Timor has ceased to exist as a problem of decolonization", war rages in the territory, resulting in massive destruction of properties and human lives.

"A new wave of Indonesian offensives on East Timor is now taking place", Mr. Alarico Fernandes, Minister for Information and National Security of the Democratic Republic of East Timor, said over Radio Maubere, broadcasting from the liberated areas on 23 September 1977. But he said "the enemy attempts to suffocate our struggle for national liberation and building the new society have always failed. The people of East Timor are politically and militarily prepared to face a hard and long-term struggle, materializing in practice the strategy decided by the Superior Council of Struggle of the Central Committee of FRETILIN at the historic meeting held in Lalemi from March to May 1977". As an example, Minister Alarico Fernandes referred to the great victories won at Matebian Mountain in the Quelikai region on 11 September. Eight enemy companies, including three crack red beret companies, attacked FRETILIN positions there. Over 200 enemy soldiers were killed, 150 of them confirmed. The enemy retreated. Three sergeants and one corporal were captured. Big supplies of war material, including 10 Belgian-made machine guns, 20 automatic rifles, two 60 mm mortars and thousands of rounds of ammunition have been captured also.

Indonesian air force drops napalm and defoliants

The Minister for Information and National Security charged that Indonesian aeroplanes are dropping napalm and defoliants over agricultural areas in Maliana and Suai, near the border with West Timor, and over Lospalos, at the far eastern tip of the island. This operation is part of a deliberate campaign to starve the population living in the liberated areas and force their surrender to the occupation forces.

Indonesian warships have shelled the coastal villages of Manatuto, Laleia, Vemassi, Laga, Metinaru, Hera, Liquica and Maubara on the north coast and Suai and Betano, on the south, since 7 September, causing the destruction of more than 200 houses and the killing of civilian population, particularly non-combatant elderly, women and children.

Western press confirms Indonesian aggression

The major Australian, British and French newspapers have reported on the Indonesian new wave of aggression against East Timor. According to the influential Australian daily, The Age, of Melbourne, 31 August 1977, "the offensive could involve as many as 15 battalions. The 10,000 troops would be under the command of General Dading, head of the occupation forces".

The report continued: "During the last dry season, the Indonesians have used defoliants in a big campaign to clean out suspected FRETILIN strongholds. This new offensive coincides with the dry season, which lasts until November and is the only time when Indonesian troops can get near FRETILIN strongholds in the mountains".

An American Congressman, Mr. William Goodling, known for his staunch pro-Indonesia stand, told a House Sub-Committee on Human Rights on 29 June 1977 that during his talks with Indonesian General Benni Murdanni, the latter said, "Indonesia would wrap things up when the dry season came to East Timor".

Mr. Ray Martin, Radio Australia correspondent, reported that United States State Department officials conceded privately that Indonesia has used napalm in East Timor.

Over 85 per cent of the territory under FRETILIN administration

Indonesian "control" in East Timor amounts to only 15 per cent of the whole territory and only 5 per cent of the population of about 1,000,000 in that "controlled" area.

General Dading, Indonesian military commander, admitted to an Australian journalist who visited Dili as an honour guest of the Indonesian Government that even the town of Remexio, ten miles south-east of the capital, has been under FRETILIN administration and for this reason he, Mr. Richard Carleton, could not visit that place.

Fighting occurs in the outskirts of the capital. Tibar, Comoro, Hera, Dare, all at a distance of four to six miles from Dili, have been the theatre of fierce engagements between FRETILIN and Indonesian forces.

"My helicopter pilot was under instructions to fly over 3,000 feet, above the range of small arms fire", Mr. Richard Carleton said. "On the ground, wherever I went I was surrounded by two concentric circles of Indonesian troops. Guards were posted outside the hotel overnight. Western intelligence in Jakarta conceded that FRETILIN fighting men amount to 20,000", the Australian journalist concluded.

45,000 Indonesian troops fighting in East Timor

The Government of Indonesia maintains in East Timor some 45,000 troops, backed up by six American-supplied jets, known as "Bronco", suitable for ground attack and largely used in the wars in Indochina, 16 French supplied helicopters - "Alouette" -

and over 50 armoured cars and tanks. However, and in spite of this massive military aggression, Indonesia will never win the war in East Timor and the longer it goes on this war will extend into West Timor where an active organization known as West Timor Liberation Movement is intensifying its own struggle against Indonesian fascism and expansionism.

In other parts of Indonesia, in West Papua, the Free Papua Movement is stronger than ever and since May more than 300 Indonesian soldiers have been killed there, according to Australian sources. The Nation Review of Melbourne, 21 September 1977, reported that "West Papua rebels" caused more than \$1 million damage to the Free Port Mineral Corporation's copper mine. The "rebels" had blown up parts of the mine, a fuel dump and bridge abutments. The report added that two months after the guerrilla's operations "exports of concentrates, valued at \$7.7 million per month, cannot be shipped because of continued rebel sabotage".

In North Sumatra, in the Acheh Province, a spiritual Muslim leader, Tengku Hasan Di Tiro, well-known throughout Indonesia and the Muslim world, has launched armed struggle. During the clashes government troops suffered heavy casualties and two senior army officers were reported killed (ABC Radio, 11 September).

It is amidst this scenario of internal disorder that the Government of Indonesia continues its expansionist war against the Democratic Republic of East Timor.

Time and again, the Central Committee of FRETILIN and the Government of the Democratic Republic of East Timor have stated its willingness to establish friendship and co-operation with the Government of Indonesia on the basis of non-intervention, equality and mutual respect for each other's sovereignty.

The inherited colonial boundaries should be respected if peace is to be preserved. However, Indonesia's attempt to destroy the East Timorese nation will only endanger Indonesia's own fragile unity, as can be seen from the various "separatist" wars being fought in West Timor, West Papua, North Sumatra and South Mollucas.

FRETILIN Central Committee enlarged to 67 members

Following the historic plenary meeting of the Central Committee of FRETILIN, held in the liberated areas from March to May 1977, the Central Committee membership has been enlarged to 67 from the previous 45 members. Of the 67 members of the Central Committee, 64 are inside the country and only three remain abroad. The enlargement of the Central Committee membership is a great step forward in the historic process of national liberation. In the course of the two years of armed struggle against Indonesian fascism and expansionism, FRETILIN has been strengthened politically and militarily.

A Supreme Council of Struggle was also created with the task of co-ordinating and intensifying the armed struggle in accordance with the strategy laid down by the Central Committee.

A new President has been appointed by the Standing Political Committee of the Central Committee, Nicolau dos Reis Lobato, native of the village of Bazartete, who has been the Vice-President of FRETILIN and Prime Minister. The new President of FRETILIN and Head of State lost his wife, Isabel Barreto, on 9 December 1975. Isabel Barreto, along with Muki Bonaparte, Chairperson of the Popular Women's Organization of East Timor, were executed by an Indonesian firing squad and their bodies thrown to the sea.

On the occasion of the announcement of the new leadership, the President of FRETILIN and President of the Democratic Republic of East Timor, Nicolau dos Reis Lobato, said over Radio Maubere on 14 September 1977: "... the people who make history, develop within themselves, through the armed struggle, authentic revolutionaries who will occupy the highest levels. FRETILIN Central Committee is an historic and necessary product of centuries of struggle of our people, so FRETILIN Central Committee as a block remains as solid as a rock without a crack. ... the people of East Timor will work with more courage, so that the political line of FRETILIN can be even more clarified, even more firm, more uncompromised, against the enemies of our homeland. The political line of FRETILIN will win. From now on, imperialism and its lackeys will suffer more blows, bigger and deeper each time. Imperialism and its lackey Javanese expansionism will be finally defeated and smashed and convinced by this revolutionary truth: our victory is certain. Our victory is only a question of time".

FRETILIN rejects Indonesia's offer of amnesty

Replying to President Suharto's offer of amnesty to the East Timorese patriots, the President of FRETILIN, Nicolau dos Reis Lobato, said: "This is laughable. Just imagine, a bandit came into my house, ransacked my properties, stabbed my children, raped my daughters, and then he says I am the guilty one but he forgives me. President Suharto's offer of amnesty is only a sign of their weakness, of their defeat in the battlefield. This amnesty should be offered to the 100,000 Indonesian political prisoners who languish in jails throughout Indonesia for over ten years without trial, since the overthrow of President Sukarno. It should be remembered that it is this very same régime of General Suharto who slaughtered in 1965-1966 some 1,000,000 Indonesians. We don't want this amnesty. We shall expel the Indonesian occupation forces, we shall force the fascist-expansionist régime of General Suharto to bend down to their knees. We shall regain our entire homeland. Victory is certain. The struggle continues".

Minister of External Relations

The Standing Political Committee of the Central Committee of FRETILIN has appointed Mr. Mari Bin Hamud Alkatiry as Minister of External Relations in the Government of the Democratic Republic of East Timor.

(Signed) José RAMOS-HORTA
Member of the Central Committee of FRETILIN,
Ambassador in Charge of East Timor Affairs
at the United Nations and
International Organizations