

PRT

East Timor Support Group in  
the ALP  
c/- Caroline Hogg, MLC,  
690 Sydney Road,  
Brunswick, 3056.

Dear Comrades,

Re: Implementation of ALP policy on East Timor

We are writing to seek your active participation in initiatives in support of ALP policy on East Timor.

As you will be aware, East Timor remains an issue in Australian politics. Recently there has been controversy over the Fraser government's denial of a visa to FRETILIN representative Jose Ramos Horta and over Cough Whitlam's visit to the UN. At the same time reports have come through of six major attacks by FRETILIN guerillas in the month of August 1982 and of the Indonesian response of transporting another 800 Timorese civilians to the prison island of Atauro, bringing to 6800 the number taken there in the last twelve months. Portugal has belatedly taken up its responsibilities in relation to East Timor and is seeking support for an Indonesian withdrawal and a genuine act of self-determination in East Timor. Australian support for such proposals may be critical and on regaining government the ALP may once again be in a critical position to influence the future of East Timor.

The Federal conference in June 1982 adopted a strong policy on East Timor (see attached). It commits the party to action both in government and in opposition.

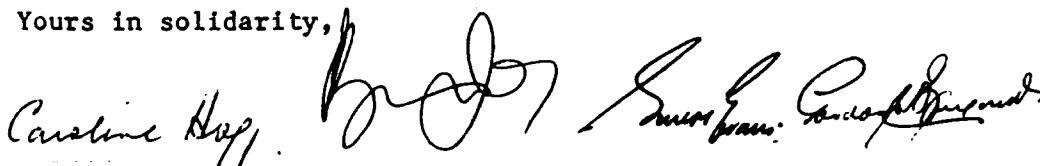
Recently a number of concerned ALP members met to consider what may be done to implement this policy. It was decided to launch an East Timor Support Group within the ALP with the following aims:

- (1) to promote ALP policy on the right of the people of East Timor to self-determination and independence
- (2) to commit the party to withdrawal of recognition of the Indonesian annexation on obtaining government
- (3) to see that the party takes all possible steps in line with policy while in opposition
- (4) to ensure the immediate implementation of ALP policy once in government.

We seek your support for these aims and ask you to:

- (1) affiliate with the East Timor Support Group by writing to us at the above address and nominating a delegate or contact person from your branch
- (2) write to Bill Hayden, Lionel Bowen and your local members endorsing the ALP Timor policy
- (3) write to the National Secretary urging that steps be taken to place East Timor on the agenda for the Socialist International conference in Sydney in April 1983
- (4) arrange for a speaker on East Timor to address your branch.

Yours in solidarity,

  
Caroline Hogg      Barry Jones      Gareth Evans      Gordon Bryant