

183 Gertrude St,  
Fitzroy Vic 3065

June 22, 1982

Dear *Alan*,

As you know the ALP Federal Conference is to be held early in July and future ALP policy on East Timor is on the agenda.

Enclosed is the new policy on East Timor proposed by the ALP Federal Foreign Affairs Committee. This, we understand, is the policy which will be debated and voted on at the Conference.

Also enclosed is an alternative proposal from AETA (The Australia-East Timor Association) drafted as a "fall-back" policy to be used if it turns out the Conference finds the first proposal unsatisfactory because of its length or for some other reason.

Would you mind drawing the existence of this alternative proposal to the attention of the delegates from your State who will attend the Conference. Would you also point out its virtues - principally, its brevity, and the three concrete action proposals which logically flow from a defence of Timor's right to self-determination and independence and which give the policy teeth.

We are also preparing a fact-sheet for distribution to all Conference delegates. We will send you a copy when it is ready and discuss with you how best to distribute it.

Every best wish. Let's hope our common efforts produce the best results for Timor.

Yours sincerely,

*Pat Walsh*

Pat Walsh

*Alan - I've sent this letter and the two policy proposals to a few ALP people inter-state. To be perfectly honest, we now much prefer the second policy - it's tighter and more concrete. But were reluctant to put it at the late stage in case we bugger up the excellent work you've already done with the Foreign Affairs Committee.*

*Pat.*

ALTERNATIVE POLICY PROPOSAL ON EAST TIMOR for ALP NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE July 1982.

*(Proposed for consideration if the Conference feels the longer ALP Federal Committee proposal is too unmanageable)*

The ALP recognises the inalienable right of the East Timorese to self-determination and independence and condemns and rejects the Australian Government's recognition of the Indonesian annexation of East Timor. In accordance with this policy, the ALP in Government will:

1. reverse Australia's recognition of the Indonesian annexation of East Timor;
2. suspend negotiations with Indonesia on the Australia - East Timor sea-bed boundary; and
3. initiate diplomatic action in support of self-determination at the UN and elsewhere.

The ALP opposes all military aid to Indonesia while its aggression continues in East Timor and, in Government, will suspend such military aid until there is a complete withdrawal of Indonesian occupation forces from East Timor.

Aid to East Timor should benefit the East Timorese but should not support Indonesian Government integration processes or military strategy.

The ALP in Government will grant refugee status rights to East Timorese refugees.

The ALP opposes the operation of Australian companies in East Timor until self-determination has been achieved.

*Australia East Timor Association  
Melbourne, June 1982.*

*NB It is recommended that the detailed proposals on family reunions, immigration processes and other matters contained in the longer Federal Committee proposal be recommended to the ALP Immigration Committee for its consideration.*