



**EAST  
TIMOR  
SUPPORT  
GROUP**  
in the ALP

March 7, 1983

Dear

I am writing on behalf of our East Timor Support Group to draw your attention to the enclosed report of remarks made by the Prime Minister Designate, Mr Hawke, during a press conference on Sunday, March 6.

Mr Hawke's remarks, as reported, would appear to place an over-riding emphasis on good relations with Indonesia. We are concerned that in practice this attitude might lead to an abandonment or amendment of current ALP policy on East Timor which, as you know, places an equally high priority on the right of the East Timorese people to self-determination.

It would be a great disappointment to us and to the East Timorese people were a Labor Government to change its long-standing policy just at the moment when it is best placed to do something meaningful for the East Timorese people who are so sorely in need of our support.

With our very sincere congratulations on your re-election to the Parliament,

Yours sincerely,

George Preston

Interim Convenor, East Timor Support Group in the ALP

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AUSTRALIAN-INDONESIA

*Indonesian*

CANBERRA, MARCH 6 (AFP) - AUSTRALIA WOULD TRY FOR A SPEEDY RETURN TO CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA, ITS NEAREST NEIGHBOUR, LABOR PRIME MINISTER DESIGNATE BOB HAWKE SAID TODAY.

HE TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT AID TO INDONESIA WOULD CONTINUE ALTHOUGH SOME LABOR CRITICS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT AUSTRALIAN AID SHOULD BE LINKED TO BETTER INDONESIA BEHAVIOUR IN EAST TIMOR. MR. HAWKE SAID THESE MATTERS WOULD BE REVIEWED.

INDONESIA ANNEXED THE FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONY OF EAST TIMOR IN 1975.

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN STRAINED SINCE THE SEVENTIES, MR. HAWKE SAID. HOWEVER, NEW FOREIGN MINISTER BILL HAYDEN WOULD GIVE INDONESIA A HIGH PRIORITY AS AUSTRALIA RECOGNISED THE VALUE OF GOOD NEIGHBOURLINESS, HE SAID.

MR. HAWKE SAID HE HAD GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH INDONESIAN PRESIDENT GENERAL SUHARTO, WITH WHOM HE HAS HAD LENGTHY MEETINGS. HE SAID HE WAS SURE THAT PRESIDENT SUHARTO WOULD WELCOME THE NEW AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S SINCERE EFFORTS TO OVERCOME ANY DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS.

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POLICY ON EAST TIMOR - adopted by the Australian Labor Party at its June 1982 National Conference.

**EAST TIMOR 8**

The A.L.P. 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.

The A.L.P. opposes all defence aid to Indonesia 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 A.L.P. supports the principle of free migration of East Timorese, including refugees, and believes Australia has an obligation and ability to assist East Timorese to come to Australia.

The A.L.P. will seek out and make publicly available information on all aspects of the East Timor issue.

The A.L.P. opposes the operations of Australian companies in East Timor until self-determination has been achieved.

The A.L.P. will continue to support United Nations resolutions which promote the rights of East Timorese.

The A.L.P. will, further—

- circulate information on East Timor to governments and political parties overseas;
- campaign for the Australian government to release more information;
- press for free access to East Timor for the Australian news media;
- demand that FRETILIN representatives be allowed into Australia;
- press for an Australian parliamentary delegation to visit East Timor on a fact-finding mission, ensuring that adequate support is available from interpreters and that unhindered access is available to all parts of the country and population; and
- press for a Parliamentary enquiry into all aspects of the East Timor question.

The A.L.P. will also—

- press the Australian government to widen its existing programmes to include: the parents and families of isolated children in Australia;
- the rest of the 2668 extended family members nominated by Timorese in Australia in 1977; and all other East Timorese who wish to come here;
- press the Australian government to send an immigration team to East Timor to bring to Australia the rest of the 600 people on the agreed list and those embraced by categories in the preceding paragraph;
- seek direct talks with the Indonesian government on the matter;
- draw attention to the lack of free migration from East Timor in all appropriate international fora; and
- meet with the Timorese community in Australia to enquire into the special problems affecting them.

An A.L.P. Government will—

- bring to Australia all Timorese included above;
- refuse visas to all Indonesian military and government officials until the rest of the 600 people on the agreed list have been admitted to Australia; and
- send an immigration team to East Timor to bring direct to Australia all East Timorese specified above.