



EAST TIMOR SUPPORT GROUP

in the ALP

c/- Caroline Hogg MLC
690 Sydney Road
Brunswick, 3056

9 May 1983

Dear Branch Representative,

Our Labor government has now been in office for more than two months. So far as we know, no steps have been taken to implement ALP East Timor policy.

Most sections of the media have been asserting that the policy shouldn't, wouldn't or couldn't be implemented. No attempt has been made Mr Hawke or Mr Hayden to contradict even the most outrageous media reports or to affirm ALP policy.

Distressingly, two breaches of the military aid provisions of the policy have occurred:

- (1) While in Jakarta, Mr Hayden opened a 'Language Centre' announced under the 'Defence Co-operation' programme by former Foreign Minister Sinclair during his visit to Indonesia, East Timor and West Irian in January this year.
- (2) On Friday May 6 in Darwin a former Australian Navy Attack Class Patrol Boat was handed over to the Indonesian Navy after a \$350 000 engine refit.

It is extremely important that the Australian government begin diplomatic initiatives immediately to secure a vote in favour of East Timor's right to self-determination in the UN General Assembly in November this year. This is particularly the case in the light of the Fraser government's lobbying on behalf of Indonesia prior to last year's vote. Indonesia is working hard to have the issue dropped during the UN Agenda Committee sessions in August.

A meeting of the East Timor Support Group has been called to consider what can be done to ensure the implementation of ALP policy on East Timor and to appoint office bearers for the Support Group.

The meeting will be held on

Monday May 23
at 8pm
at ALP Head Office,
21-23 Drummond St, Carlton

All branches who responded to our letter of December 1982 have been invited to send delegates. Please encourage interested individuals to attend or submit their apologies.

Yours in solidarity,

George Preston



EAST TIMOR SUPPORT GROUP

in the ALP

1 June 1983

Dear Comrades,

I write to follow up the letter sent to you late last year by Senator Gareth Evans, Caroline Hogg MLC, Gordon Bryant and Barry Jones MHR, a copy of which is enclosed.

Also enclosed is a document containing ALP East Timor policy and a report on its implementation to 31 May 1983.

As far as we know no steps have been taken to implement the policy. Valuable time is being lost and opportunities at international forums, to take an active role in defence of East Timor's right to self-determination, are being allowed to pass.

The East Timor Support Group urges your branch to press for the implementation of ALP policy on East Timor. The implementation of policy is the responsibility of every ALP parliamentarian. Accordingly, we suggest your branches and FEA organize a deputation to your local ALP MP (where applicable) or to an ALP Senator requesting that he or she:

- a) declare support for ALP East Timor policy;
- b) raise the question of implementation, particularly in regard to the UN, in caucus;
- c) report back to branches and FEA's (preferably in person) on the results of their efforts.

Finally, we ask branches who have not yet done so to write to us endorsing the aims of the Support Group, affiliating with it and nominating a delegate to attend the next meeting of the group (to be held on 11 July 1983 at 7.30pm at ALP Head Office).

If you would like more information on the issue, contact us c/- Caroline Hogg MLC, 690 Sydney Rd, Brunswick 3056, and arrange for a speaker to address your branch.

Yours in solidarity,

George Preston
Interim Convenor.



EAST TIMOR SUPPORT GROUP

in the ALP

c/- Caroline Hogg MLC
690 Sydney Road,
Brunswick. 3056.
Phone: 383 5344

28th. June 1983

Dear Comrades,

The East Timor Support Group calls upon branches and Federal Electorate Assemblies to take positive action supporting the fundamental right of the East Timorese people to self-determination.

We draw your attention to the resolution on implementation of ALP policy that was unanimously passed at last conference (attached). The State Conference also passed a resolution urging support for, and attendance at, the July Public Meeting where Fretilin representative Abilio Arujua will speak (attached). Support speakers will include representatives of the ALP, the Australian Democrats, churches, aid groups and the Timorese community. It is hoped that a federal government minister will attend. The program will include displays of Timorese folk dancing and singing.

In our previous letter (1.6.83) we called upon branches and F.E.A.'s to organise a deputation to their local ALP member or a Senator, and request them to: a) declare support for the implementation of ALP East Timor policy; b) raise the question of implementation, particularly in reference to the United Nations vote, within Caucus; and c) report back to branches and F.E.A. on results. If you have done so, please let us know the results. Another positive action that your branch could undertake would be to endorse the above resolutions from the last conference and to communicate your endorsement to relevant M.P.'s. Your branch is invited to affiliate with the East Timor Support Group in the ALP, and to nominate a delegate to attend our next meeting on the 11th July at 7.30 p.m. at ALP Head Office. Posters, stickers, badges and leaflets are available for distribution and sale. Speakers are also available to address meetings and show videos.

One recent report in the Age suggested there was a possibility that the Indonesian government was considering negotiating with Fretilin for an internationally supervised act of self-determination. If this report is accurate, then the need for support from ALP members is crucial, in particular, to ensure Caucus endorses party policy and presses for its implementation.

ALP members can show their support by attending the meeting at Dallas Brooks Hall on Sunday 31st July at 2 p.m. Branch banners will be most welcome.

Yours in solidarity,

George Preston
George Preston,
Interim Convener.

Caroline Hogg
Caroline Hogg MLC.

c/- Caroline Hogg's office,
690 Sydney Rd.,
Brunswick.



EAST TIMOR SUPPORT GROUP

in the ALP

22 August 1983

To all ALP branches as addressed

Dear Comrade,

Please find enclosed a copy of a booklet published by the Australia-East Timor Association.

Among other things, it provides:-

1. Photographic and other evidence of the cease-fire talks held during March this year in Fretilin controlled areas of East Timor.
2. Testimony from East-Timorese now living in Australia, on how visits by outsiders to East Timor are 'stage managed'.
3. An account of what the Labor Government is/is not doing.
4. An outline of what the Government should do.

The booklet is being widely distributed throughout the community in the interests of the people of East Timor. (Enclosed is an order form for the booklet. All orders for the booklet should go to the Australia-East Timor Association not to the Support Group.)

As you would be aware, as many as 200,000 Timorese may have died so far as a result of the Indonesian invasion and occupation of East Timor. If, as recent reports allege, Indonesia breaks the cease-fire and launches a new offensive (in effect a new invasion), then many more Timorese will die.

I believe the enclosed booklet is essential reading for all Australians, particularly ALP branches, for the branches must pressure their members to ensure that the parliamentarians carry out their responsibility to implement the policy, democratically determined by the highest decision making body of the party, and support the right of the people of East Timor to decide their own future.

We urge all branches to undertake some simple tasks to ensure that ALP policy is not dumped:-

1. If you have not yet affiliated with the Support Group do so now and help get ALP policy on East Timor implemented.
2. Help the Support Group financially so that we can continue to send information out to branches and to all federal parliamentarians.
3. Request your FEA executive to send a delegation to your local ALP member and/or Senator to seek assurances that s/he will support existing policy in Caucus and report back to the FEA executive, and to branches, the results of their efforts.
4. Request your FEA to organise a seminar on the East Timor issue.
5. Request a speaker, either from the Support Group or the Australia-East Timor Association, to attend your next branch meeting.

We look forward to your co-operation in the struggle for independence and self-determination for the East-Timorese people.

Yours in solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marian Mackenzie'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Marian Mackenzie
Secretary.



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Brunswick. 3056.
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Yours in solidarity,

George Preston
George Preston,
Interim Convener.

Caroline Hogg
Caroline Hogg MLC.

EAST TIMOR RESOLUTION

This conference of the Victorian Branch, having received the report of the meeting between Bill Hayden and the Administrative and Foreign Affairs Policy Committee, and noting the statements of the Prime Minister regarding the relevancy of Party Policy -

1. Believes that circumstances have not changed and that ALP policy as passed by Federal Conference in July 1983 is still relevant in every respect;
2. Is aware that the Indonesian Government is intensively lobbying the Agenda Committee of the UN decolonization Committee which meets in August to have the matter of East Timor removed from the 1983 UN agenda;
3. Regards the lack of positive action by the Australian Government to lobby for East Timor's inclusion on UN agenda as support for Indonesia's occupation;
4. Condemns the continuation of military aid to, and defence links with, Indonesia while conditions specified in ALP policy have not been met;
5. Considers that the conditions under which the Parliamentary delegation will visit East Timor and the short duration of its visit, will prevent the delegation adequately performing the functions of the fact finding mission as called for in ALP policy and that the delegation's report cannot therefore form a valid basis for changing ALP policy;
6. Expresses its strong dissatisfaction with the government's handling of the East Timor issue and of our relations with the Suharto Government;

Accordingly, State Conference calls on the Australian Government to implement ALP policy without delay, and in particular -

- (a) to affirm publicly its full support for the principle of self-determination;
- (b) to withdraw Australian recognition of Indonesian annexation of East Timor;
- (c) to cease all military aid to Indonesia;
- (d) to immediately take diplomatic steps to counter Indonesian efforts to have the matter dropped from UN agenda and to take an active part in drafting the resolution in support of East Timor's right to self-determination.

Further, State Conference requests all Victorian members of Federal Parliament to move immediately within caucus a resolution in line with the attitudes of the Victorian Branch.

MOVED: Jean McLean

SECOND: Ros Eason