

AETA

Australia-East Timor Association

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12th Feb.
Thurs.
7.30 - 9.00

DRAFT POLICY ON EAST TIMOR FOR THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

JUBS

CONTENTS

G.P.
JW
PW
PW
RH
GP.
GP.
RH

- 1. East Timor's Right to Independence
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- 4. Refugees from ~~East Timor~~ and family reunions
- 5. Information
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- 7. ~~Economic~~ Activity in East Timor Australia Companies + ET.
- 8. United Nations.

- 1) Arrange meeting: Geoff Keenan
- 2) Dates of interstate ALP Conf.

WHO ARE THE AUTHORS?

FIRST (INCOMPLETE) DRAFT

Inconsistency - deal with GOI

Attach 1977 Nat. Conf.?
1979 " " ?
Any state ALP Res on ET?
UN Res.
1964: ALP policy

self-d +

1. East Timor's Right to Independence

1



Policy

The A.L.P.:

1. ~~(i)~~ recognises the inalienable right of East Timor to self-determination and independence, ~~(including the right to control off shore resources in accordance with international practice)~~;
2. ~~(ii)~~ recognises that the people of East Timor bitterly ^{+ continue to resist} reject integration into Indonesia, ~~and have shown this by continued resistance expressed in a variety of forms;~~
3. ~~(iii)~~ does not accept that East Timor is part of Indonesia;
4. ~~(iv)~~ condemns, ~~in the strongest terms,~~ the Australian government's recognition of Indonesia's annexation of East Timor;

ACTION

5. ~~(v)~~ and, in government, would reverse this decision to recognise the annexation.

Test of the up of a party.

DRET ?

ACTION

An ALP Government will immediately ~~withdraw~~ reverse the F.G.'s recognition of Ind. Anne. of ET.

What ^{genuine} IS self-determination? — met George.

ALP will recognise ~~dem~~ — without pressures

Background

(1) Political Developments in East Timor

After the Salazar regime in Portugal was overthrown in April 1974 the veil of 400 years of Portugese colonial domination and exploitation was partially lifted. The removal of secret police and informers who had detected and vigorously suppressed any "anti-government" activity now meant that the Timorese could exercise democratic freedoms such as the right to stike. Very quickly political parties formed expressing the interests of various sections of Timorese society. The party which emerged with overwhelming support was Fretilin - a party which wanted independence for East Timor and put forward a wide ranging political, economic and social program. The parties supporting integration into Indonesia (or Australia) were very small.

However, this desire for independence was not realized. Indonesian troops invaded on December 7 1975 to incorporate East Timor into Indonesia.

(2) Australian Government Response

The Fraser government, following a period of quiet support for the Indonesian occupation granted defacto recognition () and formal recognition () of the Indonesian takeover. More recently at the United Nations Australia has voted with Indonesia against motions supporting East Timor's right to self-determination and independence. A majority of members of the U.N. have supported this right in five successive years.

The platform of the Victorian Branch of the A.L.P., in item 2.11, asserts " the right of all nations to self-determination and independence" and states that international conflicts should be resolved through the United Nations.

The United Nations has clearly stated its acceptance of the right of colonial countries to self-determination and independence.

U.N. quote.

Details of continuing rejection of Indonesianization.

*Validity
Maj. parties not pro-integ
Cont. attitude
UN on file of self-det.
Fraser Govt. response
Int. response
Former Colony*

2. Military Aid

opposes the All
suspend
Policy: In government ~~the~~ A.L.P. will ~~stop~~ *suspend* all military aid to Indonesia. In particular *until all Indo troops are withdrawn from ET.*

- ACTION*
The Govt, the ALP will
- (1) no more military hardware will be supplied;
 - (2) no more Indonesian military personnel will be trained either in Australia or in Indonesia;
 - (3) no more joint naval and military exercises will take place;
 - (4) no more exchange visits by high ranking officers will occur;
 - (5) consultations with Indonesia on Defence matters will cease;
 - (6) assistance with surveying and mapping will cease;
 - (7) civil aid will be limited to that which has no military applications and which benefits Indonesian people in need and not the military regime.

(8) *press for a universal military boycott.*

Action

The A.L.P. ~~will~~ *will* a party

- (1) take all steps possible in Parliament to frustrate the Australian government in its arming of the Indonesian military, including the stopping of budgetary allocations for this purpose;
- (2) communicate with political parties in other countries supplying arms to Indonesia and press for a boycott on arms sales and military aid to Indonesia;
- (3) seek to have the U.N. impose an arms embargo on Indonesia.

Background: Since 1975 the Indonesian armed forces have been waging a war of aggression in East Timor. They have been illegally occupying a foreign country. Despite this the Australian government has continued to supply military aid to the Indonesian armed forces.

Details of Australian military aid to Indonesia for the years 1972 - 79 are given on the next page.

The 1980/81 military aid program is as follows:

5. INFORMATION

Making of media fund of democracy. Also find out what gov had seen resp.

Policy: An ALP government will

1. make publicly available as much information as possible on East Timor
2. press for the visit of an Australian parliamentary delegation to visit East Timor mindful of the need to ensure adequate interpretive services and free access to all people and all parts of the territory.

Action:

The ALP will *international*

1. organise support for its policy from governments and political parties throughout the world, ^
2. press for information to be released by the government,
3. press for free access to the territory by Australian media representatives,
4. attempt to have the Radio Australia office in Jakarta re-opened,
5. organise an education campaign to promote its East Timor policy and to provide information about East Timor.

Background

While the truth about the situation in East Timor is becoming better known, the Indonesian government and its supporters continue a propaganda campaign of lies and misinformation. Access is available only to selected people on a guided tour basis. Those people ^{are} rarely ^{able} to get all the facts.

The Fraser government has actively supported the Indonesian government in its attempts to suppress the truth by, for example, frustrating the mission of UN Special Representative Guicciardi in his attempts to visit FRETILIN held areas of East Timor in 1976 and by closing down the Darwin-FRETILIN radio link.

further information required:

1. Information withheld by the government
2. closure of the Radio Australia office in Jakarta
3. lack of access to the territory
4. need for information to correct Indonesian mis-information.
5. details of the 1975 parliamentary visit to ET.
6. information needs of refugees from ET as to the fate of their relatives

*Fretl to Aust.
Family contact - corr.
ICRC - - -*

6. SEA-BED BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS

Policy

The ALP rejects any Indonesian claim to the sea-bed area under dispute between East Timor and Australia, ~~and in government will~~

- Action in Govt.*
1. revoke any tacit or formal agreement establishing an ~~offshore~~ ^{seabed} boundary between East Timor and Australia
 2. withdraw from any negotiations on this issue until such time that legitimate representatives of the East Timorese are party to such negotiations
 3. refuse to issue exploration leases to companies seeking access to the disputed ~~offshore~~ ^{seabed} area between East Timor and Australia
 4. suspend any such leases already issued.

Action

Background

The following is a chronology of the sea-bed negotiations.

October 1972: The Australian and Indonesian governments agree on a sea-bed boundary in the Timor sea between Indonesian Timor and Australia. Despite the initial Indonesian demand for a 'line of equidistance', the boundary is set down closer to Indonesian Timor than Australia.

However, Portugal is not a party to the Agreement so the boundary adjacent to East Timor is undefined. The area between a hypothetical line joining the formal boundary and a line of equidistance thus becomes a disputed area. (see map)

December 1974: The Portuguese grant exploration rights to Oceanic Petroleum Co. for survey activity in the disputed area. However, the Whitlam government had already leased a large part of the area to a consortium of ARCO Australia Ltd., Australian Aquitaine Petroleum Pty. Ltd and Esso Exploration and Production Aust. Inc.. The Australian government protested when the Portuguese announced their plan to grant leases but the protests were ignored.

November 1975: FRETILIN declares East Timor an independent republic and claims control of the disputed area

December 1975 Indonesia invades East Timor

October 1976 Australia and Indonesia begin informal negotiations to determine the position of the boundary between East Timor and Australia

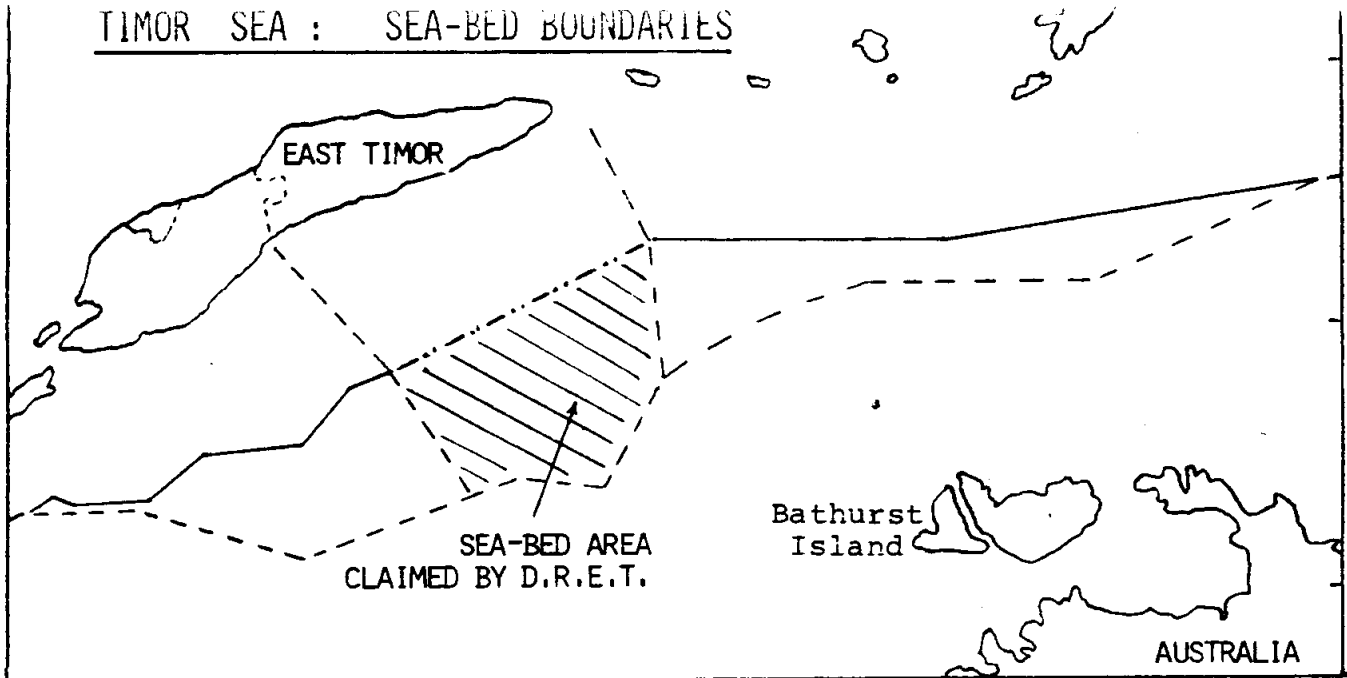
January 1977 The Australian government grants de-facto recognition to Indonesia's control of East Timor. It is suggested that Indonesia promised concessions on the position of the boundary and that this was an important factor influencing the Australian government's decision.

Since 1977: There has been no announcement of any formal agreement on the position of the boundary. The Australian government has mentioned continued negotiation on the issue.

Since 1979 - formal neg. attempts to determine boundary - stalled

Include reference to Waka-Munsta Does.

TIMOR SEA : SEA-BED BOUNDARIES



KEY:

- - - - - "Lines of Equidistance."
- Australia-Indonesia sea-bed boundary. Agreed October 1972.
- Line claimed by Australia for Australia-East Timor boundary.
- ////// Denotes area claimed by both Australia and Portugal in 1974. (This area now claimed by D.R.E.T. as East Timorese waters.)

(Map derived from "The Political Geography of Oceans", J.R.V. Prescott. 1975.)

ALP Comp and

7. ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN EAST TIMOR

Policy

In government the ALP

Limit No Aus. comp should be profiting from ET while it is occupied by Indo. Military.

1. will not recognise any agreements between Australian companies and the Indonesian government which relate to economic activity in East Timor
2. will withdraw all forms of direct and indirect government assistance to companies which operate in East Timor.

8 The United Nations

Proposed Policy

all UN res. which support promote - indep the right to self-det. + indep of ET.
Some will
An ALP support UN res which are a agreement

~~A Labor government will vote in favour of U.N. resolutions which support the East Timorese.~~ It will lobby and vote for U.N. resolutions which:

1. support the inalienable rights of the people of East Timor to self-determination and independence;
2. call for the complete withdrawal of Indonesian forces from East Timor;
3. deplore the continued suffering of the East Timorese as a result of the situation still prevailing in the country;
4. request U.N. agencies to render all possible assistance to the people of East Timor;
5. request the implementation of the resolutions on East Timor;
6. call for a U.N. fact - finding mission to be allowed into East Timor by the Indonesian government.

Action

The Labor Party will seek representation at the U.N. from 1981 in support of the above policy and will actively lobby other parties and governments in support of this objective.

Background of 15

The Fraser government voted for the resolution in 1976, abstained in 1977, (entered de facto recognition in 1978), and voted against the resolution in 1978, 1979 and 1980. Other U.N. delegates have looked to Australia for a lead on the East Timor issue but the Fraser line has become low-key support for the Indonesian position.