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C A B I N E T M I N U T E

Canberra, 29 March 1983

Decision No. 116

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Submission No. 12 - Australian Policy on Indonesia -
 and Addendum East Timor

The Cabinet agreed that:-

- (a) the Government reaffirms the need to maintain friendly and co-operative relations with Indonesia;
- (b) the Government endorses the following points in relation to East Timor and authorises the Minister for Foreign Affairs to make any of these public in an appropriate manner at a suitable time:-
 - (i) Australia notes that Indonesia has incorporated East Timor into the Republic of Indonesia, and will raise with the Indonesian Government its deep concern that an internationally supervised act of self-determination has not taken place in East Timor;

.../2

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2

Decision No. 116 cont.

- (ii) Australia supports the reunification of families separated by events in East Timor and the assistance of appropriate international agencies in this process;
- (iii) Australia requests the Government of Indonesia to allow appropriate international relief agencies increased access to East Timor and to allow such agencies to establish full-time humanitarian relief operations in East Timor;
- (iv) Australia calls on the Government of Indonesia to allow free access to East Timor by journalists and international human rights organisations;
- (v) Australia stands ready to provide further development and food aid assistance to East Timor; and
- (vi) Australia will raise with the Indonesian Government the circumstances in which five Australian journalists were killed during the conflict in East Timor;

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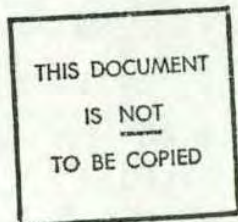
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3

Decision No. 116 cont.

- (c) existing programs, projects and exchanges with Indonesia, including defence assistance, be maintained pending a further Submission by the Minister for Foreign Affairs examining bilateral relations with Indonesia;
- (d) the Minister for Foreign Affairs bring forward a separate Submission proposing that a special Australian aid program for East Timor be established after discussion between Australian and Indonesian officials;
- (e) Australia continue to press the Indonesian authorities to speed up the processing of East Timorese still on the agreed lists for emigration to Australia;
- (f) the Government approve in principle a small delegation from the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee visiting Indonesia, should that be acceptable to the Indonesian authorities; and



.../4

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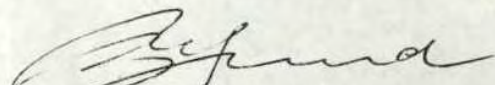
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Decision No. 116 cont.

(g) in the context of sub-paragraph (a) above, the Minister for Foreign Affairs make an early visit to Indonesia and take appropriate opportunities to discuss with the Indonesian Government the matters referred to in sub-paragraphs (b) to (f) above.

(This Decision Endorses Decision No 93 (DER) of 23 March 1983)

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Secretary to Cabinet

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