

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY - VICTORIAN BRANCH

STATE CONFERENCE - JUNE 1981

FOREIGN AFFAIRS POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

(EXCERPTS)

C. RECOMMENDATIONS TO NATIONAL CONFERENCE

1. East Timor

East Timor's Right to Self-Determination and Independence:

The ALP recognises the inalienable right of the East Timorese to self-determination and independence and their continuing resistance to integration into Indonesia.

An ALP Government will immediately reverse the Fraser Government's recognition of Indonesia's annexation of East Timor.

Australian Military Aid to Indonesia:

A Labor Government will oppose all military aid to Indonesia until there is a complete withdrawal of Indonesian forces from East Timor.

As well as terminating all Australian military aid to Indonesia, a Labor Government will also :

- . urge political parties and governments in other countries supplying arms to Indonesia to press for a boycott on arms sales and military aid to Indonesia.
- . seek to have the United Nations impose an arms embargo on Indonesia.

An ALP Government will stop all military aid to Indonesia. In particular :

- . no more military hardware will be supplied.
- . no more Indonesian military personnel will be trained either in Australia or Indonesia.
- . no more joint naval and military exercises will take place.
- . no more exchange visits by high-ranking officers will occur.
- . consultations with Indonesia on defence matters will cease.
- . civil aid from Australia with military applications will cease.

Aid to East Timor

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

A Labor Government will :

- . support a continued International Red Cross presence in East Timor as long as emergency conditions prevail but seek to extend ICRC's role into the area of human rights and to link ICRC programs with the right of the East Timorese to return to their lands.
- . with the exception of that contained in the preceding paragraph, suspend all relief and development aid to East Timor until a thorough, independent survey has been conducted in all parts of the territory and direct consultations have been held with the East Timorese at all levels.
- . refuse aid to the "resettlement villages".
- . explore options for an international and independent aid survey team to visit East Timor.
- . implement principles in the above four points.
- . after consultation with the people of East Timor, direct aid primarily to the reconstruction of a self-reliant East Timorese economy.
- . include Australian Aid Agencies in such programs and press for their admission to East Timor.
- . link negotiations on civilian aid to Indonesia with the genuine relief and development needs of East Timor.

Refugees and Family Reunions

The ALP supports the principle of free migration from East Timor and believes Australia has an obligation and ability to assist East Timorese to come to Australia.

As a Party, the ALP will:

- . press the Australian government to widen its existing programs 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.
 - 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 forums.
- . meet with the Timorese community in Australia to enquire into the special problems affecting them.

An ALP Government will :

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

Sea-Bed Boundary

A Labor Government would reject the legitimacy of Australian-Indonesian negotiations on the Australia-East Timor sea-bed boundary.

An ALP Government will :

- . revoke any tacit or formal agreement entered into by the present government establishing a sea-bed boundary between East Timor and Australia.
- . withdraw from any negotiations on this issue until such time as legitimate representatives of the East Timorese are party to such negotiations.
- . refuse to issue exploration leases to companies seeking access to the disputed sea-bed areas.
- . suspend any such leases already issued.

Australian Companies and East Timor

An ALP Government will oppose the operation of Australian companies in East Timor until self-determination has been achieved.

An ALP Government will :

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

United Nations

An ALP Government would support UN resolutions which promote the rights of the East Timorese.

An ALP Government will :

- . actively pursue ALP policy objectives on East Timor at the UN.

As a Government, the ALP will initiate and vote for UN resolutions which :

- . support the inalienable rights of the people of East Timor to self determination and independence.
- . demand the complete withdrawal of Indonesian forces from East Timor.
- . call for a UN arms embargo on Indonesia.

- . deplore the continued suffering of the East Timorese due to the continued military occupation and attempted annexation of their country.
- . request UN agencies to render all possible assistance to the people of East Timor.
- . demand that a UN fact-finding mission be allowed into East Timor by the Indonesian government.
- . request the implementation of the UN resolutions on East Timor.

Information

The ALP will seek out and make publicly available, information on all aspects of the East Timor issue.

As a Party the ALP will -

- . 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.
- . press for a Parliamentary enquiry into all aspects of the East Timor question.

An ALP government will implement the above policy.

D. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Education Campaign on East Timor:

In line with the policy objectives on East Timor set out in this report the Victorian Branch of the ALP will :

- i) seek out and make publicly available, information on all aspects of the East Timor issue, and;
- ii) conduct an education campaign within the Party on the issue.