

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
INWARD CABLEGRAM

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*Secourse*  
*Mr [unclear]*  
*No drop a submission.*

*BA 31/10*

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EAST TIMOR

RAMOS HORTA TOLD US TODAY THAT HE WISHED TO TRAVEL TO AUSTRALIA IN FEBRUARY 1978 TO FINALISE TWO PERSONAL MATTERS. FIRST, KEN WHITE IN DARWIN HAD A NUMBER OF HIS PERSONAL POSSESSIONS. HE ALSO WISHED TO WITHDRAW FRETILIN MONEY FROM A C.B.A. ACCOUNT HELD IN DARWIN WHICH WAS IN HIS NAME AND IN THE NAME OF SOMEONE IN TIMOR. HE SAID THE VISIT WOULD BE STRICTLY PRIVATE AND HE WOULD UNDERTAKE NOT TO MAKE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT DURING THE VISIT.

2. WE SAID WE WOULD SEEK YOUR ADVICE.

ACTION : DEP FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DEP DEFENCE  
JIO  
ONA

*Mr Taylor*

*Mr Price GP*

*He can deal with the bank by letter. Knowing what we do of the interests of CIET Horta wld certainly cause problems in Darwin. We need a strong submission arguing against his admission for this visit.*

*I do not think it is possible for him to make a "personal visit". Dealing with the Fretelin bank account can hardly be personal.*

*If you agree we will prepare a submission along the lines of the Cabinet decision.*

*BA 31/10*

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ACTION : SEA  
EUR  
SEC DEPSECS EX LA FAS(SEP) FAS(NFS) FAS(WES) FAS(DEF)  
DP DC HOCI FAS(IOC) IO FAS(PCR) INF FAS(ECO) FAS(LT)  
FAS(MFS)

*Teleg. has been copied to  
1-2 EA. BA 1/11*

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FILE No. 3038/10/3

DATE - 8 DEC 1977

RAMOS HORTA - PROPOSED VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

THE MINISTER

*PARSONS*

At the beginning of November we informed you that Ramos Horta had told our Mission to the United Nations that he wished to travel to Australia in February 1978 principally to deal with the Fretilin bank account in Darwin and also to collect some "personal possessions". Horta said that his visit would be strictly private and that he would not make any public statements while in Australia. (A copy of this submission is attached.)

2. Your reaction to the recommendations in this submission was that our attitude on whether or not a visa should be granted to Horta would be advised when Horta submitted an application.

3. Horta, who holds a Mozambique diplomatic passport, has now submitted a formal application for a visitor's visa for a stay of one month. His stated reason for his journey is to see his fiancée, who lives in Fitzroy. Horta has indicated that "marriage is not intended at this stage" and that he will not be engaged in other activities.

4. Notwithstanding the fact that Horta claims that his visit is purely private and for the sole intention of visiting his fiancée, we do not feel that he will be able to avoid being connected with his "official" position in the Fretilin party. As he will travel on a diplomatic passport it could be assumed that he will be described in that passport as Ambassador of the DRET to the United Nations. We would think, therefore, that it would be justifiable to refuse this application, basing the decision on the previous directive agreed in Cabinet that "people known to be or claiming to be members of the so-called Fretilin Government will be refused visas for Australia." Politically a visit by Horta would not be helpful in maintaining our relations with Indonesia (for this reason alone we believe that his application should be refused).

5. The Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs at the official level appear to be in agreement

.../2

~~Mr Price~~ ....  
~~Mr Taylor~~

Seen by the above B 15/12

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2.

that there are no good grounds for issuing Horta with a visitor's visa.

6. It is recommended therefore that you agree that we should advise the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs and they their Minister, that based on the previous decision made by Cabinet and in view of the implications for our relations with Indonesia we should not issue Horta with an entry visa to Australia.

*A Parsons*

(A.R. Parsons)  
First Assistant Secretary  
South East Asia and PNG Division

*Agreed*  
*JH 13/12*