

6 Lampe Street,
Fannie Bay,
Darwin, N.T. 5790.

7th November 1982.

Mr. John Waddingham,
c/o Timor Information Service,
P.O. Box 77,
CLIFTON HILL, Vic. 3068.

Dear John,

Thanks for no.38 of TIS. I received copies of pp.1-1018 of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence's East Timor hearings this week. I didn't make any submission to the Senate, though I had written to offer access to any of my holdings when they reached Darwin, and I was pleased that they included me on their mailing list.

On pp.766-767 of the Hansard Report, the Chairman asked you about land-ownership in East Timor. Until recently, the only information of any consequence that I had on the subject dated from 1918 and 1933, namely, *Inquérito e outros documentos sobre propriedades indígenas*, [Inquiry and other documents on native properties], Appendix to *Boletim de Comercio, Agricultura e Fomento da Província de Timor*, Dili, Ano 7, no.3, August 1918, pp.143-205, and Jacinto José do Nascimento's "Adatrecht van Portugeesch Timor (1933). II. O direito consuetudinário em Timor. Le droit coutumier à Timor", in Portuguese and French, in *Adatrechtbundel*, The Hague, 39:475-499, 1937. I don't know if anyone else in Australia has a copy of the former, but you would be able to see the latter at Monash. However, it is likely that the Committee would like something a little more up-to-date.

Four more parcels of books arrived for me from Lisbon a fortnight ago, and one of the items would seem to fill the bill. I am enclosing a photocopy of this article which is entitled "Alguns aspectos do direito privado costumeiro dos Timorenses", by Frederico José Hopffer Rêgo, *Estudos Políticos e Sociais*, Lisboa, 4(2):685-717, 1966. Rêgo was born of Portuguese parents in Timor, according to my informants, and, at the time of writing the paper, had ~~spent~~ spent 17 years in exercising functions of authority. pp.705-714 are about ownership of land, land-use and/or land-occupation. My Portuguese is still not good enough for me to attempt a good translation of this section, but you will undoubtedly have someone in Melbourne who can do it properly for you. Armamdo Eduardo Pinto Correia's *Gentio de Timor* (Lisboa, Imprensa Lucas, 1934) (available at the Mitchell Library and the Braga Collection (no.1337) in the National Library of Australia) has information on the subject as well, but that would be from the 1920s and 1930s. Rêgo served in 9 different and wide-spread regions of the province, and he would probably point out any regional variations. He is apparently well thought of by the Timorese in general. I spoke with him once on the telephone during my stay in Portugal, but did not meet him personally. However, if you need clarification of any points on the subject, his address is Rua da Indústria, 49-3-E, Lisboa-3 (that is the old post-code; I don't know what it is in the new system), telephone 63 86 34. I understand that new telephone area-dialling codes were introduced in Portugal earlier this year, but the phone number should be the same.

Don't forget that I have a certain amount of material from the Missão de Estudos Agronômicos do Ultramar, e.g., the Annual Reports from 1970 to 1975, as well as communications dealing with rice, coffee, cotton, castor-oil, agro-climatology, fertilizer experiments, etc., including *Fertilidade dos solos de Timor. Esboço de uma carta de pontos*, by A.P. Silva Cardoso, M. Meyer Gonçalves and Ernst Daehnhardt (Lisboa, MEAU, 1974), of which the summary given is as follows:

SOIL FERTILITY OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR

Outline for a spot map

SUMMARY

A survey of the fertility status of soils in the east half of Timor island is described.

The pedological base used for interpretation was the general soil map in the scale of 1:100,000. A total of eighty five "study points" chosen in the course of field work are marked on it. Data collected at these "study points" include symptoms exhibited by the plants both cultivated and spontaneous, symptoms induced by foliar injection and leaf and soil chemical analysis. In some cases data from pot and field fertilizer trials were available.

Exploratory conclusions are given, these being summarized on the map attached [scale of 1:250,000]. A total of five photographs are included with the aim of illustrating some of the information given in the text.

I have no idea whether or not the Indonesians, ADAB, or any other group have been utilizing any of this sort of material, though I expect that if Joachim Metzner continues to be one of the main advisers in the Nusa Tenggara Timur he will keep up to date with any papers, published or not, that are completed by the Missão de Estudos Agrónomicos do Ultramar. I know that he has a good contact there.

A columnist of the N.T. News mentioned last week that the Indonesian Consul in Darwin was distributing 3 publications "claiming atrocities by members of Fretilin forces in East Timor in 1975-1976". That weekend a reporter had an article about one of the books, mentioning that it didn't say anything about this year's senate inquiry. It turned out to be *Massacre in East Timor*, which was published in 1976 anyway, though, admittedly, it does not bear a date of publication, except for that on the introduction. I made an appointment with the Consulate in order to try to get copies of the other two publications, and ended up having two hours with the Consul, Thomas Samodra, on Wednesday. He had many copies of the 1976 publication left, but gave me what he said were the last ~~two~~ copies of the other two in Darwin. Have you seen them yet? In case you have not, they are as follows:-

The Eyewitness; Bitter moments in East Timor jungles, by Arsenio Ramos Horta. Published by : Usaha Quality Printers, Maxwell Road Post Office, P.O. 3831, Singapore. No date given, but the Foreword is dated 11/9/81.

Cover on the other reads---

Fretilin Massacres. The Survivors - Moniz Maia, Januario Carvalho, Benjamin Oliveira, Jose dos Santos. Compiled by Jose Maria Costa de Freitas. Translated by Arsenio Ramos Horta.

Title page reads---

Fretilin Massacres. Testimonies of the survivors from Fretilin massacres. Published by Usaha Quality Printers, Maxwell Road Post Office, P.O. Box 3831, Singapore. No date given.

I would hazard a guess that Arsenio prepared the latter before his own book, as the quality of rendition into English is very poor in comparison with his own. No street address is given for the Usaha Printery.

Hoping you are well,

Yours sincerely,



Kevin Sherlock