

CAMPAIGN FOR INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR

Minutes of the CIET meeting No. on 14.1.75.

Present: Margaret Hooks, Perc Newland, Ken McLeod, Helen Hill, Denis Freney, Peter Manning.

Denis and Helen described what the Campaign had achieved so far.

1. Action around the federal parliamentarians who had responded sympathetically to Ramos Horta's visits to them; specifically, to organize a parliamentary, all-party delegation to East Timor as soon as practicable. Also, a private groups' tour to Timor as well.
2. The need to get support and finance for some members of Fretilin to travel wider - New Zealand, Europe, etc. - and to visit the United Nations.

3. The gathering of information on East Timor.

4. Melbourne group was lobbying Australian Union of Students and ALP machine for support and Canberra people talking to individual parliamentarians.

AGREED That Ken McLeod draft an Open Letter to the Indonesian Government expressing the danger that harassment or invasion of East Timor would cause to previously cordial Australian-Indonesian relations, both at governmental and people-to-people level. The Open Letter to be supported financially and sponsored by as many influential public figures across the political spectrum as possible.

AGREED that prior to approaches to these people on the Open Letter, Peter Manning contact Peter Hastings to obtain his agreement to use a paper delivered by him at an ANU seminar for background notes when asking various people to sign the Open Letter. Also, to seek Hastings' support for the idea of sponsoring the Open Letter idea.

AGREED that Perc Newland and Margaret Hooks work together to edit the Hastings paper in preparation for its use as background notes for potential sponsors of the Open Letter.

AGREED that Denis Freney contact (i) Portuguese Consul in Sydney to seek a meeting of the CIET group with him on the question of keeping open channels of communication with East Timor (e.g. and esp. air flights) (2) various organizations to see if they are willing to help send one of their number on a tour of East Timor in February and (3) by letter notify Melbourne and Canberra groups of our activities and suggesting we keep up consultation and complementary work around East Timor as seems to be happening at present.

Next meeting: Tuesday next, 21 January, AICD, 7.30 p.m.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE
OF THE REVOLUTIONARY FRONT OF INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR (FRETILIN)
and THE TIMORESE DEMOCRATIC UNION (UDT)

For more than four hundred years our land has lived under Portuguese colonialism. These past five hundred years of our history are full of dramatic events : wars of oppression and subjugation, accompanied by the exploitation and rape of the riches of our people. Our land in which we have lived during these past centuries has experienced many moments of anguish when our forefathers raised their voices against Portuguese colonialism and many times had recourse to armed struggle in defence of their legitimate rights. These various uprisings and rebellions over the long five hundred years of colonial domination registered and irrefutably proved the strong spirit and the desire for independence which tied together our forefathers.

Our people fell under the domination of a foreign power by virtue of the armed superiority of the colonialist enemy. But this was not the only reason for the loss of our independence. Our forefathers' sentiment for independence was restricted by tribal feuds and geographical divisions. This fact was able to be exploited by the Portuguese colonialists.

Considering that through the rule of a colonial power we gradually lost our land , our women were maltreated , we were reduced to a life of slavery and obscurity, our culture stagnated ,our daily lives were full of hunger and misery and this led to premature death ;

Considering that all these can only be defeated by the total erradication of ~~their~~ main cause -- colonialism ;

Considering that we can only free ourselves from colonialism if we united and join our forces in order to achieve a common objective - national independence ;

The Revolutionary Front of Independent East Timor (FRETILIN) and the Timorese Democratic Union (UDT) have agreed to form a coalition based on the following points :

1. TOTAL INDEPENDENCE FOR THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR;

2. REPUDIATION of the Associacao Popular Democratica de Timor (APODETI) as it defends integrationist and neo-colonialist ideas which are against the real interests of the people of East Timor and the UN Charter ;

3. REJECTION of integration into a foreign power namely Indonesia. However, in the future, after independence, we shall endeavour to promote friendship, good neighborly relations and co-operation with all countries in the world including Indonesia;

4. Repudiation of colonialism, neo-colonialism, and imperialism. Introduction of new political, economic, cultural and social structures, truly democratic in nature, to substitute for the old colonial structure -- for the Reconstruction and Development of our country;

2. FRETILIN-UDT joint communiqué ;
5. RECOGNITION of Portugal as the only mouthpiece for the process of decolonisation ; establishment of agreements for co-operation at all levels and in all sectors for the benefit of the people of East Timor and Portugal ; adoption of the Portuguese language as the official language of East Timor ;
6. Resort to the United Nations to support Portugal in the process of decolonisation with the view of National Independence for the people of East Timor. The coalition reserves the right to select the member countries that might participate in the decolonisation committee. It is understood that the great powers , the ASEAN bloc and other countries influenced by Indonesia,including Australia, will not be allowed to take part in this committee ;
7. Establishment of a transitional government between FRETILIN and UDT and the Portuguese Government ;
8. INTERNAL AGREEMENTS :
- a) Establishment of a Co-ordination Committee with equal representation from each party ,for the supervision of all radio programs, conferences and texts for publication ;
 - b) No ideological aggression and mutual respect for the political programs and ideology ;
 - c) Co-operation in order to promote political education oriented towards National Independence ;
 - d) So-called Portuguese Timer to be called East Timor and its citizens to be called Timorese.

DILI, EAST TIMOR, January 21, 1975.

printed and authorised by the Campaign for Independent East Timor, first floor, 232 Castlereagh St., Sydney (phone : 26-3049 or 26-1701) If you require further information including booklets on the struggle in East Timor please contact the Campaign at the above address. Financial donations are urgently required for the work of the Campaign.