It is still not clear why Alarico Fernandes surrendered to the Indonesian army. Fretilin's official source said that it was a "treason" caused by his disbelief in their own strength and that he kept hoping for foreign assistance, that Alarico Fernandes tried to compromise with Indonesia and he separated himself from the Fretilin Central Committee and betrayed them [Relatório da Delegação do Comité Central da Fretilin em Missão de Servico no Exterior do Pais p. 6). He was said to be involved in what was called the "Skylight" operation by the Indonesian military, which had the objective of capturing Fretilin's highest leaders. (CAVR interview with Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Dili, 7 July 2004; "Six Years of Heroic Armed Resistance," East Timor News, Winter 1982, pp. 10-12). Mari Alkatiri mentioned the possibility that Alarico Fernandes was disappointed because, after the removal of Francisco Xavier do Amaral as the President of Fretilin and the RDTL (in which Alarico Fernandes had a major role), it was Mau Lear who was appointed to replace Nicolau Lobato as vice-president of Fretilin and prime minister of the RDTL instead of him (Marí Alkatiri interview, 25 June 2003). Mari Alkatiri also stated that Alarico Fernandes "didn't have an ideology": he captured Xavier hoping that he would be appointed as vice-president of Fretilin and prime minister of the RDTL, and when that didn't happen, he accused Nicolau Lobato as "the hat that covered communists" and launched anti-communist propaganda [CAVR interview with Mari Alkatiri, 25 June 2004]. Xanana Gusmão called Alarico Fernandes a person who "joga sala, joga ba joga mai" (played around badly, played back and forth). Alarico suddenly proclaimed himself Marxist-Leninist in the 1976 Soibada Conference, captured and tortured Francisco Xavier do Amaral in 1977, and then surrendered and showed up in the "Skylight" operation. Xanana Gusmão called "Skylight" an "Alarico movement" and said that the Resistance leaders heard of the movement after Alarico surrendered in September when Indonesia was preparing for the incessant offensives at the end of 1978 [CAVR interview with Kay

Rala Xanana Gusmão, Dili, 7 July 2004. See also Vol. I, Part 3: History of the Conflict]