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H. C. Morris,
9 George Street,
Mornington 3931.
30th. March 1982.

Mr. Gough Whitlam.

Dear Sir,

I am not writing to you to badger or vilify you about your expressed views on East Timor - merely to acquaint you with some of my information.

Over the past few months, I have been translating submissions for the Senate Inquiry on East Timor, on behalf of a number of Timorese, who came to Australia from Timor in the later part of 1981, also I have translated several letters smuggled out of Timor and arriving in Australia during Nov'81, Dec'81, & Feb'82.

My offer to assist with the translations, was strictly on the understanding, that I would not divulge what any individual had to say, and that I would equally help those that supported Indonesian intergration, as those who were against intergration.

All of these documents describe events in East Timor with opposite views to what you have described. One letter written before you went to Timor in March'82, describes the lengths that Indonesia goes to in preparation for foreign visits. Several things seem to stand out - lack of individual freedom - Timorese feeling like second-class citizens in their own country - severe penalties for internal trading of coffee (the only cash crop for village people).

Yes, some of the material was written by ex-Fretelin supporters, but most of the material was written by people, who say they actively supported Indonesia at the beginning, believing that course to be in the best interests of their country. The events after 1979, and up to late 1981 have so sickened them, that they decided there was no future or hope in East Timor. so they made arrangements with their relatives in Australia to help them pay the exorbitant bribes necessary to leave the country (A\$3,000/person). (In general, it can be said that Indonesia only allows those people, who have supported their regime to leave Timor)

None of the material makes any accusation of present starvation, but all are concerned that not enough food is being grown this season to meet the non-growing dry period in the later part of this year. The terrible and engineered drought of 1979 has seared their minds forever. (I understand

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Indonesia's reasons for engineering the drought, as a means of defeating the will of the people, and for that I condemn them). One statement describes in a few words the general opinion of the message I^{am} obtaining from the translations, "we would not mind starving, if it brought us freedom from Indonesia".

All I need to say about the situation, is that you seem to be projecting a Government's point of view, and I seem to be dealing with the people's point of view, perhaps both points are exaggerated, and I do not propose to make any judgment other than to say:

I have never supported Fretelin or any other political party in Timor. In fact there are many things in Fretelin's past policies, which I disageed with. Also, as an Australian concerned about the Timor situation, and its disruption of good relations between Indonesia and Australia, I do not believe, that I am entitled to the audacity of telling the Timorese Community here in Australia, or for that matter in Timor, what they should desire for their future. The Timorese must bear some responsibility for the past events, but the real villian is Portugal and not Indonesia, and that Indonesia only filled the vacuum left by Portugal. One thing I am sure of, if the Timorese resolve for self-government is as strong as they lead me to believe, then one day, provided their will is strong enough, they will achieve their goal.

I would dearly love to enter Timor to complete my 10,000 word dictionary, but my two applications (the last in 1980) have been refused. I am not a political person, nor would I indulge in any political activity, my only desire is to record the language in the dictionary form of Tetun-English, and from my point of view I can see no reason why I have been denied entry.

Indonesia's continued denial of entry to people like myself is self-condemning, makes one wonder how much truth can be attributed to the stories filtering out of Timor.

Yours Sincerely,

P.B. Moir