

EAST TIMOR AND PORTUGAL

The incorporation of East Timor into the Indonesian Republic continues to be a source of diplomatic intervention by, among others, Australia, the United States, and the former colonial power, Portugal.

In a joint communiqué issued in Lisbon on 20 July 1981, the President, General Eanes and the Prime Minister, Dr. Soares said Portugal was internationally responsible for administering East Timor. Portugal repeated its resolve to achieve self-determination for the people of its former colony. The communiqué said Portugal's aim was to contribute to finding a peaceful settlement recognised by the international community and which conformed to the wishes of the East Timorese.

It referred to the increasing concern over the fate of the East Timorese among politicians of the United States and Australia, and in many non-governmental organisations.

Pope John Paul II was worried, as were the Portuguese and Indonesian episcopates, the communiqué noted.

The Revolutionary Front for the Independence of East Timor (Fretilin) said that the communiqué was a positive step.

The head of Fretilin's overseas delegation, Mr Abilio de Araujo, said there was identification between the terms of the communiqué and his movement's objectives. The Australian 21-22 July 1984.

The Indonesian view is that the question of the status of East Timor is now closed.

EL SALVADOR v. NICARAGUA

On 21 July 1984, while in London during his visit to Europe, Senor Jose Napoleon Duarte, the President of El Salvador, threatened litigation in the International Court of Justice against Nicaragua on the grounds that Nicaragua was "exporting arms and revolution" to left wing guerillas in El Salvador and other parts of Central America. President Duarte was on a mission to persuade the EEC and the principal European powers to undertake a role in central America.

If such an action is commenced, it is likely that some of the facts in issue will be identical to some of those also in issue in Nicaragua v. US (see (1984) Australian International Law News, May supplement)

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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW RESOLUTION ON
ICJ JURISDICTION

"Although the American Society of International Law ordinarily does not take positions on matters of policy, the Society has previously departed from this practice to support the acceptance by the United States of the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice. The Society was founded 'to foster the study of international law and justice.' It now reaffirms that international adjudication, and the application of international law, constitute appropriate procedures for resolving justiciable international disputes. The Society therefore deplures, and strongly favors rescission of, the recent action of the United States Government in attempting to withdraw from the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice 'disputes with any Central American state'." (Resolution adopted at Annual General Meeting 1984.)