

# Commentary

## Timor's forgotten war is Canada's forgotten conscience

by C. Marshall

Our Federal Government's cynical espousal of support for human rights and liberties à la Helsinki Accord while openly giving large amounts of foreign aid to countries who kill, torture and unjustly imprison peoples under their control can be no better (or worse) demonstrated than by our relations with Indonesia. This country has been one of Canada's largest recipients of bilateral aid having received over \$180,000,000 (Can.) in the last 10 years.

During the last 9 years of this period, Indonesia has been practicing what can be only described as genocide in a small country, East Timor, located north of Darwin, Australia, is that it is small, extremely poor, unheard of, of no strategic importance, inaccessible and like former Dutch New Guinea, contiguous to Indonesia.

In 1975 after nearly 400 years of Portuguese rule, the indigenous East Timor organization Fretilin declared the country's independence but within a month East Timor was invaded by Indonesia; this despite their different racial, linguistic and religious backgrounds (Indonesia is essentially Islamic while East Timor has been described as devoutly Roman Catholic).

Since the invasion at least 100,000 people and possibly 200,000 East Timorese from a 1975 population of 650,000 have died. Torture and killings of East Timorese by the Indonesian occupiers are reported to be continuing to this day (by the Globe and Mail). The Centre for Defense Information in Washington, D.C., has categorized this conflict as having resulted in more deaths than any other current war except Kampuchea (Ex-Cambodia) and possibly Afghanistan. Amnesty International, in a recent address to the United Nations Decoloniza-

tion Committee, in classic understatement, have charged that available reports "have long suggested a clear and consistent pattern of human rights violations", and presented captured Indonesian Army torture manuals.

More recently, the Indonesian Armed Forces Minister, in an interview for an Australian paper said, "We will show no mercy," and that "The Armed Forces would use all methods at their disposal to wipe out Fretilin," the group which declared East Timor's independence. Fretilin is described by the Bishop of the capital of East Timor, who is now in exile in Lisbon, as the only group in East Timor with the people alongside it.

Meanwhile, Canada, bless its moral little heart, bled white with indignation over similar invasions and occupations, albeit involving fewer deaths, in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan, and the repression of civil rights in

Poland, has completely lost its tongue regarding Indonesia's invasion and subsequent actions in East Timor. Not only this cynical and hypocritical silence, Canada has voted against motions before the U.N. committee to Decolonization which proposed self-determination for the East Timorese and has continued to give Indonesia large amounts of foreign aid, increasing it annually since the East Timor invasion to an amount currently in excess of \$12,000,000 per year.

Yes sir, that's some sanctions Mr. MacEachen, you really know how to handle nations which are bullies and tyrants and invade helpless neighbouring states and kill their inhabitants. Though to be fair to Mr. MacEachen, Donald Jamieson (remember him?), Flora Macdonald and Mark MacGuigan (remember him?) also demonstrated perfect myopia on this issue, perhaps

anxious to keep the ground fertile for Inco's huge nickel mining investment in Indonesia, though with Inco's \$100,000,000 loss there last year and projected \$60,000,000 loss this coming year from their Indonesian operations, they might as well have opted to save our conscience and at the same time Inco's money.

On September 20th, at 8:00 p.m. at the Burke Education Centre, St. Mary's University, the Nova Scotian East Timor Group will be meeting to discuss how to change Canada's policy of implicit endorsement of what has been described in the international press as "brutality and the waiting game." Anyone who would like to help this cause and is concerned about the hypocrisy of Canada's policy of giving aid to countries which deny their citizens civil liberties is welcome to attend.

## Letters

### Sexuality symposium praise

Dear Editor:

I would like to complement those who were responsible for selecting the film "Killing Us Softly" as the opening presentation of the Friday afternoon Symposium on Sexuality.

This film makes several excellent points: not only does it show clearly a type of brainwashing used on the unsuspecting public

by certain segments of the Adverting industry, but also it positively educates its viewers in the art of critical viewing. This in turn helps the learners to defend themselves against this kind of subtle assault on their personhood and basic human rights.

The film also shows clearly the assumptions upon which much of this type of advertizing is based.

1. That women are to be used for economic gain.
2. That for many, especially this section of the advertizing industry, a part of the woman is of more value than the total person.
3. That the end justifies the

means.

The film did show that these assumptions are false. And that these false assumptions are the ones used to justify the pornographic industry, sexual harassment and assaults on women.

Finally it makes us aware how wise it would be for both men and women to reject totally these false assumptions. One direct benefit would be that we would avoid the destructive consequences of these false assumptions--for whether we are killed softly or harshly, the end result is the same.

Prayers & Peace  
Fr. Joe Hattie, O.M.I.  
Roman Catholic Chaplain

## Is it safe to register now?

by Bob Morrison

"Someone is doing this to purposely confuse the issue if you ask me—it is not that complicated."

This was Dalhousie's Student Union President, Tim Hill's, view of the University's policy on the payment of tuition fees this September.

The rules for the payment of fees have at last been finalized during a meeting held Tuesday between Hill and members of the Student Accounts Office, after being changed on three occasions. Students will now be allowed to pay their 50 dollar pre-registration deposit throughout September and therefore be entitled to pay the balance of the first installment of their registration fee up until September 28.

Due to an apparent lack of communications between the Registrar's office and the Student Accounts Dept. the rules had

been changed several times. Originally students who had paid their pre-registration fee of 50 dollars by Aug. 31 were entitled to pay their tuition in two installments. Those who had not done so were required to pay their tuition in full at registration and would be charged 5 dollars per day for every day going over the deadline.

It then became obvious that due to complicated wording in the Registration Fee section of the Undergraduate Calendar many students thought they could pay their registration fee at any time in September and then have until Sept. 28 to pay their first installment.

The administration adopted this second set of rules after receiving many complaints from students and hearing reports of students registering at other universities.

Dalhousie Vice-President Rob-

bie Shaw expressed regret about how the misinformation had been a disadvantage to some students saying, "This ad hoc policy is crazy."

However at the start of the week the first policy was reverted to again, and was finally changed back to the second policy this Tuesday when Tim Hill met with Michael Wright and Joyce Kelly of the Student Accounts Dept.

"I was very pleased with how the meeting went and they both were very good about it," said Hill. He summarized the results by saying people will no longer be charged 5 dollars per day for late payments and will have until September 28 to pay their fees.

Hill also said the Student Accounts Dept. has agreed to work with the Student Union to put out some sort of pamphlet next year to make the policy very clear to the students.

## Sorry for the long line-ups

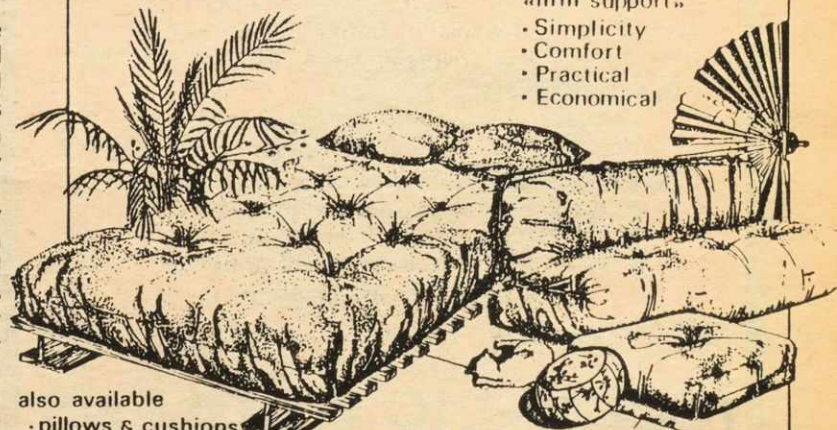


We hope you'll visit us again when things are quieter.

**Dalhousie Bookstore**

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