



Free East Timor

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of East Timor; at press time only a few foreigners were left in Dili, the island's capital.

Some of the international community responded very quickly: Australia, Malaysia and Portugal offered to send in

peacekeepers. Meanwhile, the UN seemed to be dithering, with the spokesperson for the Secretary-General indicating that a "Coalition the Willing" was more of a possibility than a full-fledged UN peacekeeping force.

By September 7, the Indonesian government had declared martial law, but many observers do not believe this will help. On that day, Richard Lloyd Perry of the Independent (UK), reported that "the army is no longer even trying to keep up the pretence that it is independent of the militia — all day they acted as one." This seems to be the consensus in the press corps, with the significant exception of CBC's Patricia Noonan.

Brooks Kind is a long-time East-Timor activist and local contact for the East Timor Alert Network (ETAN). He describes our government's position as "a cop-out." They refuse to denounce the atrocities, to use economic leverage, or take a strong stand at the Security Council. There are even rumours that Ottawa is trying to minimize the issue on the Security Council's agenda. This isn't a departure in our foreign policy towards Jakarta; the record

is one of unabashed complicity. Kind says, "We've supported atrocities in East Timor with every means at our disposal: military aid, refusal to implement an arms embargo, financial aid and strong diplomatic support."

Our department of foreign affairs has downplayed atrocities in communications with the public. And since 1975, it has abstained from or opposed the UN's seven general assembly resolutions condemning Indonesia.

The only thing that will stop our Government's complicity now is public outcry. Please drop by the Peace Action Group's info tables near the SUB, and sign letters to Chretien and Axworthy. Peace-

daniel haran

(To get on the Peace Action Group's contact list and find out about their upcoming events, send an e-mail to mailserv@ac.dal.ca, with "subscribe peace-list" in the body. Otherwise, drop in to NSPIRG's office, in room 314 of the Dal SUB.



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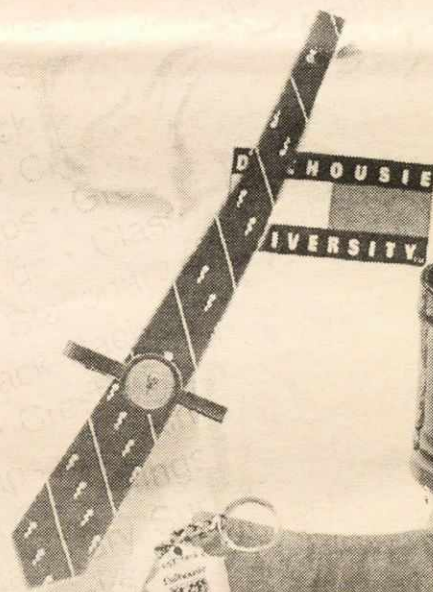
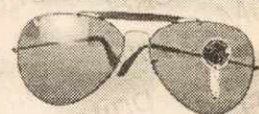
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