

report for the Canadian government but External Affairs refused to release it.

Bombing the refugees down from their mountain hiding places, Indonesian troops herded the starving Timorese into military-run "resettlement" camps. In 1979, Indonesia finally allowed the International Red Cross limited access to East Timor for the first time. Relief workers were shocked. One experienced Red Cross official called conditions worse than anything he had seen in famine-stricken Cambodia or Biafra.

At the same time, former conservative External Affairs Minister Flora MacDonald told a Kingston newspaper that her department "never considered (East Timor) important enough" to brief her on it.

### Church officials believe that 250,000 Timorese have been killed or starved to death. 211 of every 1,000 babies die before their first birthday.

More than a year after Shortliffe's visit, Canada donated a mere \$200,000 to the International Red Cross for East Timor. Then Canada promptly voted against a UN resolution of self-determination and humanitarian assistance for East Timor in 1980, the very next year. "The situation is a fait accompli," said Gardiner Wilson, Deputy Director of External Affairs in Ottawa. "The UN resolutions do not reflect present political realities or the humanitarian aid development needs of the people of East Timor."

The "fait accompli" is contradicted by refugee and church reports from the island. According to the latest letter from East Timor's acting bishop, Carlos Belo, the war in East Timor is expanding and resistance is widespread. The letter dated Jan. 1, 1985 and smuggled out through religious channels to Portugal, said the Indonesian military was conscripting Timorese children to fight against Fretilin and was killing peasants in reprisals for guerilla attacks.

Fretilin is still carrying out hit-and-run attacks against the Indonesian army, and most of the population supports the resistance, according to church sources. In late 1983, Indonesia sent 15,000 new troops to put down resistance in the territory. The troops are still there today.

In the meantime, conditions in East Timor have grown worse. According to a letter, dated Feb 16, 1984, from Msgr. Belo to his predecessor in Lisbon, the church itself — the last refuge for the Timorese — has come under attack.

"The Church is being persecuted and accused and our schools are being searched and the students are being interrogated," wrote Belo. Recent letters from other Timorese support Belo's claims. One letter refers to Indonesian troops of the elite Red Beret unit torturing to death two Timorese conscripts with "nails, cigarette butts, and razor blades."

External Affairs' Gardiner Wilson said he believes human rights conditions in East Timor have improved. "It was a very difficult period," he said, "but these are things that happened upwards of 5,6,7,8 years ago. The situation is now quite different than it was then."

In 1983, Amnesty International publicized an 82-page manual issued to occupying forces in East Timor by the Indonesian military command. Written in Indonesian and verified as authentic by experts on Indonesia, the manual clearly describes Fretilin as a powerful opponent. The authors, military officers Williemo Da Costa and Col. A Sahala Rajagukguk outlined the highly developed Fretilin network in the island's towns and villages and gave advice on how to combat the guerillas and their sympathizers. Neither negotiations nor ceasefires were considered, while methods of coercion and torture were discussed.

One section of the manual instructs the forces on how to torture so that "the antipathy of the people is not aroused." It recommends: "Avoid taking photographs showing torture in progress — people being photographed at times when they are being subjected to electric shock, when they have been stripped naked..."

Indonesia denies the existence of this manual. Last September, Indonesia declared East Timor an official transmigration area, opening the way for it to ship some of Indonesia's 160 million citizens from the crowded central islands to the disputed Portuguese colony.

Most recently, in a candid and courageous letter to the Indonesian government, East Timor's Bishop Belo described the "upheaval of gigantic and tragic proportions in East Timor," and defended those fighting for independence. In the letter, dated Jan. 1, 1985, Belo told of "the arrests, disappearances and the deportation of thousands of civilians." In a detailed account of army abuses Bishop Belo listed:

- "Successive, systematic and regular 'cleaning-up operations' of the Indonesian army against centres of resistances."
- "the permanent threat of reprisals with summary execution by shooting"
- "waves of arrests of villagers, even the most simple and humble peasants"
- "the concentration of the population in resettlement camps in inhuman conditions."

With thousands of native Timorese turning to the Catholic church for refuge, Belo said the army was "accusing priests, arresting those who teach the catechism, banishing and slaughtering the Christians."

"The attempt to Indonesianize the Timorese people through powerful Pancasila campaigns (Indonesian state ideology), schooling and media represents a slow assassination of

the Timorese culture. To kill their culture is to kill the people themselves", warned Belo.

The Canadian government has made no move to criticize Indonesia. On the contrary, the government has gone so far as to eagerly promote and subsidize Canadian weapons sales to the Indonesian army.

Ammunition from two Quebec military companies, radar and radios from Litton Systems and Canadian Marconi, "military vehicles" (probably tanks) from Levy Auto Parts, seven military transport planes from de Havilland, and probably hovercraft from Bell Aerospace Textron have all gone to the Indonesian military likely for use against the Timorese.

All this despite an official Canadian policy of not sending arms to "conflict areas." Furthermore, new information has come to life describing Canada's very first arms show in Indonesia, occurring only last fall. According to sources at External Affairs (which footed the bill) the arms show-stage in Jakarta's Mandarin Hotel — attracted "a large number of agents as well as representatives from all four of Indonesia's armed forces."

Ten Canadian companies pushed their weapons and accessories, including Canadian Marconi, Raytheon, C.A.E. Computing Devices and Spar.

Before joining the show, Computing Device's salesperson Jack Warner said Canada "would be competing with South Korea to be the military technology centre in the Far East."

Canada is already a powerful economic force in Indonesia. Represented by companies Inco, Alcan, and Bata, Canada ranks as Indonesia's third largest foreign investor. With over \$1 billion invested there our standing is ahead even of the United States, and makes us Indonesia's largest Western investor. And Canadian aid to Indonesia has soared since 1975 (this year Canada have Indonesia \$23 million), making that country the largest non-Commonwealth recipient of Canadian aid.

This gives Canada unique leverage with the image-conscious Indonesian government. Canada could push for a ceasefire, free access for the International Red Cross, and a UN-supervised referendum on self-determination for East Timor.

It was the efforts of a handful of Americans which are credited with getting the Red Cross into East Timor in 1979, thus saving thousands of lives.

Public pressure works. For us not to act would be criminal.

## Does Canada support Indonesia?

by Julia Morigan  
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One major attraction of Indonesia for Canadian business is the abundance of cheap labor. With over 160 million citizens, Indonesia is the fifth most populous nation in the world. The vast majority of Indonesians live in debilitating poverty, reflected in their life expectancy (53 years) and their average wage (\$1.25 per day) which are both the lowest among the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Indonesia is also a source of cheap resources. It's the largest petroleum exporter east of the Persian Gulf (and a member of OPEC), with its untapped reserves estimated at over 106 billion barrels. Although only 10 per cent of its area has been surveyed for deposits, a vast hoard of tin, nickel, coal, copper and bauxite has been uncovered.

Indonesia's government is very accommodating to foreign investors. The rulers of Indonesia have destroyed the trade union movement to provide cheap labor, permitted access to natural resources with little supervision, allowed their country to go into hock to the West to the tune of over \$20 billion.

When the Canadian government gives support and aid to Indonesia, therefore, it is helping out a government which has proven itself an effective servant of Western interests.

Our trade standing is impressive:  
- Canada is Indonesia's third largest foreign investor (after Japan and Hong Kong), with over \$1 billion invested and over 125 companies involved in trade.

- Canadian exports to Indonesia doubled to \$197 million in 1982 from \$94 million in 1981

nearly half of the exports in 1982 were financed with government aid.

- In terms of trade volume, Indonesia has become the fastest growing market in Southeast Asia.

Canadian Aid to Indonesia has also soared in recent years - Indonesia is now the largest non-Commonwealth recipient of Canadian aid. In 1983-84, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) gave Indonesia \$23 million in loans and grants - and CIDA's contribution is expected to remain high.

Canadian aid is intimately linked to Canadian business. This link is ensured by federal regulations which demand that up to 80 per cent of CIDA aid projects must be in the form of Canadian goods and services.

In other words, most of CIDA's money never actually leaves Canada, but is funnelled directly into Canadian businesses to pay for goods and services needed in the Third World. This "aid" is nothing more than a massive subsidy for Canadian corporations - paid for by our tax dollars. It also means that Third World nations are forced to buy goods and services which they don't need, at hugely inflated prices.

External Affairs recently backed a trade mission to sell Canadian-made arms to Far Eastern countries - including Indonesia. The mission was the first of its kind to Indonesia. The ten companies participating—which included Canadian Marconi, Bell Aerospace Textron and Computing Devices—were offering military gear ranging from helicopters and parachutes to artillery computers for battlefield use. Computing Devices salesman Jack Warner said Canada would be "competing with South Korea to be the military technology centre in the Far East."

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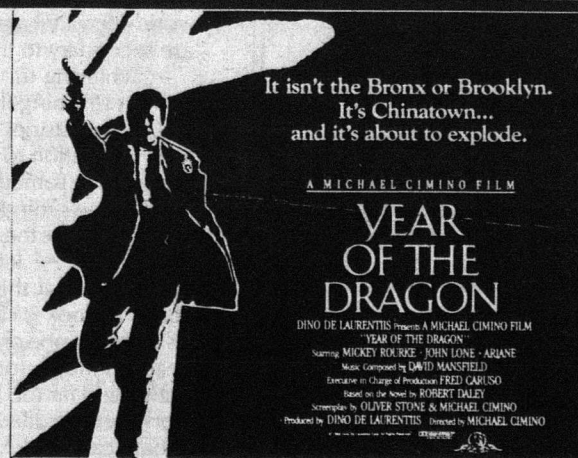
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