

for their part in the shootings. In June, a number of court martials and trials of demonstrators were held. Sentences of soldiers, which were around one year, differed markedly from sentences given out to demonstration organizers -- around ten years. The reason was that the military were on trial only for losing control and going beyond authority and not for murder, whereas the demonstration organizers were on trial for subversion, which carries severe penalties according to Indonesian law -- up to life imprisonment.

CANADIAN POSITION

Canadian dismay at these shootings was conveyed by the Secretary of State for External Affairs during her meeting with the Indonesian Foreign Minister in Seoul on November 13. On December 9, 1991, Canada suspended the approval of new development projects for Indonesia (\$30 million) and gave an immediate grant of \$150,000 to the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) for humanitarian assistance in East Timor.

The Canadian delegation to the UNCHR worked successfully to achieve a strongly worded consensus text registering the concern of the international community regarding the human rights situation in Indonesia and urging the Indonesian government to take appropriate action on the situation in East Timor.

Canada saw as a positive development the conclusions of the interim report and the response of the Indonesian government in taking action on a number of the recommendations in the report. Canada considered also as positive the decision of the Indonesian Government to invite a special representative of the United Nations Secretary General to visit East Timor (Canada has encouraged the Secretary General to make public the results of this visit).

Canada, however, has not lifted its suspension on new projects when the Consultative Group for Indonesia (CGI), which periodically gathers development assistance donors to coordinate aid pledges, was held in Paris in mid-July. Therefore, Canada made no pledge and attended the meeting as an observer only. This is because Canada had continuing doubts, specially about the fairness of the judicial system in light of discrepancies in the sentences given to civilians and military personnel involved in the Dili incident and by the continued presence of the military in East Timor. This was clearly expressed by the Secretary of State for External Affairs when she met her Indonesian counterpart in Manila in the context of the PMC meeting last July.

ARREST AND DETENTION OF XANANA GUSMAO

On November 20, 1992, the Indonesian military arrested Xanana Gusmao, leader of the East Timor independence movement Fretilin, in a village just south of Dili, capital of East Timor. Gusmao was regarded for many years as a symbol of resistance to Jakarta's rule. After his arrest, he gave a televised interview renouncing many of his previous positions and statements.

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