

UN soldiers now safeguard East Timor

United Nations soldiers have been patrolling most of East Timor for the past two weeks after the UN began taking over responsibility for the territory's security from the Australian-led international force (INTERFET) on 1 February.

About 70 per cent of the troops had already been in East Timor as part of INTERFET and they simply exchanged their green berets for the blue ones of the new UN Peacekeeping Force (UN-PKF).

"The East Timorese should be very confident," said Major General Peter Cosgrove, INTERFET's Commander, at the Sector East hand-over ceremony in Baucau. "The [UN] Peacekeeping force will do a magnificent job."

Gen. Cosgrove said he was particularly satisfied with the fact that he was handing over East Timor as a "safe and secure country" in which people "can do what they please."

"Even Oecussi is now back to a peaceful environment," he said. "And in the western regions, where the problems were in the

early days, it's been peaceful for the last three months."

Earlier this month, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan noted in his report to the Security Council that the internal security situation "greatly normalized" following the arrival of INTERFET last September. "For most people there is now no threat of violence and they can circulate freely," he wrote.

Under its mandate, the UN-PKF will have 8,500 troops and will be able to use whatever means necessary to maintain peace and security in East Timor.

In his speech at the ceremony in Baucau, UN Force Commander Lieutenant General Jaime de Los Santos emphasized that the transition was not a time to relax. The UN-PKF would carry out other tasks that were not military in nature, such as providing medical support and teaching farming techniques, he added.



INTERFET Commander Maj. Gen. Peter Cosgrove of Australia greets UN Force Commander Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos of the Philippines.

Photo by OCP-UNTAET

Gen. de los Santos said later that he thought the militia could try to test the UN-PKF.

"Every time something is new it is normal for people to find out how capable our troops are," he said, but adding the message:

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Secretary-General to meet East Timor leaders and people in upcoming visit

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan is set to visit East Timor on Thursday, 17 February, for a first-hand look at the situation in the country.

"The East Timorese have received UNTAET with a great deal of goodwill and very high expectations as the embodiment of the international community's promise of support," the Secretary-General has said. "However, they are in desperate straits and are understandably impatient for UNTAET to deliver on this promise."



UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan

During his two-day visit, the Secretary-General is scheduled to meet with the President of the National Council of Timorese Resistance (CNRT), Xanana Gusmao, and his Special Representative, Sergio Vieira de Mello.

Mr. Annan is also expected to travel during the day Thursday to the West Timor border town of Atambua to visit East Timorese refugees.

The Secretary-General will also hold talks with senior UNTAET officials, Major General Peter Cosgrove, Commander of the Australian-led international force (INTERFET), and Lieutenant General Jaime de los Santos, Force Commander of the UN Peacekeeping operation.

Later on Thursday, Mr. Annan will address the people of Dili before attending a meeting of the National Consultative Council (NCC), which will be followed by discussions with key CNRT leaders and Bishops Carlos Belo and Basilio do Nascimento.

Earlier this month, the Secretary-

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Small businesses help residents build new lives, better future

When Gabriel de Carvalho returned to Dili last October after having fled to West Timor the month before during the militia violence, he sold his television set for 1 million rupiah and bought two packs of cigarettes.

But instead of smoking away his investment, Mr. de Carvalho, 34, turned it into his own small shop near the city's sports stadium. Today, the Stadium Shop is a thriving general store where you can buy beer, toiletries and food.

"Even though people sometimes take things without paying for them or loiter in front of my store, at least I have freedom," Mr. de Carvalho says.

Like Mr. de Carvalho, many other East Timorese have been busy rebuilding their livelihoods in creative ways.

Jacinta Pereira dos Santos, 38, opened

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A new voice in Timor Lorosa'e

This is the first issue of *Tais Timor*, a bi-weekly public information service published by the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) in Tetun, Indonesian, Portuguese and English. *Tais Timor* will focus broadly on the country's preparations for independence and the efforts to rebuild it.

In its continuing commitment to inform the people of East Timor, UNTAET will next week start a bulletin board pilot project in which communities can post their own local news alongside UNTAET updates.

These two projects follow Radio UNTAET which started broadcasting in November. It has recently started test broadcasts from Maliana and Baucau and will soon expand to Same.

All of these activities are important, but even more so is the establishment of an independent East Timorese media. We have been working to support several Timorese groups who want to start their own media outlets.

Fortunately, UNTAET is not alone in this endeavour. Besides the motivation and determination of the Timorese, there is the commitment and support of donor governments, foundations and NGOs.

A final word on our title. *Tais Timor* was chosen because it brings to mind the long, careful and detailed process which includes the many ingredients that go into making the *tais*, the traditional cloth that is used for all important aspects of Timorese life.

East Timor is similarly made up of many different "ingredients" that are now being brought together during the transitional period. When homes are rebuilt, farms begin to harvest, people start new businesses and institutions finally established, East Timor, like a *tais*, will be woven together.

UN Civilian Police step up patrols in Dili to curb increase in violent incidents

In response to several recent violent incidents in Dili and Baucau, United Nations Civilian Police (CivPol) have stepped up efforts to prevent outbreaks of fighting caused in part, UN officials say, by high unemployment and the re-emergence of long-standing regional rivalries.

Additional officers were assigned to patrol the Dili market, one of the city's trouble spots, during the busiest time of day after one incident in which more than 60 knives, machetes and iron bars were confiscated. Meanwhile checkpoints have been set up in Baucau to look for



UN CivPol ready for duty

Photo by OCP/UNTAET

The International Force for East Timor (INTERFET) has been supporting CivPol officers, who have been instructed to confiscate any weapons being carried without justification.

Since early February, 464 UN civilian police have been deployed in all 13 districts and an average of 40 new officers have been arriving each week. However, with a mandated force of more than 1,600 police, UNTAET has appealed to member states to provide more officers.

In a bid to boost cooperation with local communities, about 200 former East Timorese police are being selected to temporarily assist CivPol as members of the Police Assistance Group (PAG).

PAG members will accompany CivPol officers wherever they go – one-to-one – to provide support based on their own experi-

ence and to help in situations that require understanding of sensitive issues in the community.

"That kind of knowledge is not readily available to the international police officers who are assigned to patrol local neighbourhoods," said Tonya Cook, Policy and Planning Officer for the CivPol. "PAG members will not be police officers, however; they are the liaison between the community and CivPol."

CivPol has also been focusing on recruiting candidates for the future East Timor Police Service (ETPS). Thousands of applications are being distributed to fill the first class for the police training college being established by CivPol. As all future members of the ETPS will have to go through the rigorous course, which includes a period of classroom instruction followed by several months of supervised on-the-job training.

In the meantime, the UN police force has been very busy with daily activities. Besides their patrol duties, UN officers are presently running the jails, advising the prosecutors and assisting in maintaining security of public buildings.

Several special units are being developed, including a Rapid Response Group that will eventually be deployed in high-tension areas. A Major Investigations Unit will deal with serious crimes committed in 1999 and later and a Marine Unit will eventually patrol coastal waters.

into their work, while a nationwide campaign to immunize children against measles has been carried out.

The water supply has been restored to Dili and UNICEF, the UN Children's Fund, has organized a project to repair 900 hand pumps, serving 3,000 families, in areas around the capital.

Meanwhile, a programme sponsored by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) will help rebuild an estimated 35,000 homes.

UN Secretary-General continued from page 1

General presented to the UN Security Council in New York his first status report on the territory since the UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) was set up in October 1999.

The Secretary-General points out the potential for social unrest because of high unemployment and the destroyed infrastructure, and says the highest priority in the next three months will be to "produce tangible results" by creating jobs and providing public services.

The report notes that between the end of September and 1 January, the World Food Programme (WFP) distributed more than 10,500 metric tonnes of food to approximately 610,000 people.

Various food aid programmes continued throughout January, reaching 359,000 people in the Dili, Covalima, Bobonaro and Oecussi districts alone.

A health network of 52 fixed facilities, including eight hospitals, and 52 mobile clinics has already begun operating. Some centres have integrated national campaigns against malaria and tuberculosis

Exhumation in Passabe

UN continues probe into human rights abuses in East Timor

Human remains from possibly the single-worst massacre during the post-referendum violence have been brought to Dili, where United Nations investigators are working to identify the victims.

In early February, 37 bodies and nine incomplete sets of remains had been exhumed during a six-day search for evidence of a reported massacre last September near Passabe, in Oecussi. Photographs will be taken of the clothing and shown to family members in the hopes of identifying the victims. The remains will then be turned over to the families for burial.

According to reports given to UN and INTERFET officials, dozens of men had been taken from two villages and forced to march in the middle of the night into West Timor. With their hands tied behind their backs, they were forced to cross a river where they were attacked with machetes. Only a few men survived.

The evidence gathered by UN forensic

experts showed that most of the victims suffered several injuries to the body and skull fractures, which were most likely inflicted by machetes. The fractures indicated a tremendous use of force, one of the experts said. There was also evidence that one victim suffered gunshot wounds.

The exhumation followed the release of the report of the UN's International Commission of Inquiry on East Timor, which says there is evidence that "clearly demonstrates a pattern of serious violations of fundamental rights and humanitarian law".

The violations included systematic and widespread intimidation, killings and massacre, humiliation and terror, destruction of property, as well as violence against women and displacement of people. The Commission found evidence that, as well as supporting and directing the militias in the violence, there was also direct involvement by members of the Indonesian armed forces, and knowledge and approval by the top military command.

The Commission called for the speedy return of East Timorese held against their will in camps in different parts of Indonesia and for the disarming of militias. It also recommended that an independent investigative and prosecutorial body as well as an international human rights tribunal, including Indonesian and East Timorese judges, be set up to receive complaints, conduct trials and sentence those found guilty.

In his cover letter transmitting the report, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan says the recommendations merits careful consideration and notes the commitment shown by Indonesia's President Abdurrahman Wahid to fully support the investigation and prosecution of the perpetrators through the national judicial process.

Mr. Annan adds that he intends to ensure that justice prevailed and that the UN has a particular responsibility to the people of East Timor to investigate human rights violations, determine responsibility and punish those responsible.

Small business continued from page 1

her restaurant, Café Simples, two months ago in Audian after she and five of her friends pooled together 300,000 ruphias each. Café Simples started by selling 3 kinds of Portuguese and Chinese food and now may be the only place in Dili where caldeirada and chow mein appear together on the menu.

UN CivPol
Emergency
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New regulations set the foundation for East Timor

The National Consultative Council (NCC), East Timor's highest representative body during the transitional period, has been busy discussing and drafting regulations that govern how the country will function during the transitional period.

On 24 January, Sergio Vieira de Mello, the Transitional Administrator signed the latest Regulation – 2000/7 – which adopts the United States dollar (US\$) as the new legal tender in East Timor.

That same day, Mr. Vieira de Mello, who is also the Chairman of the NCC, signed a regulation establishing East Timor's Central Payments Office (CPO), which will ultimately become the country's Central Bank.

The decision on the new currency was made after extensive discussion among NCC members about different possible options.

"During all this discussion there was a total impartiality on the part of UNTAET and the IMF, and support towards any decision we would make," said Joao Carrascalao, a repre-

sentative of the National Council of Timorese Resistance (CNRT) and a member of the NCC.

Since last November, the NCC has passed 11 pieces of legislation. The first, Regulation 1999/1, defines the authority of UNTAET during the transitional period.

At the signing ceremony in December, CNRT President Xanana Gusmao gave his full support to the Regulation, which he said would enable UNTAET to start implementing the rule of law in the country. "We are with you because we know you are with us," he said.

Other Regulations that have followed deal with creating the Official Gazette of East Timor; regulating the use of currencies in East Timor and licensing currency exchange bureaux; and the registration of businesses.

More Regulations set up government institutions, including the NCC itself, the Transitional Judicial Service Commission, the Public Service Commission and the Central Fiscal Authority of East Timor.

Philippine troops provide assistance to village

Philippine troops from the International Force in East Timor (INTERFET) recently distributed clothing to more than 1,300 villagers in Caribas, located in Manatuto District.



Assisting a mother and child

The Philippine Humanitarian Support Mission to East Timor (PHILHSMET), commanded by Colonel Felix L. Cabrerros, conducted a medical visit/civic action in January.

Soldiers distributed used clothing donated by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the Philippines and the Mission's health service task group gave medical check-ups and treated 209 villagers.

According to PHILHSMET, several people were suffering from upper respiratory tract infections and skin and gastro-intestinal diseases, caused mainly by living in exposed shelters made out of salvaged galvanized iron and anahaw leaves.

Caribas is seldom visited by humanitarian organizations because of its remote location, PHILHSMET said. Most of the 366 families' homes were burned and destroyed during the turmoil last September.

