

UNTAET DOWNSIZING

- The **United Nations Security Council** on 31 October 2001 endorsed **Secretary-General Kofi Annan's** recommendations that the UN continue its role in East Timor after the territory's independence. The 15-member body also backed the recommendation of East Timor's Constituent Assembly that independence be declared on 20 May 2002. The UN Security Council reaffirmed its endorsement on 31 January 2002, and is expected to undertake a final consideration of the UNTAET mandate in the second half of April 2002.
- All reductions are being implemented in a **phased manner** to minimize the negative effect on the delivery of basic government services and on the local economy, as well as to ensure that the job of establishing a sustainable administration is advanced.
- The **Secretary-General** reported on 17 January 2002 that, "steady progress has been made in the adjustment of UNTAET's size and configuration to reflect more closely the post-independence role of the United Nations, as endorsed by the Security Council [on 31 October 2001]."
- Accordingly, **civilian UNTAET personnel advising the Transitional Government** were reduced by 35 percent by September 2001, and have been reduced in a second tranche of downsizing which started in January 2002. Progressively over a four-month period to the end of April 2002, over 380 positions will have been cut, leaving **25 percent of the original establishment in place by independence**.
- In light of the continued prevailing stable security conditions in East Timor, UNTAET began reducing its military component in mid-November 2001. The current authorized strength of nearly **8,950 peacekeeping troops and military observers** has been **reduced to 6,000**, deployed personnel and will be drawn down to 5,000 by independence.
- Similarly, the **United Nations Police**, with an authorized strength of 1,640, have been reduced to close to the target of **1,130 by independence**. This figure includes the United Nations Special Police Units in East Timor, which are expected to withdraw by 1 July 2002.
- In October, the Security Council agreed with the Secretary-General's assessment that the **UN should remain engaged in East Timor** to consolidate UNTAET's major achievements so far, to build on those accomplishments and to help the East Timorese government in ensuring security and stability.

