

By UNMISSET Spokesperson's Office

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SRSR MEETS WITH BNU GENERAL MANAGERS

UN Special Representative for East Timor, Kamallesh Sharma, met today with the General Managers of the Banco Nacional Ultramarino (BNU) in Dili to familiarize himself with projects sponsored by the bank in the territory.

BNU has US\$4 million allocated for Small Scale Enterprise Projects. Last year the Bank provided bank loans for 350 Timorese small business entrepreneurs.

BNU was the first bank to start operations in East Timor after September 1999 violence. A branch was first opened in East Timor in 1912.

The Special Representative also held today an informal meeting with the Secretary of State for Tourism, Environment and Investment, José Teixeira. Topics of discussion included plans for the promotion of foreign investment in the country and environmental protection issues.

DEPUTY FORCE COMMANDER MADE HONORARY CHIEF OF VILLAGE

PKF Deputy Force Commander, Major General Ian Gordon, is the Honorary Chief of the village of Ossu Quiqui, in Venilale district.

A ceremony was held last Sunday on top of a hill where the village elders live. "We appreciate the role your nation played to liberate this nation, also the role you played," said the head of the village in a speech to mark the special occasion. "Because of these deeds we honor you with this title," he added.

In his speech, the Honorary Chief praised the East Timorese. "You have shown courage, determination and dignity. It has been an honour to play a small part in the rebuilding of East Timor," Chief Gordon said.

A banquet lunch in the village of Bercoli attended by many of the elders in the area followed the ceremony. As is tradition for a village chief, a traditional house will be built for major General Gordon at the village of Ossu Quiqui.

The Deputy Force Commander will complete his tour of East Timor on 14 August 2002