

Dili, 08 November 2002

UNMISSET STATEMENT REGARDING SECURITY IN TIMOR-LESTE

Recent press reports have raised concern about the potential for terrorist acts within Timor-Leste. Like every country in Southeast Asia, Timor-Leste must take sensible precautions against the new worldwide threat of terrorism. Thanks in large part to the professionalism of the UN peacekeeping and police forces and of the Timor-Leste Government's own defence and police services, the country has an admirable record in recent years for its stability and lack of violence.

With regard to recent press reports suggesting potential threats, the UN Police and the PKF have stated that to date, no concrete evidence exists to indicate or suggest a terrorist element has infiltrated Timor-Leste, nor to suggest a forthcoming terrorist attack directed at any part of the country. Only one, uncorroborated report has alleged unspecified threats against western interests, specifically embassies and financial institutions, in Timor-Leste.

The UNMISSET forces responsible for internal and external security along with the Timor-Leste Government security forces are continually conducting threat assessments and taking all reasonable precautions. Any report received, regardless of source, is thoroughly investigated and appropriate measures are put in place.

UNMISSET is confident that these actions, in combination with sensible precautions on the part of all Timorese residents and the international community, will ensure a continued safe and secure environment in Timor-Leste.

By UNMISSET Spokesperson's Office

DSRSG TO ATTEND CONFERENCE IN HIROSHIMA, JAPAN

The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) Sukehiro Hasegawa leaves Timor-Leste tomorrow to attend on behalf of the SRSG a conference on Post-Conflict Reconstruction. The conference will be held from 11 to 13 November in Hiroshima, Japan. Mr. Hasegawa will also visit Tokyo on his trip and returns to Dili on 15 November.

