

By UNMISSET Spokesperson's Office

Dili, 12 August 2002

UN MEDAL PARADE

Special Representative of the Secretary General and Deputy Special Representative today attended the first Medal Parade Ceremony of the Japanese Engineers Group in Tasi Tolo, Dili.

In his speech Mr Kamalesh Shrama noted that, "Within days of your arrival in East Timor in March, the JEG immediately set to work with tremendous speed and efficiency, assisting in the immense task of preparing for Independence Day. The results of your hard work were instantly visible, as road surfaces were renewed all around Dili, and the Taci-Tolu site itself was prepared to welcome thousands of people to celebrate East Timor's independence." He added "One of your impressive initiatives, to my mind, is the provision of vocational training to East Timorese trainees in the field of engineering and heavy equipment handling skills. This training course is a perfect example of the United Nations working to assist the people of East Timor who have struggled so hard for their independence. The East Timorese will be learning valuable skills, which they will then be able to use in the further reconstruction of their country even after the end of the UN Mission."

The ceremony was to award the UN Peacekeeping Forces on their role in the mission.

A karate demonstration and performance of a Japanese drum-team followed the parade.

The event was attended by the Force Commander, Winai Phattiyakul and other high ranking PKF officers.

Roque Rodriques represented the East Timor Defense Force. Representatives of the East Timor government and the Japanese mission were also present at the ceremony.

