

By UNMISSET Spokesperson's Office

Dili, 15 July 2002

SUKEHIRO HASEGAWA ARRIVES TO ASSUME DSRSG DUTIES

UNMISSET's new Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG), Mr. Sukehiro Hasegawa, arrived in East Timor today to take up his duties.

DSRSG Hasegawa was greeted at Dili's Comoro Airport by SRSG Kamalesh Sharma, who has personally known the DSRSG in the past.

The SRSG said later that due to his background and wide experience, Hasegawa is an ideal choice for the post of UNMISSET's DSRSG.

"I am very happy to have Mr. Hasegawa here as my deputy," the SRSG said.

DSRSG Hasegawa has most recently served as the Director of the Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Tokyo.

Other previous posts have included Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Regional Director of Asia and the Pacific in New York (1996-1999); Humanitarian Co-ordinator of the UN system in Rwanda (January 1995-June 1996); and Director of Policy and Planning for UN peacekeeping operations in Somalia (April to December 1994).

PKF COMMANDER MEETS TNI REGIONAL COUNTERPART IN BALI

PKF Force Commander Lieutenant General Winai Phattiyakul today began a two-day Inter Commander's Meeting (ICM) in Denpasar, Bali, with TNI Chief of the Udayana Regional Military Command, Brigadier General Williem da Costa.

The ICM sessions are usually held every three months to allow participants to discuss ongoing bilateral military issues between East Timor and Indonesia. Past meetings have focused on issues including refugees, border demarcation, smuggling and pension payments to former Indonesian civil servants still living in East Timor.

The meetings are scheduled to end tomorrow, after which the PKF Force Commander will return to Dili where he is scheduled to attend a UN Medal Parade and Farewell Ceremony for the Chilean and Portuguese aviation elements.

Forty-two personnel and six helicopters from Portugal and Chile are scheduled to leave East Timor over the next month. The Portuguese and Chilean aviation elements have been carrying out tasks including humanitarian support, tactical operations and medical evacuations over their more than two years of service in East Timor.

Meanwhile, Australian troops serving in East Timor are considering establishing a memorial for Zac, the first Australian military working dog to die in a theatre of operation since the Vietnam War.



MEDIA BRIEFING NOTE

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The eight- year-old German Shepherd was humanely put down last week after losing the use of his legs due to spinal nerve damage. For the past three months the dog had served in a team carrying out various tasks including tracking and reconnaissance along the border areas of East Timor.

