

MEDIA BRIEFING NOTE

By UNMISET Spokesperson's Office

Dili, 18 November 2002

SRSG BRIEFS LOCAL PRESS ON UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

On his arrival back in Timor-Leste after a 14-day trip to address the UN Security Council in New York and to make official visits to London and Lisbon, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) Kamalesh Sharma briefed the local press today at Comoro Airport regarding his trip.

Mr. Sharma stated that this was his first trip as SRSG to brief the Security Council, giving them a progress report on the first six months of UNMISET. Such six-month progress reports are called for under Security Council 1410 which established the mission.

The SRSG expressed his pleasure at the enthusiasm in which the Security Council received his 15-minute presentation regarding UNMISET. He noted the high level of interest within the chamber, with 28 speakers asking questions regarding UNMISET's progress and plans for the future.

Mr. Sharma noted that a Security Council Press Release with excerpts of the discussions on UNMISET is now available from the UNMISET spokespersons office and has already been widely distributed.

Mr. Sharma said that he stressed to the Security Council the need for continued international partnership and support with the Government of Timor-Leste. He added that countries have to perceive these partnerships as long-term commitments if they are to succeed.

The SRSG told the press today that his progress report to the Security Council on UNMISET "was well received and appreciated." He added that SC members were



MEDIA BRIEFING NOTE

By UNMISSET Spokesperson's Office

also pleased to hear about the good external relations that have been established and are being strengthened between Indonesia and Timor-Leste.

Mr. Sharma said that a number of speakers at the Security Council debate congratulated the leaders of Timor-Leste on their independence and on their new membership in the United Nations. The SRSG is scheduled to brief the Timorese leadership tomorrow, 20 November, on his trip to New York.

Mr. Sharma did say that the Security Council requested continued updates in two key areas – efforts to fully establish and strengthen the judicial system and on refugee repatriation and reconciliation issues.

The SRSG made a point of saying that in his briefing to the Security Council he expressed his deep appreciation and confidence in the accomplishments to date of his UNMISSET staff. He noted in particular today the contributions of the Deputy Special Representative to the Secretary-General (DSRSG) Sukehiro Hasegawa, the Peacekeeping Force Commander Maj. Gen. Huck Gim Tan, the Chief of Staff Sue Ingram, and the UN Police Commissioner Peter Miller.

Mr. Sharma mentioned several other meetings he held in New York, including one with the UN High Representative for Least Developed Countries.

According to the SRSG, the UN High Representative said he would furnish the Government of Timor-Leste with information concerning the special status of Least Developed Countries, particularly in the area of trade and international debt and special assistance under this category which might apply to Timor-Leste.

Mr. Sharma noted, however, that the Government of Timor-Leste would need to make a determination if it wishes to interact with this UN grouping.

The SRSG said that he held positive meetings with high-level officials in London and Lisbon and he was encouraged by their desire to consolidate and advance their levels of cooperation with the Government of Timor-Leste.



MEDIA BRIEFING NOTE

By UNMISET Spokesperson's Office



UNITED NATIONS MISSION OF SUPPORT IN EAST TIMOR (UNMISET)
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (OSRSG)
Not an official document. For information purposes only.