

By UNMISSET Spokesperson's Office

Dili, 23 October 2002

SPECIAL PAYMENTS TO FORMER INDONESIAN EMPLOYEES

A "Special Fund established with contributions from the governments of Indonesia, Australia and Portugal as well as the European Commission, will begin making one-time payments to all eligible former Indonesian Government civil servants, military (TNI), police and pensioners who served in East Timor prior to September 1999.

The "Special Fund" is being managed by UNDP in partnership with the Government of Timor-Leste, UNMISSET and UNHCR.

At a press conference today, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Kamallesh Sharma, noted that the creation of the "Special Fund" was an initiative of UNTAET and came into existence with the signing of "Points of Understanding" by UNTAET and the Indonesian Government in November 2001.

The fund will begin making payments to some 1500 beneficiaries beginning on November 4, through Banco Nacional Ultramarino (BNU) in Dili and Baucau.

Payments amount will range from US\$50 to US\$350 based on the numbers of years of service.

Also at today's press conference, Deputy SRSG and UNDP Resident Co-ordinator, Sukehiro Hasegawa gratefully acknowledged the generous contributions to the "Special Fund" of the Portuguese, Australian and Indonesian governments and of the European Commission.

