

East Timor
5 April 2001

Mr. Gokool (Mauritius):

My delegation thanks Mr. Annabi for the comprehensive briefing on the situation in East Timor. We are pleased to note the fruitful meeting between the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) and the East Timor Transitional Administration in Denpasar last January, where many important issues were discussed and agreement was reached on those issues.

We believe that for any democratic process to succeed, it must first of all adopt an inclusive approach to accommodate the entire population of the country without discrimination. We believe that the returnees should be treated as an integral element of the broader process of reconciliation in the independent East Timor. We hope that in the short time-frame now available to UNTAET this issue will be given the consideration that it deserves. We appreciate the role of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the other organizations in accelerating the return of refugees to their homeland. We are happy to learn that the International Organization for Migration is taking positive steps to repatriate those refugees who are registered to return. We look forward to a quick and voluntary return of refugees from West Timor before June, the date set for registration.

We deplore the tragic incident and rioting after the death, on 12 March, of a teenager in Makadiki. We believe that an effective process of community reconciliation is the sine qua non for the successful establishment of national protection.

My delegation appreciates the decision of the House of Representatives to set up two ad hoc courts to try gross human rights violations. We hope that the presidential decree that is needed for their actual establishment will not be retarded. We strongly support the application of the “relief to development continuum”, a framework strategy that addresses the humanitarian needs and aims to achieve progressive changes towards establishing a sustainable and independent East Timor. We hope that international as well as bilateral donors will generously contribute to the implementation of the programme.

We hope that the formal request formulated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the transfer to East Timor of Jacobus Bere — suspected of killing New Zealand peacekeeper Leonard William Manning on 24 July 2000 — made under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Legal, Judicial and Human Rights Related Matters signed on 6 April 2000 between the Government of Indonesia and UNTAET, will be acceded to.

Finally, my delegation would like to ask only two questions of Mr. Annabi. The first is whether the recruitment and training of East Timorese electoral officers is being carried out so as to make the election fair and transparent. Secondly, what are the facilities put in place for refugees who are returning to East Timor?