



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA · THE SENATE

GORDON D. McINTOSH
SENATOR FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT OFFICES
ST. MARTIN'S CENTRE
44 ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE
PERTH, W.A. 6000
(G.P.O. BOX B58, PERTH, W.A. 6001)
TELEPHONE 3254116

10 June 1985

Dear Colleague,

The Australian Coalition for East Timor has formally applied to the Minister for Communications for a license to operate a radio link established with Fretilin inside East Timor earlier this year.

I have written to the Minister in support of this application (copy enclosed).

I believe this radio link is very important.

I ask you to lend your support to the application by writing to the Minister and urging other colleagues to do likewise.

Yours sincerely,

GORDON D. McINTOSH

SENATOR FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

SENT TO
45 MP'S

See attached list

McIntosh letter to Duffy re Timor Radio Licence

Letter sent to the following MP's

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPLY</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPLY</u>
Bolkus		Blanchard	
Childs		Campbell	
Chipp	✓ YES	Duncan	
Coates		Fatin	
Coleman		Hand	
Cook		Hollis	
Georges		Howe	
Gietzelt	✓ YES	Jakobsen	
Giles	✓ YES	Jones	
Haines		Kent	
Hearn		Lamb	✓ YES
Macklin		Langmore	
Mason	office phoned: Advised will do -	McHugh	
Reynolds		Milton	✓ YES
Robertson		Morris	
Zacharov		O'Neil	
Cooney		Scott	✓ Yes
Devlin		Snow	
McKiernan		Staples	
Vigor		Tickner	
Siddons		Uren	✓ YES
Baldwin		West	
Beazley			

Avebury.

✓ Yes + inviting European MP'S to do likewise.



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PERTH, W.A. 6000
(G.P.O. BOX 858, PERTH, W.A. 6001)
TELEPHONE 3254116

10th June, 1985

The Hon. Michael Duffy, MP,
Minister for Communications,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA. A.C.T. 2600.

Dear Minister,

I wish to express my support for the application made by the Australian Coalition for East Timor (ACET) for a licence to enable radio contact with East Timor.

I understand that this application was made in Darwin on 6th June, 1985.

Because there are special circumstances which surround East Timor, I believe they warrant favourable consideration of this licence application.

As you are aware, East Timor was annexed by the Indonesian Government in 1976. Very few countries have formally recognised this annexation; the issue is still under active consideration by the United Nations.

Since the Indonesian takeover, free communication with East Timor has not been possible. You might recall that the Australian Parliamentary Delegation to East Timor, in August 1983, headed by Mr. W.L. Morrison, found, among other things, that mail in and out of East Timor was censored and that movement to and from East Timor was controlled.

You will be aware that the 1982 United Nations General Assembly Resolution called on the Secretary-General to consult with "all parties directly concerned" with the view to finding a settlement of the issue.

While Fretilin does not claim to be the sole representative of the East Timorese people, the views of and participation by Fretilin are obviously crucial to any U.N. sponsored negotiations aimed at a peaceful settlement.

The radio link with Fretilin is presently the only means by which Fretilin inside East Timor can make its views on U.N. talks known immediately and directly. It is presently the only direct means by which the U.N. Secretary-General, for instance, can make contact with Fretilin inside East Timor.

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This reason alone is, I believe, sufficient grounds for allowing this radio link to be maintained.

Of course, there are other reasons.

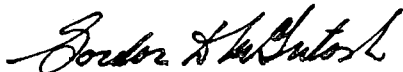
The link will permit the views and claims of Fretilin on events in East Timor to be readily accessible to other Governments, including our own; to the media; human rights organisations; and, aid organisations.

The granting of a licence by the Australian Government does not mean that Australia has to endorse the material received in Australia. On the other hand, actions which prevented the continuation of this link would deprive us all of the opportunity to hear another important side of the issue.

I understand ACET will not use the radio link for any 'clandestine' purposes - it will be an open channel of communication with Fretilin in East Timor.

For the above reasons, added to the very modest amount of time required for transmission each week, I offer my strongest support for this licence application.

Yours sincerely,



GORDON D. McINTOSH.

SENATOR FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA.



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MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

29 JUL 1985

Senator G D McIntosh
Senator for Western Australia
Commonwealth Parliament Offices
GPO Box B58
PERTH WA 6001

Dear Senator ~~McIntosh~~ *Gordon,*

Thank you for your letter supporting the application made by the Australian Coalition for East Timor for a licence to permit radio contact with East Timor.

I have examined the matter very carefully with my colleagues and have now decided that a fixed station licence for the purpose of communicating between Australia and the Fretilin Revolutionary Council of National Resistance forces in East Timor should not be granted.

The licence has been refused firstly, because facilities for public communications with East Timor already exist through the Overseas Telecommunications Commission (OTC) and it is not Government policy to authorise communication links to bypass OTC services. The particular circumstances of the present case do not require a departure from this policy. Secondly, the issue of any licence for a fixed link from Australia to East Timor would be inconsistent with international practice without the agreement of Indonesia. The Department of Foreign Affairs have advised that Indonesia would not agree.

Although I realise that you will be disappointed with this result, I can assure you that your concerns were fully considered before the decision was made.

Yours sincerely

Regards
Michael Duffy

Michael Duffy