

United Nations



Nations Unies

Executive Office of the Secretary-General
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

To: Mr. Nambiar,

On yesterday's Update note, the SG asked for a statement on Timor-Leste to be prepared. However, JMG is now asking whether the SG would like to be videotaped reading the message.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'AG'.

Andrew Gilmour
3 April 2007

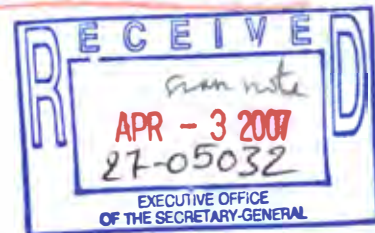
cc: Mr. Kim Won-soo

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Timor Leste



Note to Mr. Nambiar

UNMIT: Proposed statement by the Secretary-General on the eve of the presidential election

1. As you know, the presidential election in Timor-Leste is scheduled for 9 April. Pursuant to its mandate under Security Council resolution 1704 (2006), the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) has been providing, together with UNDP and other UN partners, support to the Timorese authorities throughout all stages of the process, particularly to the Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration and the independent National Electoral Commission. In its 28 March cable (attached), UNMIT has provided an overview of the status of electoral preparations, highlighting certain logistical challenges still faced.
2. Given the UN's special relationship with Timor-Leste since its birth, we raised with the UNMIT leadership the possibility of a statement of support to be conveyed by the Secretary-General on the eve of the election. After liaising with the Speechwriter's Unit on a preliminary basis to explore whether a videotaped message might be considered, we asked UNMIT to provide draft elements for such a possible statement. UNMIT has now provided draft elements, attached to its 2 April cable (attached), which we are ready to further discuss with the Speechwriter's Unit.
3. We would be grateful if you could obtain, at the earliest opportunity, the Secretary-General's views on whether he wishes to proceed with a statement so that we may inform the Mission accordingly.

J. M. Guéhenno

Jean-Marie Guéhenno
2 April 2007

cc: Deputy Secretary-General



CTX-127

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Elements Secretary-General statement before the elections in Timor-Leste

These first post-independence national elections signify another milestone in the process of consolidation of democracy in Timor-Leste.

I trust that this election will be free and fair, without violence and intimidation and leading to results accepted by all. The Timorese authorities who are conducting and supervising the election have worked hard to ensure that every eligible East Timorese citizen may cast their vote on election day.

In meeting the challenge of organizing these elections, UNMIT has been and is assisting the state institutions in providing security and logistics in the lead up to the election, during the election and after the election.

The number of candidates represents a broad political spectrum of choice. There is also a high number of new voter registrations - especially from the young.

These **elections** are not to choose leaders who will decide what is best for the country - they are an opportunity for the people to decide how the country should be led.

Respect for the rights of all citizens to choose from the broad political spectrum of candidates in a peaceful, fair and secure way, eschewing all violence and even intimidation, will set the tone for the type of society that we all wish to see develop in Timor-Leste.

The crisis of April and May last year reminded us that a stable and sustainable democracy cannot be taken for granted.

The Timorese people have repeatedly shown strong and brave democratic **participation** over the past seven-and-a-half years.

I call upon all candidates and their supporters to accept the results in a peaceful manner.

The United Nations **remains** steadfastly committed to continue assisting the authorities of **Timor-Leste** on the path of stability and development in a climate of democratic, accountable and responsive governance.

UNMIT/PIO/02.04.07