

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

20 May 1980

DOCUMENT 1-181/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs Van den HEUVEL

on behalf of the Socialist Group

with request for urgent debate

persuant to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in East Timor

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the memorandum presented in April by Amnesty International to the governments represented at the conference of the 'Intergovernmental Group on Indonesia';
 - having regard further to the submission presented on 6 February 1980 to the International Affairs Committee of the US Senate (Prepared Testimony on Human Rights in Indonesia and in East-Timor)
 - whereas it emerges from these two documents that
 - many hundreds of people have been held prisoner in intolerable conditions on that island since the Indonesian invasion.
 - that these prisoners are frequently tortured,
 - that many Fretelin members have disappeared after being arrested by Indonesian troops,
 - that other members of this liberation organization who responded to an amnesty announced by the Indonesian authorities have been executed,
 - that 200,000 East Timoreans are suffering from acute undernourishment and 60,000 of these are in need of urgent medical attention,
 - that international aid has, not been reaching the population, owing to the intervention of the Indonesian military,
 - whereas, furthermore, the Community maintains through treaties relations with the ASEAN countries, of which Indonesia is one,
1. Proclaims the urgent need for an early international investigation into the situation of political prisoners in East Timor, as well as an investigation into the effects on the local population of the Indonesian occupation of East Timor;
 2. Calls on the Commission, the Council and the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation to take steps to bring about such an international investigation and help to ensure that extensive humanitarian aid is granted which directly benefits the distressed population;
 3. Calls in particular on the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation to modify their position with regard to the UN resolution on East Timor and at the same time to enter into consultations with the government of Portugal with a view to reaching a satisfactory settlement to the East Timor issue;
 4. Calls lastly on the Commission, Council and Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation to inform Parliament of the steps taken;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation.

JUSTIFICATION OF THE REQUEST FOR URGENT PROCEDURE

Through the memorandum published at the end of April by Amnesty International and the recently held conference of the 'Intergovernmental group on Indonesia', it has become clear that speedy action is urgently needed to deal with the problems of political prisoners and famine in East Timor.