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THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRALIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

30 May 2006

H.E. Mr Kofi Annan Secretary-General of the United Nations New York NY 10017 By Fax: (212) 963-2155

Your Excellency

Further to my letters of 24 and 25 May regarding Australia's current security assistance to Timor Lesté, I am writing to inform you that, in an exchange of letters completed on 29 May, an arrangement has been agreed with Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno on Australian support for UNOTIL and UN agencies in Timor Lesté.

In addition, I am pleased to confirm that Australia has now deployed approximately 1800 troops in the East Timor area with about 1300 of those on the ground. Australia has also deployed 53 Australian Federal Police who will assist with assessments on future law enforcement requirements. Our security forces will continue to work in conjunction with New Zealand, Portuguese and Malaysian forces to address security problems, particularly around Dili, in accordance with the requirements of the Government of Timor Lesté.

With the support of other bilateral contributing countries, Australia has secured key areas of Dili including the UN compound and has been facilitating the evacuation of approved persons. Fighting between security forces appears to now be under control, with F-FDTL personnel returning to barracks and, at President Gusmao's request, PNTL personnel also returning to barracks. Our actions have calmed what were very concerning and dangerous circumstances in recent days. Nevertheless, Dili continues to experience civil disorder and opportunistic violence, due predominantly to communal gang conflict, with the overall security situation showing signs of improvement, albeit with some continuing outbreaks of disorder, arson and looting.

Australia will continue cooperating with UNOTIL and relevant UN agencies in support of their ongoing efforts to fulfil their current mandated tasks. I have written in similar terms to the President of the Security Council.

Yours sincerely

H.E. the Hon Robert Hill

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