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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

(Security Council
Timor-Leste)


10 March 2006

Dear Mr. President,

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 2 March 2006, which I received from His Excellency Dr. José Ramos-Horta, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Kofi A. Annan

His Excellency
Mr. César Mayoral
President of the Security Council
New York

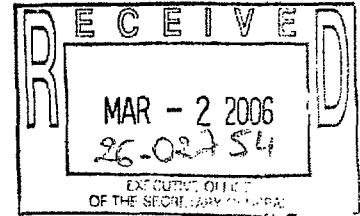
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Gabinete do Ministro

New York, 02 March 2006

Excellency,

#26-00692

I refer to the letter of 17 January 2006, whereby His Excellency Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri conveyed to you our request that the UN consider establishing in Timor-Leste a "Special Political Office" in view of the political consolidation, the planned parliamentary and presidential elections in 2007 are part of.

It is our understanding that our request is currently under consideration by the UN Secretariat and among Security Council members. In order to help facilitate this process, [and following consultations with H.E. President Xanana Gusmão and H.E. Prime Minister Alkatiri], I wish to shed some light on the context and scope of our request.

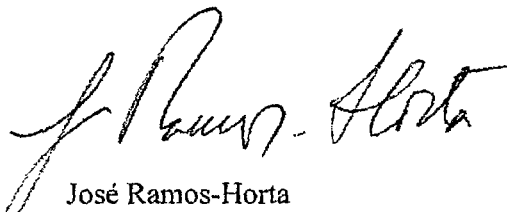
As indicated above, the main purpose of our request is to ensure that Timor-Leste will continue to benefit from UN assistance in support of our political consolidation process leading to the 2007 elections. As you are aware, these will be Timor-Leste's first elections since our nation attained independence in 2002. Since the success of our political consolidation efforts depends in part on the success of the elections, it is crucial that the UN should provide support for the process leading to the elections in various aspects.

In this regard, I wish to clarify that the four components listed in our request are not exhaustive but illustrative of the type of assistance needed to ensure an environment that is conducive to a successful conduct of elections in Timor-Leste will be a function of many variables, including the overall security situation and political climate. Fundamentally, therefore, Timor-Leste is looking to the UN for sound policy guidance in electoral matters as well as support and facilitation, as appropriate, in key areas relevant to our political consolidation, including in the areas of reconciliation and human rights.

Notwithstanding the progress achieved so far in building a democratic and prosperous Timor-Leste, much remains to be done. Hence we hope that our modest request will be positively considered. I am confident that with your support and the

steady commitment of our friends in the international community, Timor-Leste will be able to advance on the path of political consolidation.

I seize this opportunity to extend to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration and respect.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'José Ramos Horta', written in a cursive style.

José Ramos-Horta
Senior Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary General
United Nations
New York



Permanent Mission of the
Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to the United Nations
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 441, New York, N.Y. 10017
Tel: (212) 759 3675 - Fax: (212) 759 4196 - E-mail: timor-leste@un.int

New York, 07 March 2006

Excellency

In reference to the letter dated 02 March 2007 from His Excellency Mr. Jose Ramos Horta, Senior Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste addressed to your Excellency, I have the honour to request that the said letter be circulated amongst the members of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Jose Luis Guterres
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

His Excellency
Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York