

Queen's Australian toadies provoke war in East Timor

by Allen Douglas

On Oct. 10, the Australian-led International Force for East Timor (Interfet) shot and killed one Indonesian policeman and wounded three others, in the first major Australian-Indonesian clash since Interfet landed there in September. Both sides immediately made plans to rush thousands of troops to the border of East and West Timor where the incident took place.

Indonesia filed a sharp protest with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan over the "cross-border raid by Interfet," and took two additional strong measures on Oct. 12: It froze the Timor Gap treaty with Australia, which allocates the rights to hundreds of billions of dollars worth of oil and gas deposits off East Timor, and announced that it would not grant Interfet's request to conduct flights over East Timor. The Indonesian Air Force commander for Eastern Indonesia, Rear Marshall Ian Santoso, warned Interfet against such flights: "If they insist in doing so, they will have to face the Indonesian Air Forces' fighter aircraft," he said.

Perhaps the best gauge of the growing Indonesian outrage, came from leaders in its national parliament, the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR). Slamet Effendy Yusuf, chairman of the Golkar (President B.J. Habibie's party) faction in the MPR, charged that Interfet had *knowingly* violated Indonesia's border in West Timor. He asked, "Are we allowed to chase any Australians in Melbourne?" The head of the MPR, Amien Rais, expressed the bitter feelings of many, inside the Parliament and out, when he said on Oct. 11, "Indonesia should be firm. If they entered West Timor, we should wipe them out."

With troops from both sides pouring into the border area, more such incidents are almost guaranteed to occur. Meanwhile, as U.S. troops also converge on the area, to provide Interfet logistical support, the danger rises by the hour that the United States will get sucked into a disastrous land war in

Asia. U.S. Democratic Party Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche warned in a Sept. 17 statement: "Bringing the British monarchy, whose Queen is the head of state in Australia, into the command of the intervention into East Timor, will have no effect but to turn an already terrible situation in Indonesia into the detonator of a potential political 'Krakatoa explosion' for the United States and others viewed as authors of this latest piece of strategic folly."

'Hot pursuit'

The Interfet forces claim that they did not cross the border into West Timor on Oct. 10, when they fired hundreds of rounds during a 15-minute interval. On Oct. 11, the military commander of Eastern Indonesia (which includes West Timor), Maj. Gen. Adam Damiri, inspected the area where the clash took place, and rejected Interfet's denial that it had entered the clearly marked Indonesian territory. "Interfet went into West Timor territory in a ready-to-combat position as if facing enemies," he said. A spokesman for Indonesian Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Wiranto charged that Interfet's Maj. Gen. Peter Cosgrove "must be held responsible for the incident."

Cosgrove disputed the Indonesian charges, claiming that he had a map which showed that his troops were still in East Timor. However, the United Nations Mission in East Timor, which conducted the Aug. 30 independence referendum in East Timor and which is notoriously anti-Indonesian, said that it regarded the town of Motaain, where the clash took place, as clearly Indonesian territory, and had therefore registered no one in that town to vote.

Whatever the findings on this particular incident, it is clear that Interfet is following the aggressive doctrine announced by Australian Defense Minister John Moore shortly after Australian troops first landed in East Timor. Moore said then, that

FIGURE 1

British target Indonesia for breakup



Interfet would knowingly disregard Indonesian sovereignty, if it were in “hot pursuit” of suspected pro-Indonesian militiamen. The statement caused an uproar in Australia and throughout Asia, and Moore withdrew it, at least publicly.

But, new revelations show that Australia has been systematically violating Indonesian sovereignty since at least April. Sydney Morning Herald London correspondent Ian Hunter reported on Oct. 11 that the Australian government had covertly sent Special Air Services (SAS) troops and a Royal Australian Navy Clearance Diving Team (CDT) into East Timor at that time. Said Hunter, “The sole task of the two elite units was reconnaissance in preparation for a large Australian Defence Force (ADF) deployment.”

The SAS-CDT operations in East Timor in April were highly sensitive. Hunter observed, “The covert operations before the creation of the Interfet force are classified secret and will remain so under the Federal Cabinet’s 30-year rule.” However, Hunter did report some details: “A senior ADF special forces and intelligence officer recently said the small force was observing Indonesian military activity as a necessary precursor to full-scale deployment. The same tactics

were used by the British SAS during the 1982 Falklands and 1990-91 Gulf wars. . . . The SAS and CDT cells transmitted constant reports on TNI [the Indonesian Army] and militia activities to ADF headquarters and the ultra-secret Defence Signals Directorate, also in Canberra.” Most recently, Hunter wrote, “In armed contact with the TNI and militia, the general observations, technical descriptions, and assessments of TNI capabilities in Timor have been invaluable.”

‘A plot to splinter Indonesia’

Australia is not conducting a “peacekeeping mission,” but rather, on behalf of the British monarchy, it is spearheading a highly provocative incursion aimed at splitting up the Indonesian nation-state. As LaRouche explained in his Sept. 17 statement: “The current, British-led [e.g. Australia, British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook et al.] targetting of Indonesia and its oil-gas reserves, through the East Timor mess, is, in reality, a part of the British monarchy’s stated intent to bring about a form of world government based upon a combination of supranational authorities and the reduction of existing nation-states to micro-states. Even the U.S. itself is the declared

target for such chopping of existing sovereign nations into pathetic little parts.”

Indeed, many Indonesians are convinced that Australia intends to break up their country, the only plausible explanation for the recent aggressive behavior of a country with whom Indonesia had had very good relations for decades. As the *Australian's* Jakarta correspondent Patrick Walters reported on Oct. 2, “At the mass level, suspicions have been sown about whether Australia has some hidden strategic agenda in East Timor that is aimed at weakening the fabric of the unitary state.”

Nor is it only Indonesians who are convinced that the aim is to break up their country. In a column in the Oct. 11 *Mainichi Shimbun* newspaper in Japan, Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad charged that Australia intended to “split up” Indonesia, and that moves would soon be made on Irian Jaya, Aceh, and Sulawesi.

As *EIR* documented in its Sept. 24 issue, Australia, with its immense intelligence capabilities respecting Indonesia, knew full well that any referendum in East Timor would result in violence. With that in mind, Australian Prime Minister John Howard wrote a letter in December 1998 to President Habibie demanding a referendum. Then, as soon as Habibie bent to the pressure, Howard entirely revamped Australia's military structure, to prepare for the present invasion under the cover of “peacekeeping” — for the violence Australia itself had provoked! Indeed, even former Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating charged that Howard's action in pushing the referendum had *caused* the deaths in East Timor.

And, it now emerges that the Australian and international media reports (and UN claims) that some 7,000 East Timorese were slaughtered by pro-Indonesian militiamen, were almost entirely fabricated, precisely to force the UN to authorize a “peacekeeping” force. UN Humanitarian Assistance spokesman Michael Barton stated on Oct. 13, “We have not found evidence of massacres so far.” Only 34 bodies have been found to date.

Blaming it on the United States

While the British monarchy orchestrates the assault on Indonesia, that monarchy's minions are making sure that the United States takes the blame (a strategy aided by the bellicose, anti-Indonesian statements and actions of its U.S. assets in Vice President Al Gore's “Principals Committee,” such as Defense Secretary William Cohen and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright).

On Sept. 21, Australian Prime Minister and British Crown Privy Councillor Howard told his Parliament, that Australia's foreign policy would no longer be based on “the personal rapport of leaders, the sentiments of governments, or so-called special relationships,” a clear swipe at the policy of previous, Labor governments, of strategic engagement with Indonesia. Then, in an interview with the Sept. 28 issue of Australia's *The Bulletin* magazine, Howard stressed that his new foreign policy would be based on “asserting Australian

values” throughout Asia. Coming as it did with Australian troops landing in East Timor, the “Howard Doctrine,” as *The Bulletin* referred to it, clearly meant that, if necessary, Australia would use force to assert its “values.” Twice during the interview, Howard's interlocutor described Australia's new role as being that of the “deputy” to the “U.S. sheriff” in the region, a characterization from which Howard did not demur.

The “deputy sheriff” phrase provoked an uproar in Australia, and across Asia, which is still raging weeks later. But, Howard waited five long days after the initial explosion of outrage, to protest that he himself had not used the term “deputy sheriff.” However, the point was made: Since Australia, with its minuscule 50,000-man army, clearly could not act on its own against the 211 million-person nation of Indonesia, it was clearly *somebody's* deputy sheriff — and that somebody, was the United States.

The “deputy sheriff” flap erupted just as LaRouche's Sept. 17 policy statement on East Timor, and accompanying documentation by *EIR* on the *British* authorship of the policy (*EIR*, Sept. 24, “Australia Acts as British Stooge in East Timor Crisis”), was circulating throughout Australia and Asia.

The Bulletin is owned by multi-billionaire Kerry Packer, one of an elite group of financiers around the Crown, which includes Lord Jacob Rothschild, World Bank boss Sir James Wolfensohn, United Nations Undersecretary General Maurice Strong, and the late Sir Jimmy Goldsmith. Packer himself is sometimes seen in the Queen's private box at the Ascot races. In addition to *The Bulletin's* “deputy sheriff” interview with Howard, Packer's Channel 9 TV station had been the most vociferous in trying to provoke violence in the lead-up to the vote on the referendum, and in reporting alleged massacres afterward.

Her Majesty's Australian servants

Australian Prime Minister John Winston Howard is notoriously “British to his bootstraps.” He was named after arch-imperialist Winston Churchill, and, in the current crisis, has used explicitly British imperial precedents to justify his foray into Indonesia. Australia's new foreign policy, he has proclaimed, is based on the dictum of the mid-nineteenth-century British Empire's Lord Palmerston, that “Britain has no permanent friends, only permanent interests.” On Oct. 11, the day after his troops killed their first Indonesian, Howard lauded Australia's role in fighting in the Anglo-Boer war of 1898-1901, on behalf of what he specifically cited as “British imperial” interests. That war, like the present British grab for the massive oil and gas deposits off East Timor, was fought to secure raw materials — the richest gold deposits on earth.

Howard's Anglophilia is well-suited for Australia's “new foreign policy,” given that it is merely a predicate of a strategic shift in *British* foreign policy, as announced by Her Majesty's Royal Institute of International Affairs (RIIA) in 1995. An RIIA report of that year, “Economic Opportunities for Britain and the Commonwealth,” argued that Britain must turn much of its attention to Asia, as the single-largest source

of wealth remaining in the world, and that Australia should be Britain's "launching pad" into the region. The old British empire, the report emphasized, had never really disappeared, but merely took on a new cloak as the "Commonwealth," which is based on "an informal financial empire that maintained its vibrancy long after the formal empire went into decline."

By mid-1997, led by the Queen's sometime-investment manager George Soros, the British unleashed the speculative assault against Asian economies, which drastically weakened Indonesia, setting up the next phase of attack—the Australian-led Interfet assault now under way.

Australia's role as *Britain's* "deputy sheriff" is not exactly a secret. On Aug. 8, 1997, the *Canberra Times* reported on a conference which had just taken place in that city, one of a number of follow-on conferences to the RIIA report. There, Britain's High Commissioner to Australia, Sir Roger Carrick, said that the British-Australian intelligence relationship was "growing rapidly," and had been "very productive and useful recently." The *Times* elaborated on the nature and depth of that relationship:

"Britain's overseas spying agency MI6 and other intelligence agencies have close links with Australian agencies such as the overseas espionage agency, the Australian Secret Intelligence Service. ASIS has an MI6 officer attached in its Canberra headquarters . . . at assistant director level, and the top secret Defence Signals Directorate has a special British liaison officer. According to intelligence sources, several MI6 agents attached to the British High Commission work closely with the Defence Intelligence Organization. They also liaise closely with the ONA [Office of National Assessments, which advises the Cabinet on intelligence matters]."

Furthermore, the *Times* said, "British officers are involved in virtually every aspect of Australia's intelligence collection and assessment network. . . . In fact, every ASIS station around the globe has direct liaison with MI6."

British Foreign Secretary Cook, who played a crucial role in launching the East Timor crisis, addressed the conference by video message, emphasizing, reported the *Times*, that "*Australia was a more viable partner for Britain now than at any time in the past two centuries.*" Proclaimed Cook, "The growing importance of Asia and of the countries around the Pacific means that Australia is much stronger for Britain as a bridge into an area of the world of growing importance."

While Canberra and London are involved in the most intimate of intelligence relations, whose single-largest focus from Australia's side is Indonesia, U.S. agencies have been angry at the Australians over the last year for withholding intelligence the United States has requested on East Timor. Senior U.S. officials are also angry at Australia for not "flagging" the violence around the East Timor referendum, violence which Australia had clearly expected.

While shut out of crucial intelligence, the United States may soon be deep in a quagmire. For instance, the 40,000-ton U.S. amphibious assault ship *USS Belleau Wood* has just

arrived off East Timor with its 1,800 sailors and marines and its 300-bed hospital. Asked if he might be called upon to use the ship's contingent of helicopters to provide close air support for Interfet, Capt. Thomas Parker responded, "I think that is something that could be arranged, but, quite frankly, that is something we have not discussed."

Indian elections promote stability

by Ramtanu Maitra

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), led by Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, and its 23 allies, called the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), have secured an absolute majority in India's 13th Lok Sabha (house of Parliament) elections. Despite the diverse nature of the coalition partners, the significant majority that the NDA has secured ensures that the present arrangement may last the entire five-year term of the Parliament, or at least the better part of it. Most importantly, people in general are relieved, and the financial market is ecstatic. Reactions all around South Asia have also been positive.

NDA's 30-plus majority in the house of 543 members was greatly aided by the BJP, which brought in 182 winners. What undermines this, however, is that although the BJP has once more emerged as the largest single party in the Parliament, it is still 90 seats short of securing an absolute majority as a single party, and thus, ensuring foolproof stability.

Vajpayee's growing stature

Assuredly, the most positive aspect of the recently concluded elections is that the people have put their confidence in Prime Minister Vajpayee. Most coalition partners of the BJP-led alliance had centered their electoral campaigns on identifying Vajpayee as the leader. There is also no question that a vast majority of people who voted for the alliance did so because it is led by Vajpayee. Vajpayee's status as the undisputed leader under the present political circumstances provides him the mandate to take hard decisions. It is also likely that the Prime Minister will have to bring some of the allied parties to support policies which may not help some of the allies, including the BJP, politically. His growth in stature during the last 18 months will help him to accomplish this difficult task.

The 13th Lok Sabha election was a hard-fought one. Both the NDA and the Congress-led alliance had resorted to personal attacks, which led to acrimony and bitterness. For this reason, the Prime Minister, in an interview with the leading English-language daily the *Times of India*, issued a call to "make a new beginning" and put aside "the bitterness gener-