

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
23 August 2001

Original: English

**Official communiqué of the 4358th (closed) meeting
of the Security Council****Held in private in the Security Council Chamber at Headquarters
on Thursday, 23 August 2001, at 10.30 a.m.**

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

“At its 4358th meeting, held in private on 23 August 2001, the Security Council considered the item entitled ‘The situation in East Timor’.

“The President, with the consent of the Council, invited the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, the Republic of Korea and Sweden at their request, to participate in the discussion of the item without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council’s provisional rules of procedure.

“The Security Council heard a briefing under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure by Mr. Hédi Annabi, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. Giving the details of the election arrangements, Mr. Annabi informed the Council that the electoral campaign in East Timor so far had been conducted in a peaceful manner. He said that political parties and the population at large had shown strong support for the pact of national unity.

“The members of the Council, as well as the representative of Belgium emphasized the importance of the peaceful conduct of the August 30 elections. They believed that a peaceful, democratic process would be a major first step towards East Timor’s independence in a complex process of stabilization in East Timor. Speakers encouraged a spirit of peace, democracy and tolerance throughout the electoral process and beyond, and joined the Secretary-General in supporting the heroic efforts of the East Timorese people and in urging a large voter turn-out.

“Mr. Annabi responded to the comments and questions.”

