

17 SEP 2002
Timor Sea Treaty
Submission No: 76

75 Union Street,
Northcote. 3070.
13 September, 2002.

The Hon. Julie Bishop MP
Parliament House, Canberra 2600

Dear Ms Bishop,

I am writing to you in your capacity of Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, with regards to the Timor Gap Treaty. I am concerned to see East Timor get a fair go and that Australia not be seen to be greedy and self serving.

When I marched in the streets after East Timor's self determination ballot it was for two reasons, the main one being to stop the slaughter on Australia's doorstep, but also with a sense of obligation to our small neighbor for our complicity in their occupation. I think in our treaty negotiations we can go a small way to meet this obligation.

I do not believe however that obligation and duty are the only reasons to give East Timor a fair share of the Timor Gap resources. I believe that control over the mineral resources in the gap represent East Timor's best hope of developing a major export industry so that East Timor can provide basic necessities like health and education for its people. A developed and economically independent East Timor is very much in the interest of Australia and the rest of the region.

East Timor has struggled enough. Australia should be generous enough to allow them to establish their boundaries in their quest for nationhood. Australia should immediately rejoin the third party dispute mechanism resolving mechanism and abide by the objective decision of the ICJ and UNCLOS. As a member of our affluent Australian community I would be deeply ashamed if Australia were to stymie the timely resolution of this dispute.

Yours sincerely,

Merrilyn Gates
Merrilyn Gates.

23/9/02

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BY: *G. B. Gaud*