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cc. Mr Male  
 PS/Lord Goronwy-Roberts  
 cc. Parliamentary Clerk

*Haslam*

cc Private Secretary  
 PS/PUS  
 Mr Goodison (SED)

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EARLY DAY MOTION NO 71: INDONESIAN AGGRESSION AGAINST TIMOR

1. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office have been asked for advice for the Leader of the House of Commons on the Early Day Motion tabled on 9 December by 104 Labour and 1 Conservative Members in the following terms:

"That this House condemns the invasion of Timor by the armed forces of Indonesia as an act of flagrant aggression designed to deny the people of a newly decolonised territory the right of national self-determination; and calls upon Her Majesty's Government to take a firm stand against Indonesia on this issue in the United Nations and to inform the Indonesian authorities that all British commitments to supply aid will be reviewed unless their troops are withdrawn forthwith."

2. We have so far managed to keep a low profile during the crisis over Portuguese Timor. The Americans and EEC countries have acted similarly (but the new Australian Government may intend to take a stronger line).

3. Lord Goronwy-Roberts has expressed to the Indonesian Ambassador HMG's deep concern and regret at the hostilities in Timor, the strong wish of the British Government for Indonesian forces to be withdrawn at the earliest possible moment, and for an act of self-determination to be carried out as soon as possible, including full consultation with the people of Portuguese Timor with international participation.

4. Members of Parliament will become aware of Lord Goronwy-Roberts' démarche, and this may remove some of the steam from the demand for a debate. If a debate should take place, there will be widespread publicity for anti-Indonesian

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views. This could have an unfortunate effect on our overall relationship with the Indonesians and would make it less likely that they would listen to us. It is, therefore, of some importance that the debate should not occur.

5. As requested by the Parliamentary Clerk, I attach 3 copies of a speaking note for the Leader of the House, recommending that the request for a debate on the Early Day Motion should not be conceded.

A M Simons  
South-East Asian Dept

10 December 1975

I strongly recommend Leader of the House does not arrange time for debate. ~~The~~ ~~House~~ ~~and~~ ~~really~~ ~~be~~ ~~debating~~  
is perfectly clear (and impeccable).  
Mr

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