The overall exemption is b3.

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TIMOR

The crisis in Portuguese Timor seems likely to remain in the diplomatic arena despite intensified Indonesian special forces operations.

Lisbon is trying to steer the parties back to the gradual decolonization scheme reached in Macao in June. Following meetings with Portugal's special envoy in Jakarta on September 11, Indonesia announced its agreement in principle to negotiations between the Portuguese and the three Timorese factions, to begin September 20 in Macao. It is not yet clear, however, whether the radical Fretilin party, which now controls most of the territory, will agree to join the talks.

Contingent of Portuguese troops will arrive in Timor next week, the first Portuguese military measure taken during the crisis.

Meanwhile, an Indonesian press report says that western districts of the territory have proclaimed merger with Indonesia. This is the area where Indonesian special forces are taking control of towns with the intent of handing them over to Indonesian-trained Timorese refugees. Further operations of this kind could lead to renewed fighting in the interior.