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THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

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The Hon Alexander Downer
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA 2600

18 March 2006

Dear Minister

We refer to our earlier letter of today regarding the current situation in Papua.

The Assembly Standing Committee of the National Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia is meeting in Sydney this weekend and has just passed the following resolution in response to the situation in Papua.

The Assembly Standing Committee:

- 1 Expresses deep concern at recent events in Papua, especially at the killing of students and plain clothes police.*
- 2. Acknowledges the rising levels of frustration of the indigenous people of Papua as evidenced by the recent demonstrations at the University in Jayapura and at the Freeport Mine*
- 3. Expresses solidarity with Evangelical Christian Church in the Land of Papua and its ecumenical partners in Papua, and strongly supports their initiative to establish Papua as a "Zone of Peace"*
- 4. In response to the approach from the Evangelical Christian Church in the Land of Papua to the Uniting Church, calls on the Indonesian authorities to act responsibly and with restraint in Papua and to offer more opportunities for dialogue with Papuan religious and community leaders concerning the present situation in Papua and the future of Papua.*
- 5. Asks the Australian Government to support the above resolutions of the Assembly Standing Committee of the Uniting Church in Australia and to convey them to the Indonesian Government*

We urge your Government to support the resolution of the Uniting Church.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dean Drayton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rev. Dr Dean Drayton
President Uniting Church in Australia

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Haire', with a large, elegant loop at the beginning of the first name.

Rev. Dr James Haire.
Ex-President, Uniting
Church in Australia