

# Growing Jap Influence Alarms Dutch

## Position In Portuguese Timor

(From T. J. Fairhall, "Sunday Times" special representative  
in the Netherlands East Indies)

SINGAPORE, Saturday.

Action by the Dutch East Indies and Australian Governments to counteract the growing Japanese influence in Portuguese Timor is regarded in Batavia as necessary and urgent.

Local newspapers have already suggested that Dilli should be brought within the "co-prosperity" sphere of the Dutch East Indies.

Long reports dealing with the trade situation in Dilli have been prepared, and are in the possession of the Australian Government.

It is considered also that Australian and Dutch Governments should arrange diplomatic representation in Dilli. The Japanese certainly expect some move in this direction.

In a conversation I had with the Japanese Consul in Dilli (Mr. Kuroki), he said: "I suppose I shall soon be joined by British, Dutch, and American Consuls—to keep an eye on me."

I assured him that such a move would be desirable, if improbable.

The only Australians in Dilli at present are two civil aviation representatives, who also act as control officers for Qantas Empire Airways flying boats.

The Portuguese in Timor are deeply suspicious of foreigners.

A foreigner may not:

Travel beyond the township boundaries without the permission of the Governor;

Take photographs without the Governor's permission;

Purchase land anywhere in Portuguese Timor.

A recent order forbids radio sets in public places, such as clubs and hotels.

When I tried to buy a copy of the official Government bulletin, which costs about sixpence, the Government printer refused to sell it until he had the authority of the secretary of the

refused to sell it until he had the authority of the secretary of the administration to do so. The only information these bulletins contain is trade statistics, public notices, and official decrees.

Foreigners walking in the streets are conscious of being watched.

Dilli has to depend entirely on the radio and old newspapers brought by planes and cargo steamers for its war news. There is no local newspaper.

When I was in Dilli I could not get details of the Dilli-Pelew airline concession to the Japanese. Even Government officials had not received a context of the statement from Lisbon.