

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** His Excellency, Prime Minister  
**cc:** Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for the Council of Ministers, Minister for Finance  
**Date:** 6 March 2014

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**Confidential briefing note on meeting between [REDACTED] and Australian Ambassador to Timor-Leste Peter Doyle**

I met with the new Australian Ambassador, Peter Doyle yesterday, 5 March 2014.

I assumed it would be a quick courtesy meeting but the Ambassador used it an opportunity to 'send' a message to the Timor-Leste Government through me.

We met at a café near the Australian Embassy. I was accompanied by [REDACTED]. The Ambassador was unaccompanied.

The Ambassador made the following comments that I have no doubt he assumed I would communicate to you:

- He said the Timorese leadership is naïve to think the CMATS arbitration and maritime boundary issue will not affect the bi-lateral relationship. He said the issue cannot, and will not, be quarantined. He repeated this point a number of times, to emphasise his message that Australia is unhappy about the public nature of the dispute and that it will affect the bi-lateral relationship.
- The Ambassador said the Australian Attorney-General, George Brandis made comments to the media about the illegality of the actions of some of the parties. He pointedly suggested we should read the transcript of the Attorney General's comments. (The transcript of the Attorney-General's interview on Skynews is attached. I have highlighted the most interesting comments.)
- The Ambassador claimed Timor-Leste is going to run out of money as the budget is unsustainable and shale gas will drive down the price of natural gas.
- The Ambassador claimed the Timorese people he talks to don't understand the current dispute. He said they think they will get a decision that will deliver a "win" for Timor-Leste when in his view this is not the case.

In turn I gave the Ambassador the following messages:

- Timor-Leste is in no hurry – the value of the resource will hold over time
- International law is on Timor-Leste's side
- The ASIS and ASIO raids are hard to understand – they breached Timor-Leste's internationally recognised rights to confidential legal advice and they benefitted Timor-Leste by making the spying allegations public
- The ICJ case was a big win for Timor-Leste
- Timor-Leste is very close to Indonesia and has many other friends in the region.
- Australia is isolating itself in the region.