SECRET

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECFSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6026
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION US NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ROME

S-E-C-R-E-T SECTION 01 OF 06 JAKARTA 15303

EXDIS
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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SHUM PG0V PREL PINS CASC ID
SUBJECT: CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST TIMOR:
- ON RENEWED FIGHTING,
- ACCESS BY FOREIGNERS, ETC.

REFS: (A) JAKARTA 14397, (B) JAKARTA 14033

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY: IN LENGTHY CONVERSATION ON SEPTEMBER 14,
REVIEWED SITUATION IN EAST TIMOR. THIS
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TELEGRAM TRANSMITS NEW OR SUBSTANTIALLY
DIFFERENT VIEWS GLEANED FROM THAT CONVERSATION. UNDERSTAND THE
Current Class: SECRET

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

DECAPTIONED
MILITARY CAMPAIGN WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE DRY SEASON (APPROXIMATELY TWO MORE MONTHS). HEARD THAT THE CAMPAIGN IS DIRECTED ONLY AGAINST FRETI LIN AND LOCAL SECURITY UNITS WHICH PARTICIPATED IN THE AUGUST 8 BREAKING OF THE GRASSROOTS. A VERSION OF THE AUGUST 8 INCIDENT AND ITS AFTERMATH, INCLUDING TORMURE/BEHEADINGS OF INDONESIAN TROOPS AND POSSIBLE RETAL IATION AGAINST VILLAGERS, TO WHICH EMILY HUGH (CREDIBLE) POST-ATTACK DESERTIONS BY LOCAL SECURITY FORCES APPEAR TO HAVE PROVIDED A SUBSTANTIAL BOOST TO FRETI LIN STRENGTH. INDONESIAN TROOP STRENGTH FOR THE OPERATION AGAINST FRETI LIN IS ESTIMATED AT 10-12,000, WITH A NEW PROVINCIAL MILITARY COMMANDER REPLACING COLONEL PURWANTO. CURRENTLY, THE SITUATION IN EAST TIMOR IS REPORTED TO BE "VERY TENSE" WITH ARRESTS AND HOUSE SEARCHES CARRIED OUT IN DILI AND OTHER TOWNS. THERE ARE REPORTS OF MOVEMENTS OF PEOPLE, INCLUDING NEW MOVEMENTS OF TIMORESE TO ATAURO. OVERALL, FOREIGNERS' ACCESS TO EAST TIMOR APPEARS TO BE DOWN, ALTHOUGH SOME FOREIGNERS WORKING OUTSIDE TROUBLE AREAS ARE STILL ABLE TO TRAVEL TO AND FROM THE PROVINCE. (NOTE: WE WILL SECRET)

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CONTINUE TO MONITOR SITUATION ESPECIALLY CLOSELY AS IT PERTAINS TO SAFETY OF U.S. OFFICIAL OR PRIVATE PERSONNEL VISITING THE PROVINCE; ALL OFFICIAL TRAVEL TO EAST TIMOR IS CAREFULLY COORDINATED BY THIS EMBASSY AND WE WILL MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH ENTITIES REGARDING SECURITY OF THEIR AMERICAN PERSONNEL. ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF OPERATIONS ON THE FOOD AND WELFARE SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

Current Class: SECRET
DURATION OF CAMPAIGN


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USMISSION GENEVA

Current Class: SECRET
CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST TIMOR:

EXTENT OF CAMPAIGN

4. THAT THE GOALS OF THE CAMPAIGN ARE LIMITED TO THE PUNISHMENT OF FREITILIN AND LOCAL SECURITY FORCES INVOLVED IN THE AUGUST 8 ATTACK. THIS NEAR UNANIMITY OF INDONESIAN VIEWS SECRET

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BEING SPREAD TO FOREIGN MISSIONS RAISES DOUBTS ABOUT THEIR RELIABILITY. HOWEVER, TO DATE THEY HAVE NO FIRM EVIDENCE OF INDONESIAN INTENTIONS.

THE AUGUST 8 INCIDENT AND ITS AFTERMATH

5. APPARENTLY WAS IN EAST TIMOR UNTIL EARLY AUGUST. AND HE HAS RECEIVED

Current Class: SECRET
6. ACCORDING TO THE STORY OF THE LOCAL SECURITY FORCE, (FAIL) ELEMENTS TERRORIZED AND THEN KILLED INDONESIAN SOLDIERS STILL ALIVE AFTER THE ATTACK. SOME WERE ALSO BEHEADED. TWO OF THE FOUR CIVILIAN CATECHISTS DIED IN THE INITIAL ATTACK. THE THIRD ESCAPED TO A NEARBY VILLAGE, WHERE HE WAS SET FREE.

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UPON AND MURDERED BY THE VILLAGERS. (COMMENT: THIS VERSION OF EVENTS WOULD EXPLAIN THE CONFLICTING NUMBERS OF INDONESIANS REPORTEDLY KILLED IN THE AUGUST 8 INCIDENT. WE HAVE HEARD VARIOUSLY FIFTEEN, SIXTEEN AND NINETEEN. PRESUMABLY, SIXTEEN INDONESIAN SOLDIERS AND THREE CIVILIAN CATECHISTS DIED. IN ADDITION, THE STORY OF THE ESCAPE AND SUBSEQUENT MURDER OF ONE CATECHIST ADDS DETAILS TO THE ACCOUNT REPORTED REF A. END COMMENT.)

7. HAS REPORTS THAT INDONESIAN SOLDIERS KILLED APPROXIMATELY 200 VILLAGERS IN THE VIQUEQUE AREA IN RETALIATION FOR THE ATTACK. THE SOURCE EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE THE NUMBER WAS APPROXIMATE, IS CONVINCED THAT THE ORDER OF MAGNITUDE IS ACCURATE. (COMMENT. THIS IS THE SECOND REPORT OF A RETALIATION AGAINST VILLAGERS ALLEGEDLY IMPlicated IN THE AUGUST 8 INCIDENT. BOTH HAVE COME TO THE COMPANY.)
WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED SUBSTANTIATION FROM OTHER SOURCES. IT IS INTERESTING IN THIS RESPECT THAT THERE APPARENTLY HAVE BEEN NO RETALIATION STORIES CIRCULATED OUTSIDE INDONESIA AS YET BY
ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE ONLY

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SHUM PGOV PREL PINS CASC ID
SUBJECT: CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST TIMOR:

FRETILIN SUPPORTERS WHO WOULD HAVE REASON TO EMPHASIZE THE NEGATIVE, WHETHER TRUE OR NOT. END COMMENT.

8. RECEIVED POSSIBLE BUT NOT ABSOLUTELY CONFIRMATION OF ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE/BEHEADINGS FROM ARMED FORCES ON AUGUST 15, WHEN HE TOLD [REDACTED] THAT SECRET

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INDONESIAN TROOPS WERE "BUTCHERED" IN THE AUGUST 8 ATTACK. [REDACTED] NOTE THAT IT WOULD NOT/NOT BE OUT OF CHARACTER FOR FRETILIN TO COMMIT ATROCITIES; THERE ARE WELL ESTABLISHED CASES OF FRETILIN CRUELTY IN THE PAST.

"HANSIP" DESERTIONS

9. CLAIMS THAT 600 LOCAL DEFENSE FORCES ("HANSIP") DESERTED TO FRETILIN WITH THEIR WEAPONS AFTER THE AUGUST 8 INCIDENT. [REDACTED] SOURCES TOLD [REDACTED] THERE HAD BEEN DESERTIONS, BUT WERE NOT SPECIFIC ABOUT NUMBERS. [REDACTED] SAID THAT AROUND 100 FRETILIN DESERTED. OTHER SOURCES HAVE SUGGESTED THAT TWO TO THREE HUNDRED OR PERHAPS AS MANY AS FIVE HUNDRED WENT OVER TO FRETILIN (REF A). WHATEVER THE NUMBERS, THESE DESERTIONS WOULD APPEAR TO REPRESENT A SUBSTANTIAL INCREMENT TO KNOWN FRETILIN STRENGTH AND MIGHT PROVIDE A JUSTIFICATION FOR THE APPARENTLY LARGE

Current Class: SECRET
INCREASE IN INDOONESIAN TROOP STRENGTH
FROM OUTSIDE EAST TIMOR.

10. ESTIMATE IS THAT THE GOI HAS DESIGNATED SIX TO EIGHT
INDONESIAN BATTALIONS FOR THE EAST TIMOR
OPERATION IN ADDITION TO THE FOUR
BATTALIONS ALREADY THERE. [UNCERTAIN WHETHER
ALL THESE TROOPS HAVE ARRIVED IN EAST
TIMOR.] BECAUSE OF THE PROVEN UN-
RELIABILITY OF "HANSIP" UNITS, THEY
CANNOT BE COUNTED IN THE OPERATIONAL
TOTAL. [ESTIMATE THE FINAL GOI TROOP STRENGTH WILL BE TEN
TO TWELVE THOUSAND.

11. PROVINCE MILITARY COMMANDER
COLONEL PURWANTO HAS BEEN REMOVED.
THE STORY IS THAT SOMEONE HAD TO
TAKE A FALL FOR THE AUGUST 8
INCIDENT. HIS REPLACEMENT IS SAID
TO BE A COLONEL ROEDJITO FROM MEDAN.
IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THE PROVINCIAL
MILITARY COMMANDER OR A HIGHER
RANKING OFFICER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR
THE MILITARY CAMPAIGN.

CURRENT SITUATION IN EAST TIMOR

12. THE SITUATION IN EAST TIMOR IS
"VERY TENSE," ACCORDING TO [AND THIS HAS MADE INFOR-
MATION HARD TO COME BY AS PEOPLE ARE

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INFO AMBASSAD CANBERRA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMBASSAD LISBON
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
AMBASSAD THE HAGUE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMBASSAD ROME

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EXDIS

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E.O. 12356; DECL: OADR
TAGS: SHUM PGOV PREL PINN CASC ID
SUBJECT: CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST TIMOR:

MORE RELUCTANT THAN USUAL TO ASK
QUESTIONS AND SEEK OUT INFORMATION.
HOWEVER, HAVE HEARD
OFSERIES AND ARRESTS CARRIED OUT
IN DILI TWO WEEKS AGO. THERE ARE
ALSO STORIES OF ARRESTS IN OTHER

Current Class: SECRET
TOWNS. SOME OF THOSE ARRESTED ARE
RUMORED TO HAVE BEEN MOVED OUTSIDE
EAST TIMOR, BUT THERE IS NO
INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION OF THIS
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THAT ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN
DILI AND IN THE VIQUEQUE AREA.

ATAURO/MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE
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CLAIMED THAT A FEW PEOPLE HAD BEEN. SBNT
BACK TO THE ATAURO ISLAND DETENTION
FACILITY, BUT HE OFFERED NO NUMBERS.
GOI OFFICIALS, BY CONTRAST, SAID THERE
HAD BEEN NO MOVEMENTS TO ATAURO.

THERE HAD BEEN NO NEW MOVE-
MENTS TO ATAURO.

14. THE GOI OFFICIALS WHO DENIED MOVE-
MENTS TO ATAURO ADDED THAT THERE MIGHT
BE TRANSFERS OF PEOPLE TO OTHER AREAS.
PEOPLE WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN MOVED TO
ATAURO WOULD BE ShiftED "ELSEWHERE,"
THEY REPORTEDLY SAID. IN THIS CONTEXT,
THEY NOTED SEVERAL VILLAGES HAD
ALREADY BEEN MOVED, BUT LOCATIONS
WERE NOT SPECIFIED. SUBSEQUENTLY/

THAT THERE HAVE, IN FACT, BEEN
MOVEMENTS OF TIMORESE TO ATAURO.

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NUMBERS WERE UNAVAILABLE.

ACCESS

15. A FONDEPT OFFICIAL SAID ON SEPTEMBER 12 THAT THE WEST SOMOAN FONMIN (DUE TO ARRIVE IN JAKARTA SEPTEMBER 17) WOULD BE ALLOWED TO GO TO EAST TIMOR AS PREVIOUSLY PLANNED. TOLD THE AMBASSADOR SEPTEMBER 15 THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEMS WITH THE LATTER'S VISITING EAST TIMOR IF HE CARED TO GO.

16. ICRC: ACCESS FOR THE ICRC NURSE/NUTRITIONIST AND TRACING SPECIALIST REPORTEDLY IS "ROUTINE." AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, ALL ATAURO RESETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES ARE IN ABEYANCE, ALTHOUGH FEEDING AND HEALTH PROGRAMS AT ATAURO CONTINUE.

17. UNICEF: A TEAM FROM UNICEF HAD HOPED TO LEAVE FOR EAST TIMOR DURING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 12-16, BUT THEY DID NOT HAVE PERMISSION TO TRAVEL AS OF SEPTEMBER 19. THE TEAM EXPECTS TO BE ALLOWED TO GO, BUT THEY MAY NOT BE ABLE TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE DILI. (NOTE: UNICEF SITES ARE LOCATED...
MAINTAIN IN UPLAND AREAS OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EAST TIMOR NEAREST THE AREAS OF SUSPECTED FREtilin ACTIVITY. IF MILITARY OPERATIONS ARE IN PROGRESS, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THE TEAM WOULD BE PERMITTED ACCESS TO THESE AREAS.)

18. CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES: AROUND SEPTEMBER 1, CRS DROVE HIMSELF FROM SARE (IN THE WEST) TO DILI. NO PERMIT WAS REQUIRED. HE
HAD NO ESCORT, AND HE SAW NO SIGNS
OF CONCERN OR HEIGHTENED SECURITY
MEASURES. THE EVALUATION VISIT TO THE
CRS SITE WHICH WILL INCLUDE A USAID
OFFICIAL HAS BEEN MOVED TO
NOVEMBER BY CRS FOR REASONS UNRELATED
TO SECURITY. CRS IS PLANNING TO GO AHEAD
WITH A ROUTINE VISIT REQUEST. MEANWHILE,
STILL HAS A
LONG-TERM ACCESS PERMIT. CRS ANTICIPATES
NO PROBLEMS IN HIS RETURNING TO EAST
TIMOR IN OCTOBER.

19. CATHOLIC CHURCH: ABOUT TWO WEEKS
AGO, THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE
SILESIAN FATHERS VISITED JAKARTA. AS
HE IS FROM THE SAME ORDER AS THE NEW
APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR OF EAST TIMOR,
HE ASKED PERMISSION TO VISIT THERE. HE
RECEIVED NO ANSWER TO THE REQUEST.
ABOUT THE SAME TIME, REPRESENTATIVES
OF TWO ORDERS OF NUNS SOUGHT AND WERE
REFUSED PERMISSION TO GO. MEANWHILE,
THE VATICAN APPARENTLY REQUESTED
ACCESS FOR SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES
VISITING FROM ROME. ALTHOUGH THE REQUEST
WAS NOT REFUSED DIRECTLY, PAPAL NUNCIATURE
REPRESENTATIVES WERE TOLD A VISIT MIGHT
NOT BE POSSIBLE.

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IMPACT OF MILITARY OPERATIONS
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20. CONCERNED
ABOUT THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF MILITARY
OPERATIONS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES ON
THE FOOD SITUATION AND GENERAL WELFARE.
UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, FIELD PRE-
PARATION AND PLANTING SHOULD START IN
THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. OBVIOUSLY, IN
AREAS OF MILITARY OPERATIONS, RESTRICTIONS
ON MOVEMENT ARE LIKELY TO BE INTENSIFIED
WITH REDUCED OPPORTUNITIES TO PREPARE FOR PLANTING. IN ADDITION, THIS IS THE NORMAL TIME FOR PRE-POSITIONING OF FOOD STOCKS IN FOOD DEFICIT AREAS, SUCH AS LIOMAR.

IN LATE JULY NOTED THAT FOOD PRE-POSITIONING ACTIVITIES WERE NOT/NOT YET UNDERWAY. THIS COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO INEFFECTIVENESS RATHER THAN TO INTERFERENCE BY THE MILITARY OPERATIONS. HOWEVER, THE LOGISTICS AND COSTS OF MOVING FOOD ONCE THE RAINY SEASON STARTS COULD AFFECT THE ABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO RESPOND TO FOOD SCARCITY.

21. THE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE COULD ALSO CAUSE PROBLEMS. WITHOUT KNOWING WHERE TIMORESE HAVE BEEN MOVED, IT IS
DIFFICULT TO SPECULATE ABOUT THEIR
CONDITIONS, BUT BASED ON PAST PER-
FORMANCE, IT IS LIKELY THAT PREPARATIONS, INCLUDING
HOUSING AND PLACES TO PLANT, MAY BE
INADEQUATE. IN THIS RESPECT, MOVE-
MENT OF PEOPLE TO ATAyro COULD BE A
BLESSING OF A SORT. WITH THE PROGRAM
FOR RESETTLING ATAyro DETAINERS IN
ABYANCE, IS IN A POSITION TO
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CONCENTRATE THEIR ATTENTION AND MONEY
ON ATAyro. (COMMENT: THE
U.S. CONTRIBUTION, WHEN MADE, WOULD PROVIDE
A FURTHER CUSHION, ALTHOUGH NOT MOVING
US CLOSER TO OUR GOAL OF SEEING ALL
ATAyro DETAINERS RESETTLED IN THEIR
HOME AREAS. END COMMENT)

SECURITY OF AMERICANS

Current Class: SECRET
22. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION ESPECIALLY CLOSELY AS IT PERTAINS TO SAFETY OF U.S. OFFICIAL OR PRIVATE PERSONNEL VISITING THE PROVINCE; ALL OFFICIAL TRAVEL TO EAST TIMOR IS CAREFULLY COORDINATED BY THIS EMBASSY AND WE WILL MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH CRS AND OTHER ENTITIES SUCH AS UNICEF REGARDING SECURITY OF THEIR PERSONNEL WHO VISIT EAST TIMOR FROM TIME TO TIME.

23. FINAL COMMENT: WE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH WELL-INFORMED OBSERVERS AND WILL ATTEMPT TO UPDATE AND CLARIFY THE FOREGOING.

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INFORMATION. HOLDRIDGE