RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.5(B), 1.5(D)

SECRET

PAGE 01
JAKART 17317 01 OF 02 170441Z
ACTION SS-25
INFO OCT-02 ADS-00 SSO-00 /027 W
----------------------------------166272 170734Z /15
R 170417Z NOV 81
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
SECRET SEPTEMBER 01 OF 02 JAKARTA 17317

EXDIS

EO 12065: RDS-1 11/17/01 (MONJO, JOHN C.) OR-M
TAGS: MILI, SHUM, ID
SUBJECT: BRIEFING ON THE MILITARY SITUATION IN EAST TIMOR

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY: [BRIEFED CHARGE]
   [THE INFORMATION PROVIDED WAS BASED LARGELY ON A SPECIAL BRIEFING]
   [OUTLINED]

THE STRATEGY AND RESULTS OF THE RECENT OPERATION TO ELIMINATE FREITILIN REMNANTS. MOVING IN AN EAST TO WEST SWEEP WHICH COVERED THE EASTERN HALF OF THE PROVINCE, GOI FORCES KILLED 450 OF AN ESTIMATED 900 FREITILIN GUERRILLAS AND CAPTURED 4500 CIVILIAN SYMPATHIZERS. REMAINING FREITILIN UNITS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE RETURNED TO BASE AREAS WEST OF LOS PALOS WHERE SMALL SCALE OPERATIONS ARE CONTINUING PENDING ANOTHER PLANNED SWEEP NEXT YEAR. IT IS CLEAR FROM THIS REPORT THAT SIGNIFICANT DISRUPTION OF AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY TOOK PLACE IN THE OPERATION AREA BUT THE REMAINING HALF OF THE PROVINCE WAS APPARENTLY LARGELY UNTouched. END SUMMARY.

SECRET

PAGE 02
JAKART 17317 01 OF 02 170441Z

3. [Current Class: SECRET]

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION
4. IN HIS BRIEFING ON THE MILITARY SITUATION THAT IT WAS DECIDED IN JUNE TO SWEEP THE AREAS WHERE FRETLIN GROUPS WERE BELIEVED TO REMAIN. FRETLIN STRENGTH WAS ESTIMATED AT THE TIME TO BE 900 GUERRILLAS, ARMED WITH 300 WEAPONS, PLUS 4500 CIVILIAN SUPPORT PERSONNEL. THE GOI OPERATION, WHICH BEGAN IN JULY, UTILIZED 15 BATTALIONS; 8 WERE REGULAR ARMY BATTALIONS AND 7 WERE HANSIP OR CIVILIAN DEFENSE UNITS. IN ADDITION AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF CIVILIANS PARTICIPATED IN THE OPERATION.

5. MOVEMENT OF THE OPERATION WAS FROM EAST TO WEST

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 JAKART 17317 01 OF 02 170441Z

IN THREE SEPARATE STAGES. DURING THE FIRST STAGE, IN THE LOS PALOS AREA, MIXED GROUPS OF TROOPS AND CIVILIANS ADVANCED ON PARALLEL LINES. WHEN THIS PROVED INEFFECTIVE, THE LAST TWO STAGES WERE ACCOMPLISHED BY SETTING UP A LINE OF BLOCKING FORCES ALONG A NORTH-SOUTH AXIS AND THEN SWEETING THE INTERVENING AREA. NO RESISTANCE WAS ENCOUNTERED UNTIL THE THIRD STAGE, COVERING THE AREA FROM LAGA-UATOLARI TO A LINE RUNNING SOUTH FROM LALEIA. AT THIS POINT, AS A RESULT OF COMBAT IN THE MONTE BIBILEU AND MONT MUNDO PERDIDO AREAS, 450 FRETLIN
WERE KILLED AND 150 WEAPONS CAPTURED. IN ADDITION
4500 FRETILIN SYMPATHIZERS WERE DETAINED, 3000 OF WHOM
WERE SENT TO ATAURO ISLAND AND 1500 RETURNED TO LOCAL
AREAS IF THESE HAD A STRONG HANSIP UNIT. ABRI CASUALTIES
WERE REPORTED AS LIGHT IN A RATIO OF ABOUT 1 TO 20
FRETILIN. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF CASUALTIES AMONG
CIVILIAN RECRUITS.

6. [Redacted] BELIEVES THAT THE REMAINING FRETILIN HAVE
NOW RETURNED TO THREE BASE AREAS IN THE MOUNTAINOUS
TERRAIN JUST WEST OF LOS PALOS. WITH THE CONCLUSION
OF THE SWEEP SOME OF THE ABRI REGULAR UNITS HAVE BEEN
WITHDRAWN FROM TIMOR LEAVING A TOTAL OF FIVE BATTALKIONS,
TWO OF WHICH CONSIST LARGELY OF TIMORESE BUT WITH SOME
MIXTURE OF TROOPS FROM OTHER AREAS. THE THREE-NON
TIMORESE UNITS ARE ON A ROTATIONAL SCHEDULE, REMAINING
IN TIMOR FOR A 6-8 MONTH PERIOD. THE FIVE BATTALLIONS
ARE PRESENTLY DEPLOYED AGAINST THE FRETILIN BASE
AREAS FROM WHICH ALL CIVILIANS HAVE BEEN CLEARED,
MAKING IT A FREE-FIRE ZONE. [Redacted] HOPES TO WHITTLE
THE NUMBER OF FRETILIN GUERRILLAS DOWN TO ABOUT 100

SECRET

N VVZCZ
ADP504
SECRET-

PAGE 01  JAKART 17317 02 OF 02  170451Z
ACTION SS-25
INFO OCT-02 ADS-00 SSO-00 /027 W
------------------------------166302 170735Z /15
R 170417Z NOV 81
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 JAKARTA 17317
EXDIS-

BY MARCH, 1982, WHEN ANOTHER MAJOR SWEEP ACTION MAY BE
UNDERTAKEN. HE TOLD [Redacted] THAT THESE CONTINUING
OPERATIONS ARE A GOOD TRAINING DEVICE FOR ABRI FORCES.

7. AMONG OTHER COMMENTS MADE BY [Redacted]
WAS HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE 50,000 FRETILIN WHO HAVE

Current Class: SECRET-
ACCEPTED AMNESTY AND ARE LIVING IN GOI CONTROLLED AREAS. THEY MUST REPORT TO LOCAL SECURITY OFFICIALS ONCE A WEEK BUT ARE SEEN AS A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF PROBLEMS. AND OTHER OFFICIALS TOLD THAT THOSE SENT TO ATAURO ISLAND ARE BEING TREATED WELL AND "BRAINWASHED." HOUSING AREAS ARE BEING BUILT AND THEY ARE GETTING MEDICAL SUPPORT.

8. COMMENT: THIS IS THE MOST DETAILED INFORMATION WE HAVE RECEIVED REGARDING THE RECENT MILITARY SIEVE IN EAST TIMOR. GOI CLAIMS REGARDING FRETLIN CASUALTIES MAY WELL BE INFLATED. NEVERTHELESS FROM THIS DESCRIPTION THERE SEEMS LITTLE DOUBT THAT NORMAL LIFE AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY IN THE EASTERN HALF OF THE PROVINCE WOULD HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY DISRUPTED BY AN OPERATION OF THIS SCALE AND NATURE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE WESTERN HALF OF THE PROVINCE WAS APPARENTLY LARGELY UNTouched BY THE ACTION AND SHOULD, THEREFORE, HAVE NOT INCURRED ANY DIRECT ILL-EFFECTS APART FROM SECRET

SECRET

THE NUMBERS OF CIVILIANS WHO MAY HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THEIR normal activities TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OPERATION. MONJO

SECRET

N VVZCZ

Current Class: SECRET