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Amembassy DJAKARTA

December 10, 1965

The PKI Hunt in Central Java

1. The "Coordinator" of Catholic Party activities in the Pati residency of Central Java, Suhandjo (of Chinese extraction), provided the reporting officer with the following description of anti-PKI operations in that region which may be typical of activities throughout the province.

2. Paracommando (RPKAD) troops on arrival in Kudus solicited the assistance of the Catholic, IP-KI and Nahdlatul Ulama party organizations in rooting out PKI elements. All cooperated and the Nahdlatul Ulama as the region's principal anti-communist party provided the bulk of the support. The NU youth arm Ansor, however, has caused problems as its brutal attacks on PKI elements in villages surrounding Kudus have been extended to non-PKI victims involved in personal feuds with Ansor members.

3. Suhandjo was responsible for singling out members of the Chinese association Baperki for the military. He showed the reporting officer a list of over 200 Baperki members which he had furnished the Army and which constituted a "Who's Who" of the Kudus business community. Suhandjo noted that all on the list would eventually be interrogated and those who had clearly been Baperki activists would be detained indefinitely. A separate list of 20 names included Baperki leaders who were due for more intensive grilling but many of whom had disappeared.

4. The Paracommando units, Suhandjo added, had a generally good rapport with the local population as most were Central Javanese. They were very tough on the communist sympathizers, however.

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Page 2, A-386
From Djakarta

5. Suhandjo said Kudus was now free of PKI elements but the countryside was as yet not safe.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

Robert J. Martens
First Secretary of Embassy

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