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SERIAL: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****

BODY

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(b)(3):10 USC 424

COUNTRY: (U) INDONESIA (ID).

//IPSP: (U)

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SUBJECT: (b)(3):10 USC 424 / ACCUSED KOPASSUS KIDNAPPERS TRIAL
BEGINS (U)WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY
EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE REPORT CLASSIFIED --~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 981218.

REQS: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

SOURCE: (U) DAILY NEWSPAPER, "THE INDONESIAN OBSERVER", 981219,
(U), JAKARTA, INDONESIA, IN ENGLISH. AIMED AT A FOREIGN
READERSHIP, PRIMARILY IN JAKARTA.SUMMARY: (U) MILITARY COURT-MARTIALS BEGIN FOR MEMBERS OF THE
ARMY'S SPECIAL FORCES ACCUSED OF KIDNAPPING ANTI-SOEHARTO
ACTIVISTS. THE PROCESS MAY MOVE QUICKLY NOW TOWARDS A VERDICT.TEXT: 1. (U) ACCORDING TO SOURCE QUOTING A MILITARY SPOKESMAN,
TRIALS WILL BEGIN TODAY (981219) FOR 11 MEMBERS OF THE ARMY
SPECIAL FORCES (KOPASSUS) ACCUSED OF INVOLVEMENT IN KIDNAPPING
ANTI-SOEHARTO ACTIVISTS. A MILITARY TRIBUNAL IN EAST JAKARTA IS
THE SITE FOR THE TRIAL. THE SPOKESMAN, COL ((PANGGIH)), DID NOT
GIVE DETAILS ON THE COURT-MARTIALS.2. (U) HEAD OF ABRI'S LEGAL AFFAIRS AGENCY (BABINKUM), MG TIMOR
P. ((MANURUNG)), STATED ON THURSDAY (981217) THAT THE DOSSIERS OF
THE KOPASSUS MEMBERS HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO THE MILITARY HIGH
PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE. MG CHALID ((KARIM)), ABRI'S PROSECUTOR
GENERAL, SAYS HIS OFFICE HAS CHECKED ALL 11 DOSSIERS AND
ESTABLISHED THEY MEET ALL OFFICIAL REQUIREMENTS. THE CASES ARE
THEN READY FOR SUBMISSION TO A MILITARY COURT. A MILITARY COURT
USUALLY BEGINS TRYING A CASE ABOUT TWO WEEKS AFTER RECEIVING
DOSSIERS FROM THE MILITARY PROSECUTOR BUT IN THIS CASE THE TIME
MAY BE SHORTENED BY HALF ACCORDING TO MG MANURUNG. HE ADDED,
HOWEVER, THAT THIS DECISION RESTS WITH THE COURT'S CHIEF JUDGE.3. (U) OF THE 11 SUSPECTS, THE LOWEST RANKING SERVICEMAN IS A
NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER AND THE HIGHEST RANKING IS A MAJOR.
MANURUNG AND KARIM SAY THE COURT MAY TRY ALL 11 AT ONCE,
MAKING ITPOSSIBLE TO COMPLETE THE TRIAL IN A RELATIVELY SHORT TIME.
ACCORDING TO SOURCE, THEY ALSO SAID THE COURTS WOULD SOON BEGIN
HANDLING THE CASES OF THE THREE SERVICEMEN ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED
INTHE FATAL SHOOTING OF FOUR TRISAKTI UNIVERSITY STUDENTS LAST
MAY.COMMENTS: 1. (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424 SOURCE ALSO MENTIONED THAT
HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS SAY THE 11 SUSPECTS ARE MERELY SCAPEGOATS
FOR TOP-RANKING OFFICIALS WHO ORDERED THE KIDNAPPINGS. THE
TOP-RANKING OFFICIALS SUSPECTED INCLUDE LTG (RET) PRABOWO. ABRI
HAS PROBABLY WAITED TOO LONG TO EXPECT ANY RELIEF FROM PUBLIC
PRESSURE AS A RESULT OF THIS TRIAL. A CONVICTION NOW COULD
EMPHASIZE THAT NO ONE HIGHER THAN THE MAJOR AMONG THIS ELEVEN

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EVER STAND TRIAL FOR THE KIDNAPPINGS. ANYTHING LESS WOULD LEAVE EVERYONE GETTING OFF, EVEN WORSE. LITTLE PROGRESS IS APPARENT IN OTHER INVESTIGATIONS INTO MISSING POLITICAL ACTIVISTS AND ALLEGED ABRI PROVOCATION DURING THE MAY RIOTS.

2. (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424 FOR FURTHER CONTACT CONCERNING THE CONTENTS OF THIS IIR. PLEASE REFER ANY Q UESTIONS/COMMENTS TO

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