

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL  
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RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

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ACTION EAP-01

INFO	LOG-00	NP-01	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	DINT-00
	DODE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-01	FBIE-00	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	AC-01
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00
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O 220721Z SEP 99  
 FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC//EAP-PIMBS// IMMEDIATE 0059  
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
 INFO ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS PRIORITY  
 DIA WASHDC//DH-3//  
 USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//FPA//  
 AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
 AMEMBASSY LISBON  
 AMEMBASSY LONDON  
 AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
 AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
 AMEMBASSY ROME

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ROME FOR VATICAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2/09/09  
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TAGS: PINS, PHUM, PINR, MOPS, ID  
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH [REDACTED]

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR J. STAPLETON ROY, REASON,  
1.5 (B) AND (D).

2. (C) SUMMARY. DURING A 45-MINUTE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER

[REDACTED] SAID  
 TNI LEADERSHIP WANTS CLOSE AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONS  
 WITH INTERFET, BUT TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS, BOTH SIDES  
 MUST SHOW MUTUAL RESPECT, A POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND KEEP  
 OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION. HE STRONGLY CRITICIZED

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONALD A JOHNSTON  
DATE/CASE ID: 12 NOV 2003 200300712

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PRESIDENT HABIBIE'S EAST TIMOR POLICY, SAYING THE PRESIDENT SHOULD NEVER HAVE MADE SUCH A SUDDEN DECISION AFFECTING INDONESIA'S SOVEREIGNTY AND VITAL NATIONAL INTERESTS. REFERRING TO THE HISTORY OF EAST TIMOR. SPEAKING AS AN OLD "COLD WARRIOR," [REDACTED] SAID THE UNITED STATES AND INDONESIA STOOD TOGETHER IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST COMMUNISM. NOW WE SHOULD EMBRACE EACH OTHER AS OLD FRIENDS. LIKE OTHERS, [REDACTED] EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT THE INTENTIONS OF AUSTRALIA TOWARD INDONESIA. I TOLD THE GENERAL THAT A STRONG, STABLE AND UNITED INDONESIA IS IMPORTANT TO BOTH THE U.S. AND AUSTRALIA IN OUR STRATEGIC VIEW OF THE EAST ASIA REGION. END SUMMARY.

3. (C) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I TOLD [REDACTED] THAT THE UNITED STATES VALUES ITS RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA AND DOES NOT WANT EAST TIMOR TO FURTHER DAMAGE TIES BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS. TO AVOID THIS, IT IS CRITICAL THAT THE UN-SPONSORED INTERFET OPERATION IN EAST TIMOR GO SMOOTHLY.

4. (C) [REDACTED] SAID THAT FROM AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE, INDONESIA WANTS TO BE A RESPECTABLE MEMBER OF WORLD SOCIETY WITH GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., AUSTRALIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES. DESPITE COMPLAINTS ABOUT AUSTRALIA AND UNAMET, OVER THE LONG TERM JAKARTA MUST SEEK MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION. TNI ALSO NEEDS TO BE INTERNATIONALLY ENGAGED, HE SAID. "TNI LEADERS FROM WIRANTO ALL THE WAY DOWN TO MG KIKI SYAHNAKRI (IN DILI) WANT GOOD RELATIONS AND COOPERATION WITH INTERFET." TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS, BOTH SIDES MUST SHOW MUTUAL RESPECT, A POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND KEEP OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION, HE SAID.

5. (C) [REDACTED] SAID PRESIDENT HABIBIE MUST EXPLAIN HIS DECISION ON EAST TIMOR TO THE MPR. CITING INDONESIA'S LONG HISTORY IN EAST TIMOR, HE CHARGED THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD NOT HAVE MADE SUCH A SUDDEN DECISION AFFECTING INDONESIA'S SOVEREIGNTY AND VITAL NATIONAL INTERESTS WHILE THE MPR WAS STILL CONSIDERING THE ISSUE OF WIDE-RANGING AUTONOMY FOR EAST TIMOR. [REDACTED]

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HE HAD SENT A STRONGLY WORDED LETTER TO PRESIDENT HABIBIE OUTLINING THESE OBJECTIONS. WHILE IN PRINCIPLE THE MPR COULD REJECT THE RESULTS OF THE POPULAR

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CONSULTATION, [REDACTED] AGREED THAT SUCH A MOVE WOULD PUT INDONESIA IN CONFRONTATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY - SINCE THE UN AND MANY COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY RECOGNIZED THE CONSULTATION AS AN ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION.

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6. (C) I SAID THE EVENTS OF THE PAST FEW WEEKS HAVE BEEN TERRIBLY DAMAGING TO TNI'S REPUTATION, WHILE STRESSING THAT THE METHODS USED BY TNI AND THE MILITIAS WERE TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

[REDACTED] REITERATED THAT, DESPITE THE STRONG PERSONAL TIES BETWEEN THE ARMY AND THE MILITIAS, TNI MUST BE VERY CLEAR AND CONSISTENT IN COOPERATION WITH INTERFET. AT THE SAME TIME, INTERFET SHOULD TRY TO PROMOTE RECONCILIATION, ALTHOUGH IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO BRIDGE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE OPPOSING FACTIONS. "ON THE FIELD, IT'S A DIFFICULT JOB BECAUSE EITHER SIDE CAN BE EASILY PROVOKED TO ACT VIOLENTLY," HE SAID. HE AGREED IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR ALL PARTIES TO AVOID PROVOCATION AND MAKE PROMPT EFFORTS TO RECONCILE ANY INCIDENTS SO THEY DON'T GET OUT OF HAND.

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7. (C) [REDACTED] DESCRIBED INDONESIA'S TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY AS PRECARIOUS. DESPITE THE BANK BALI

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ACTION EAP-01

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	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-02
	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/014W			

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O 220721Z SEP 99  
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INFO ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS PRIORITY  
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USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//FPA//  
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AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
AMEMBASSY ROME

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SCANDAL AND THE EAST TIMOR PROBLEM, PRESIDENT HABIBIE AND THE GOLKAR ORGANIZATION ARE STILL STRONG. "LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS IN THE MPR AND WHETHER OUR LEADERS WILL SHOW 'HATI NURANI' (PURE HEART) TO SATISFY THE PEOPLE'S ASPIRATIONS, OR IF SELFISH INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS WILL PREVAIL." IF OUR LEADERS ARE WISE, THEY WILL REACH AN ACCOMMODATION BEFORE THE MPR, HE SAID.

8. (C) NOTING THAT AT A TIME WHEN INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION WAS FOCUSED ON EAST TIMOR, WE ALSO NEEDED TO PAY ATTENTION TO INDONESIAN SENSITIVITIES. IN THIS CONTEXT, I ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS SOME WAY TO SHOW RESPECT AND SYMPATHY FOR THE VETERANS AND FOR THE FAMILIES OF THOSE WHO HAD DIED IN EAST TIMOR. [REDACTED] RESPONDED POSITIVELY BUT SAID HE WOULD NEED TO CONSULT WITH OTHERS ON WHAT MIGHT BE DONE. HE SAID THE VETERANS ARE VERY SAD AND DISAPPOINTED ABOUT EVENTS IN EAST TIMOR. [REDACTED] HAD ISSUED A STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT POLICY IN AN ATTEMPT "TO CALM DOWN THESE STRONG EMOTIONS."

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[REDACTED] SUGGESTED IT MIGHT BE BEST TO WAIT FOR A SUITABLE MOMENT TO EXPRESS SYMPATHY, WHICH WOULD BEST BE DONE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ARMED FORCES HEADQUARTERS. [REDACTED] PROMISED TO PURSUE THE ISSUE.

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9. (C) [REDACTED] SAID WE SHOULD NOT FORGET THE STARTING POINT IN EAST TIMOR. BOTH THE U.S. AND AUSTRALIA HAD STRONGLY SUPPORTED INDONESIA AGAINST THE COMMUNIST

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THREAT REPRESENTED BY THE FRETILIN ORGANIZATION. "WE  
STOOD TOGETHER IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST COMMUNISM." TNI  
IS STILL VERY MUCH AWARE OF THAT STRUGGLE. BECAUSE OF  
THOSE CLOSE HISTORICAL TIES. "INDONESIA AND THE U.S. SHOULD  
EMBRACE EACH OTHER AS OLD FRIENDS," HE SAID.

10. (C) FINALLY, LIKE OTHERS WE HAVE SPOKEN WITH RECENTLY,  
[REDACTED] EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT AUSTRALIA'S  
INTENTIONS TOWARD INDONESIA, ALTHOUGH HE SHOWED NO  
OUTWARD SIGNS OF EMOTION OR HOSTILITY IN HIS COMMENTS. I  
EXPLAINED TO [REDACTED] THAT EAST TIMOR HAS BECOME A  
MAJOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL ISSUE IN AUSTRALIA. IT IS CRITICAL  
THAT THE EAST TIMOR PROBLEM BE SOLVED BECAUSE IT IS AN  
IMPEDIMENT TO OVERALL RELATIONS BETWEEN CANBERRA AND  
JAKARTA. BUT THERE IS NO BASIS TO BELIEVE THAT AUSTRALIA IS  
INTERESTED IN SEEING THE BREAK-UP OF INDONESIA. INSTABILITY  
IN INDONESIA WOULD BE DANGEROUS FOR AUSTRALIA, WHEREAS  
A STRONG, STABLE AND UNITED INDONESIA IS IMPORTANT TO  
BOTH THE U.S. AND AUSTRALIA IN OUR STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT OF  
THE ENTIRE EAST ASIA REGION.

ROY

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