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PAGE 01 MEDAN 00567 01 OF 03 210044Z  
ACTION EAP-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	DPR-01	HA-09	H-01
	INRE-00	INR-05	L-03	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-01
	PM-01	PRS-01	P-02	SNP-01	SP-01	SS-01	TRSE-00
	T-01	USIE-00	/030W				

-----2D501F 210057Z /72

P R 210014Z DEC 90  
 FM AMCONSUL MEDAN  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4445  
 INFO RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
 AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
 AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
 AMEMBASSY BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN  
 AMCONSUL SURABAYA  
 USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI 0059

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 MEDAN 00567

CINCPAC ALSO FOR FPA

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
 TAGS: PGOV, PINS, ID  
 SUBJECT: REBELLION IN ACEH: AN ASSESSMENT.

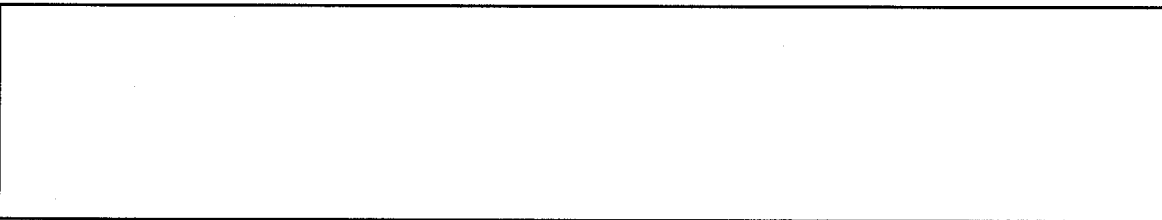
REFS: MEDAN 00530 (NOTAL) AND PREVIOUS

1. (C) SUMMARY: A SURGE OF SEPARATIST VIOLENCE IN ACEH, A TRADITIONALLY REBELLIOUS AND DEEPLY ISLAMIC CORNER OF INDONESIA, SURPRISED THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT THIS SPRING.

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PAGE 02 MEDAN 00567 01 OF 03 210044Z  
 THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER, THE GOI TRIED VARIOUS MILITARY COUNTERMEASURES, INCLUDING SWEEPS WITH THOUSANDS OF ARMY REINFORCEMENTS AND THE DETENTION OF SUSPECTED ACEHNESE ACTIVISTS AND THEIR SYMPATHIZERS. AS CONFIRMED DURING



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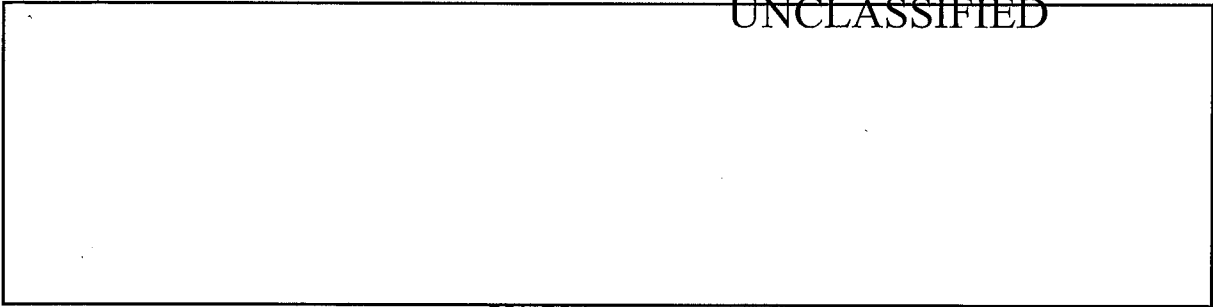
THE INSURGENTS  
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2. (S) REBELLION IN ACEH IS AN OLD STORY. THE PROVINCE HAS BEEN RACKED BY VIOLENT OPPOSITION TO JAKARTA FOR HALF OF INDONESIA'S INDEPENDENT HISTORY. THE CURRENT PHASE IS APPARENTLY LED BY "ACEH MERDEKA" (FREE ACEH), AN ORGANIZATION WITH OLD ANTECEDENTS THAT LAST LAUNCHED AN UPRISING IN THE LATE 1970S ABROAD, ACEH MERDEKA IS LED BY AN EXILE AND, REPORTEDLY AMERICAN CITIZEN, HASAN DI TIRO: SOME OF ITS CADRES HAVE RECEIVED TRAINING IN LIBYA. ACEHNESE DESERTERS OR OTHER

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PAGE 03 MEDAN 00567 01 OF 03 210044Z  
FORMER INDONESIAN SOLDIERS AND POLICE HAVE ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE CURRENT UNREST. THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT CLAIMS THAT CRIMINAL GANGS, PRINCIPALLY DRUG TRAFFICKERS, ARE ALSO INVOLVED. IN THE PAST, ACEH MERDEKA HAS MAINTAINED LINKS TO GANJA (MARIJUANA) TRAFFICKERS. THE CURRENT UNREST SIMMERED FROM APRIL 1989 UNTIL MAY 1990, WHEN IT EXPLODED INTO A MAJOR TERRORIST CAMPAIGN AGAINST ETHNIC JAVANESE AND THE SECURITY FORCES. IT HAS SLOWLY DECELERATED UNDER ABRI (INDONESIAN ARMED FORCES) PRESSURE SINCE AUGUST 1990.



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SECRET

PAGE 04 MEDAN 00567 01 OF 03 210044Z

MOTIVATIONS

5. (C) ACEHNESE CONSISTENTLY COMPLAIN THAT THEIR STATUS AS AN INDONESIAN "SPECIAL TERRITORY," WITH UNDEFINED CULTURAL AUTONOMY, HAS "NO CONTENT". SEVENTY PERCENT OF ACEH'S GDP, FROM THE NATURAL-GAS BASED INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AT LHKSEUMAWE, IS DIRECTLY TRANSFERRED TO JAKARTA AS MENTIONED TO THE AMBASSADOR, MANY ACEHNESE ALSO COMPLAIN BITTERLY THAT THE MAJORITY OF MANAGERIAL AND TECHNICAL JOBS

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PAGE 01 MEDAN 00567 02 OF 03 210034Z

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	PM-01	PRS-01	P-02	SNP-01	SP-01	SS-01	TRSE-00
	T-01	USIE-00	/030W				

-----2D5025 210058Z /72

P R 210014Z DEC 90

UNCLASSIFIED

FM AMCONSUL MEDAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4446  
INFO RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN  
AMCONSUL SURABAYA  
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI 0060

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 03 MEDAN 00567

CINCPAC ALSO FOR FPA

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
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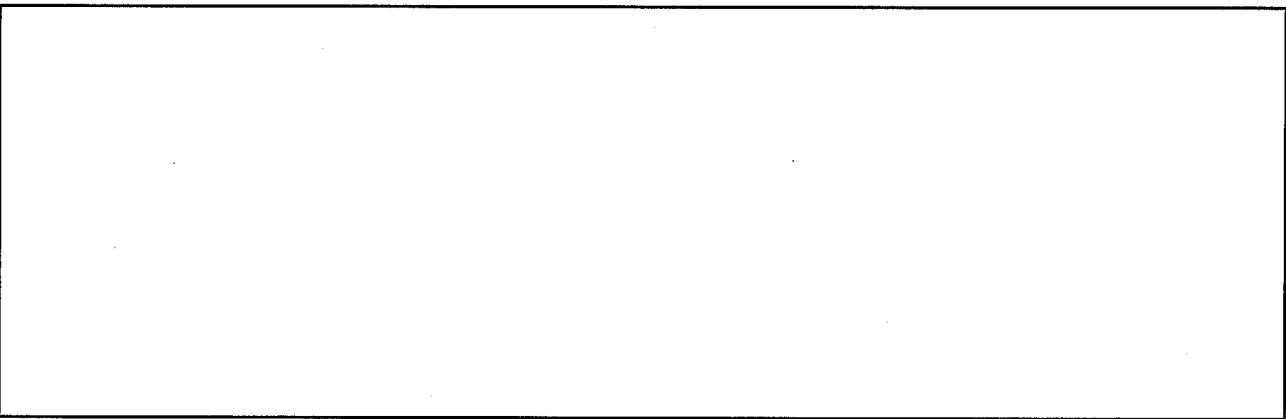
REFS: MEDAN 00530 (NOTAL) AND PREVIOUS

IN THEIR PROVINCE ARE HELD BY PERCEIVED "OUTSIDERS", PRIMARILY  
JAVANESE. INSURGENTS HAVE EXPLOITED ACEHNESE SEPARATISM,  
ISLAMIC RADICALISM, UNEMPLOYMENT AND OTHER SOCIAL - ECONOMIC  
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PAGE 02 MEDAN 00567 02 OF 03 210034Z  
TENSIONS, AS WELL AS BASIC ECONOMIC GRIEVANCES, INCLUDING  
EXPLOITATION OF ACEH'S NATURAL GAS AND FORESTS BY  
NON-ACEHNESE.

EXTERNAL INFLUENCES  
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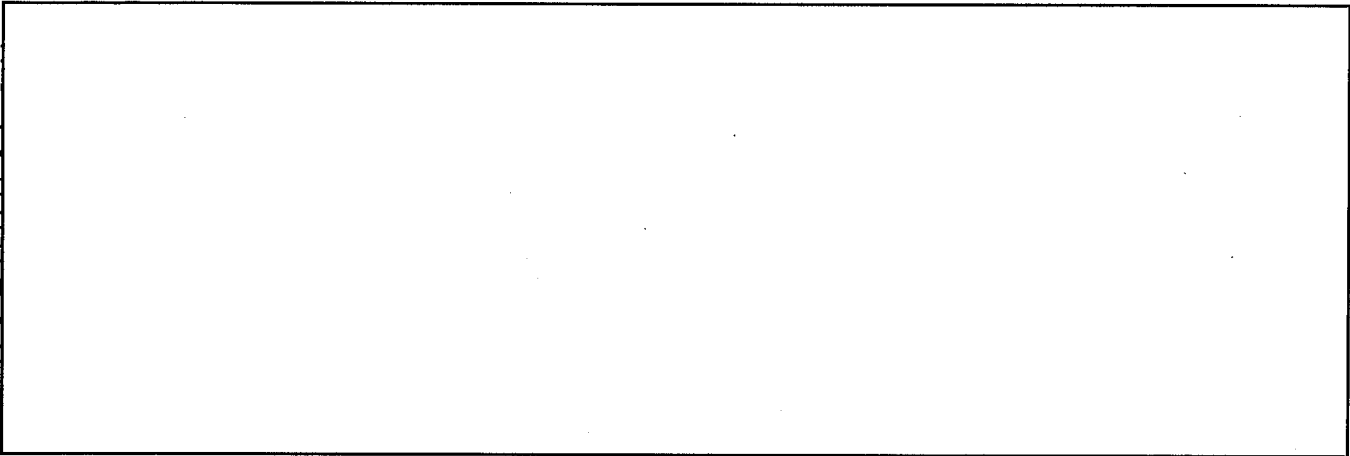
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE  
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	T-01	USIE-00	/030W				

-----2D502A 210058Z /72

P R 210014Z DEC 90  
 FM AMCONSUL MEDAN  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4447  
 INFO RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
 AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
 AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
 AMEMBASSY BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN  
 AMCONSUL SURABAYA  
 USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI 0061

S E C R E T SECTION 03 OF 03 MEDAN 00567

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U.S. INTERESTS  
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10. (C) THE PRINCIPAL U.S. INTERESTS IN ACEH ARE THE CONTINUED  
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PAGE 02 MEDAN 00567 03 OF 03 210034Z  
VIABILITY OF MOBIL'S COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE INDONESIAN  
NATIONAL PETROLEUM COMPANY AND THE WELFARE OF APPROXIMATELY  
250 AMERICAN CITIZENS, NINETY PERCENT OF WHOM ARE ASSOCIATED  
WITH MOBIL'S MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR INVESTMENT AT THE NATURAL  
GAS - BASED LHKSEUMAWA INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX. BOTH ACEHNESE  
INSURGENTS AND ABRI HAVE CONSISTENTLY STATED OVER THE PAST  
YEAR THAT EXPATRIATES ARE NOT REPEAT NOT A TARGET OR IN ANY  
OTHER WAY THREATENED BY THE CURRENT UNREST. MOREOVER, TENSION  
HAS "EASED OFF" AROUND LHKSEUMAWA, [REDACTED]  
IN THE PAST THREE MONTHS. FINALLY ABRI HAS BEEN MOST  
SUCCESSFUL IN SUPPRESSING ACEHNESE INSURGENTS PRECISELY IN  
AND AROUND THE LHKSEUMAWA INDUSTRIAL AREA. THUS, THE CURRENT  
THREAT TO AMERICANS HAS DECLINED APPRECIABLY. ANY OUTBREAK  
OF HOSTILITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST COULD, HOWEVER, INCREASE  
TENSION IN FERVENTLY ISLAMIC ACEH. UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES,  
SOME HOSTILITY TOWARDS AMERICANS IN THIS UNSETTLED PROVINCE  
CANNOT BE RULED OUT.

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