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RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.4(D)PAGE 01 MEDAN 00172 310802Z  
ACTION INM-07

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-07	OIC-02	CIAE-00	IO-19
	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	L-03	CTME-00	TRSE-00	EAP-00	OMB-01
	INRE-00	USIE-00	JUSE-00	DEAE-00	SP-02	TB-01	OIG-04
	/046 W						

-----231147 312030Z /47

R 310754Z MAR 89  
FM AMCONSUL MEDAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4073  
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEDAN 00172

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: SNAR, ID  
SUBJECT: POLICE CONDUCT LARGE ANTI-GANJA OPERATION IN ACEH

1. (U) STARTING ON MARCH 22, THE INDONESIAN POLICE IN ACEH HAVE CONDUCTED ONE OF THEIR LARGEST OPERATIONS EVER AGAINST GANJA PLANTINGS. BRIGADIER GENERAL HADIMAN FROM JAKARTA HAS COORDINATED THE RAIDS, CODE NAMED "OPERATION NILA (INDIGO)", WHICH HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED BY THE USE OF SIX HELICOPTERS BROUGHT UP FROM POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

2. (U) ACCORDING TO POLICE ESTIMATES, THE OPERATION HAS RESULTED IN THE CONFISCATION OF 37.9 TONS OF GANJA FROM 85 FIELDS LOCATED IN FOUR REGENCIES. IT HAS THE AMBITIOUS GOAL OF CONTINUING UNTIL THE POLICE MANAGE TO DESTROY ALL MAJOR GANJA CULTIVATION SITES IN THE AREA. IN THE COURSE OF THE OPERATION, 12 SUSPECTS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEDAN 00172 310802Z

3. (U) IN THE MOUNTAINOUS AREA OF PIDIE REGENCY, MEDAN'S DAILY "WASPADA" REPORTED THAT THE POLICE DESTROYED A LARGE FIVE-HECTARE FIELD THEY SUSPECTED THAT HAD BEEN PLANTED BY MEMBERS OF THE HASAN TIRO REBELLIOUS WING OF ACEH MERDEKA.

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THE "WASPADA" ACCOUNT SAID THAT POLICEMEN HAD ENCOUNTERED HOSTILE WEAPONS FIRE FROM SUSPECTED HASAN TIRO FOLLOWERS WHEN THEY VISITED THE SITE SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. THIS TIME, THE POLICE MET NO RESISTANCE WHEN THEY ARRIVED BY HELICOPTER. A SOLDIER WAS QUOTED IN "WASPADA" AS SAYING THAT THESE WERE ONLY THE LAST REMNANTS OF HASAN TIRO STILL AFRAID TO RETURN TO SOCIETY.

COMMENT

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4. (C) AT THE TIME OF THE ACEH MERDEKA REBELLION IN THE 1950'S, THE GANJA TRADE WAS A WAY OF ACCUMULATING FUNDS TO CONTINUE RESISTANCE. A NUMBER OF SOURCES IN MEDAN HAVE TOLD US THAT THOSE WITH FORMER ACEH MERDEKA LINKS ARE STILL A PRIMARY FORCE IN ORGANIZING THE SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF ACEH'S GANJA TO OTHER PARTS OF INDONESIA.

[REDACTED] DESCRIBED IT TO THE P. O., THEY SERVE AS "GODFATHERS" FOR MUCH OF GANJA TRADE BUT NOW USE THE PROCEEDS FOR SELF-ENRICHMENT RATHER THAN THE PURCHASE OF ARMS. THERE ARE ALSO OTHER "GODFATHERS", HE SAID, [REDACTED]

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IN THE LAST THREE YEARS, THE CULTIVATION OF GANJA HAS INCREASED IN ACEH, AS PEASANT FARMERS IN REMOTE AREAS ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE HIGHER PRICE THEY CAN RECEIVE FOR IT.

5. (LOU) WHILE ANTI-GANJA OPERATIONS CAN MAKE AN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEDAN 00172 310802Z

IMPACT IN DESTROYING LARGE FIELDS CLOSE TO SETTLED AREAS, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR THE POLICE TO PREVENT GROWING IN REMOTE AREAS. MUCH OF ACEH IS STILL MOUNTAINOUS JUNGLE. WE HAVE HEARD THAT IN REMOTE AREAS, ONE TYPICALLY SEES ONE OR TWO GANJA PLANTS GROWING IN THE HOUSES OF ACEHNESE FARMERS. THESE HAVE BEEN PLANTED AT THE SAME TIME AS THE FARMER HAS PLANTED A PLOT DEEP IN THE JUNGLE. WHEN THE PLANTS GROWING AT HOME ARE RIPE, THE FARMER KNOWS IT IS TIME TO RETURN TO THE JUNGLE TO HARVEST HIS CROP. IT WILL BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR THE POLICE TO COUNTER THIS KIND OF CLEVERNESS.

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