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RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B6

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ACTION EAP-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	H-01
	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10
	PA-01	OMB-01	INM-07	INRE-00	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01
	PRS-01	P-02	T-01	/046 W			

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O 010150Z JUN 89  
FM AMCONSUL MEDAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4125  
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MEDAN 00289

E.O. 12356: OADR  
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, SNAR, ID  
SUBJECT: ARMY UNLEASHES CAMPAIGN TO FIND SOLDIERS' ASSAILANTS  
REF: (A) MEDAN 288 (B) MEDAN 179 (C) MEDAN 172

1. (C) SUMMARY: IN RESPONSE TO THE KILLING OF TWO SOLDIERS, 500 ARMY TROOPS HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED IN THE TIRO SUBDISTRICT OF ACEH PIDIE TO TRY TO FIND THOSE RESPONSIBLE. ABOUT 50 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DETAINED FOR QUESTIONING. SOME HAVE BEEN BEATEN IN EFFORTS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION. [REDACTED] TOLD US THAT UNREST THAT HAS BEEN OCCURRING IS PRIMARILY DUE TO A RESURGENCE OF THE HASAN TIRO SEPARATIST MOVEMENT. HE PREDICTED THAT THE CURRENT ARMY ACTIONS ARE LIKELY TO SPUR FURTHER HASAN TIRO RESISTANCE INITIATIVES, RATHER THAN DAMPEN THEM.  
END SUMMARY.

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] PROVIDED CONSULATE OFFICERS WITH A RUN-

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DOWN ON ARMY ACTIONS CURRENTLY TAKING PLACE IN RESPONSE TO THE MAY 25 KILLING OF TWO SOLDIERS IN PIDIE'S TIRO SUBDISTRICT.

3. (C) [REDACTED] SAID THE CURRENT SITUATION IN TIRO IS

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"LIKE A WAR". 500 ARMY SOLDIERS, HE BELIEVES FROM A UNIT STATIONED NEAR LHKSEUMAWE, HAVE BEEN COMBING THE SUBDISTRICT TO TRY TO FIND THOSE INVOLVED IN THE MAY 25 KILLINGS. HE ESTIMATED THAT 50 HAVE BEEN BROUGHT IN FOR QUESTIONING, AND SAID THAT SOME ARE BEING BEATEN IN EFFORTS TO GET THEM TO DIVULGE INFORMATION. RESIDENTS OF THE TIRO SUBDISTRICT ARE NOT LEAVING THEIR HOMES AFTER DARK.

4. (C) IN HIS VIEW, THE MAY 25 INCIDENT WAS IN REPRISAL FOR THE EARLIER SHOOTING OF TWO HASAN TIRO MEMBERS BY AN ARMY PRIVATE NAMED GADE, WHO WAS SUBSEQUENTLY KILLED ALONG WITH HIS COMMANDING OFFICER IN THIS LATENT INCIDENT. [REDACTED] DESCRIBED GADE AS A SHARPSHOOTER WHO HAD KILLED ONE HASAN TIRO MEMBER IN A CHASE EARLIER THIS YEAR AND, MORE RECENTLY, ZAINUDDIN, CODE-NAMED "COMMANDER SAGOE" A FEW WEEKS AGO. APPARENTLY, GADE SHOT ZAINUDDIN RIGHT BETWEEN THE EYES AS HE TRIED TO SURRENDER.

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5. (C) [REDACTED] SAID THAT THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A RESURGENCE IN HASAN TIRO ACTIVITIES IN RECENT MONTHS. HE BELIEVES THEY ARE BEHIND THE RECENT UNRESTS, LIKE THE RIOT AT A CIRCUS, AND THE SABOTAGING OF POWER LINES (REF B). [REDACTED] ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOME HASAN TIRO MEMBERS ARE INVOLVED IN THE GANJA TRADE, BUT REJECTED THE NOTION THAT HASAN TIRO IS THE PRIMARY FORCE BEHIND ACEH'S GANJA TRAFFICKING. AS HE SEES IT, HASAN TIRO'U INCREASED STRENGTH IS DUE TO AN INCREASING GAP BETWEEN THE HAVES AND THE HAVE NOTS. HE SAID THAT IN THE INDUSTRIAL AREA AROUND LHKSEUMAWE IN NORTH ACEH IN PARTICULAR, HASAN TIRO IS GAINING INCREASED SYMPATHY AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE FRUSTRATED BY THE GROWING INEQUALITY.

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6. (C) ALTHOUGH THE REBELS MAY BE GAINING SOME RESOURCES FROM GANJA TRAFFICKING, [REDACTED] SAID THAT THERE ARE RUMORS THAT SOME FUNDING IS COMING FROM OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY, AND THAT SOME OF THE CURRENT ACTIVISTS HAVE UNDERGONE TRAINING ABROAD, POSSIBLY INCLUDING MALAYSIA AND LIBYA. HE CITED NO REPEAT NO EVIDENCE, HOWEVER, OF LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT. THE POLICE CLAIM THAT ONLY OLD WEAPONS ARE BEING USED BY HASAN TIRO, BUT [REDACTED] SAID SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT SOME NEW WEAPONS HAVE BEEN OBTAINED ABROAD AS WELL.

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7. (C) IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION AS TO WHAT HE VIEWED THE MOST LIKELY OUTCOME OF THE ARMY'S CURRENT OPERATION, [REDACTED] REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT HASAN TIRO'S RESOLVE WOULD BE STRENGTHENED. HE SAID THAT HE HAS A FEELING

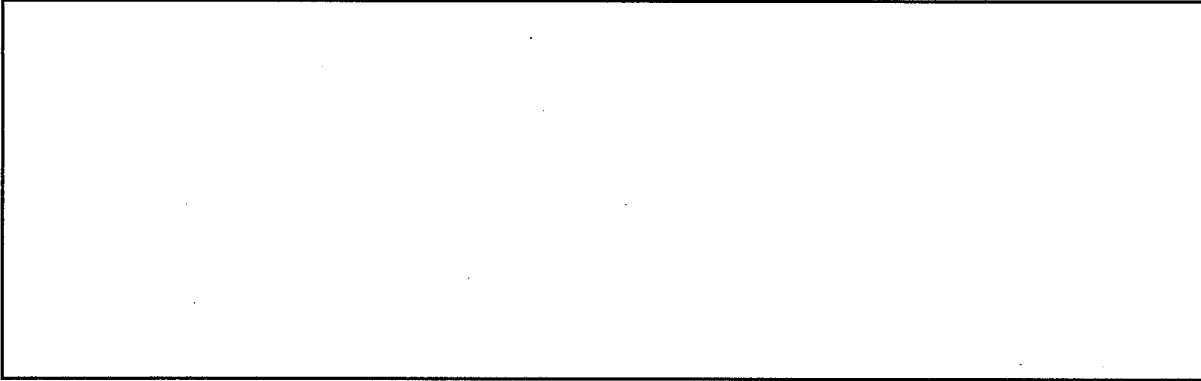
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"SOMETHING MAJOR" IS GOING TO HAPPEN IN NORTHERN ACEH IN THE NEXT YEAR OR TWO, POSSIBLY IN THE WAY OF DEMONSTRATIONS, BUT HE DID NOT RULE OUT A TERRORIST INCIDENT.

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COMMENT

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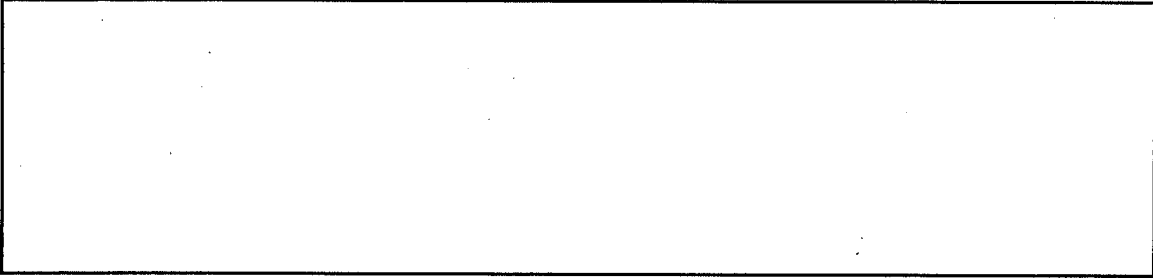
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