

PAGE 01 MEDAN 00406 01 OF 04 120701Z
ACTION EAP-01

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

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-05	SS-01	CIAE-00	EB-01	DODE-00
	H-01	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-01
	PA-01	SJK-01	OMB-01	INRE-00	OCS-06	CA-02	USIE-00
	SP-01	SNP-01	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-03	P-02	T-01
	DPR-01	/044 W					

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R 120643Z SEP 90
FM AMCONSUL MEDAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4405
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI 0048

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 MEDAN 00406

CINCPAC FOR FPA

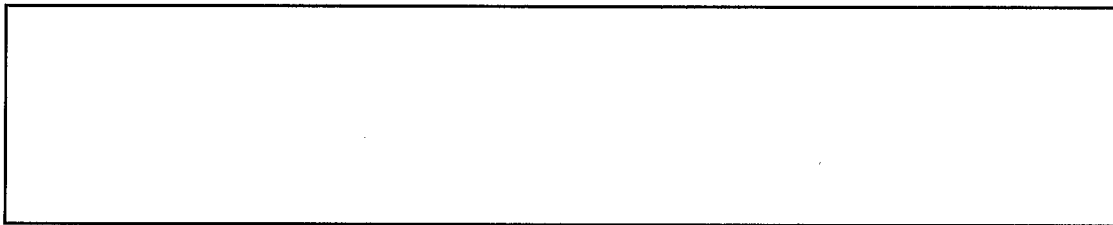
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, ID
SUBJECT: ACEH: IN FOR THE LONG HAUL.

REFS; MEDAN 00341 AND PREVIOUS

1. (C) SUMMARY: INDONESIA'S NATIONAL DAY, AUGUST 17, CAME AND WENT WITHOUT A WIDELY ANTICIPATED SURGE OF ACEH MERDEKA TERRORISM. NONETHELESS, OUR INTERLOCUTORS AGREE THAT THE CONFLICT WITH INDONESIA'S JAVANESE DOMINATED ARMY IS LIKELY TO BE LONG AND BRUTAL. THE ARMY RECENTLY ATTEMPTED A COORDINATED SWEEP, WITH THREE THOUSAND-PLUS TROOPS, MOVING SOUTH FROM ACEH BESAR AND NORTH FROM LANGSA. ACEH MERDEKA INFLUENCED TERRITORY REPORTEDLY CONTINUES TO RUN 300 KILOMETERS ALONG THE EAST COAST.

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3. (C) THE THREAT TO FOREIGNERS DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE MARKEDLY INCREASED, THOUGH ACEHNESE ISLAMIC RADICALISM MAY BE SENSITIVE TO DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. END SUMMARY.

IN THE MEDIA

4. (U) LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE OF THE CONFLICT IN ACEH ATTEMPTED TO HYPE GOVERNMENT SUCCESS ON THE EVE OF NATIONAL DAY CEREMONIES. ON AUGUST 6, A CAMPAIGN TO PUBLICIZE ALLEGED SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT WAS LAUNCHED WHEN HUNDREDS OF RESIDENTS OF VILLAGES IN THE SUBDISTRICT OF SUNUDDON, NORTH ACEH, WERE GATHERED TOGETHER TO READ A LOYALTY STATEMENT TO THE GOI. ON THE 7TH, A STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE GPK (SECURITY DISTURBANCE MOVEMENT), SIGNED BY LOCAL NOTABLES, WAS READ OUT BEFORE MINISTER OF COOPERATIVES BUSTANIL ARIFIN IN EAST ACEH. NEXT DAY, THE SAME PROCEDURE WAS REPEATED IN PIDIE. ALSO ON THE 8TH, KODAM I (NORTHERN SUMATRA MILITARY COMMAND) ALLEGED THAT THOSE IN THE GPK RESPONSIBLE FOR A SERIES OF ROBBERIES HAD BEEN ARRESTED. GOVERNOR IBRAHIM HASAN, RESPONDING TO "THREATS" TO ACEHNESE WHO WOULD ATTEND INDONESIAN NATIONAL DAY CEREMONIES, INSTRUCTED ALL RESIDENTS OF ACEH TO DISPLAY THE INDONESIAN FLAG AT THEIR HOMES AND OFFICES THROUGH AUGUST 17. ON AUGUST 9, ACCORDING TO THE KODAM, A GPK COMMANDER FOR KUTA SENTANG PASE ALLEGEDLY SURRENDERED TO THE MILITARY. ON THE 12TH THE ARMY PRESENTED A "SHOW OF SKILL"
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IN THE KABUPATEN OF PIDIE, NORTH ACEH, AND EAST ACEH INVOLVING AIR FORCE F-5S BASED IN MEDAN, ASSAULTS FROM LANDING SHIPS, AND PARACHUTE DROPS BY "AIRBORNE COMMAND" FORCES. ON THE SAME DAY, A CROWD WAS GATHERED TOGETHER TO HEAR PROTESTATION OF LOYALTY IN LANGSA, EAST ACEH AND THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT SEVEN MORE GPK "FOLLOWERS" HAD TURNED THEMSELVES IN.

5. (U) THEN ALL WAS QUIET IN THE PRESS UNTIL AUGUST 20, WHEN IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT A THEATRE IN BIREUN, NORTH ACEH, SHOWING A CHINESE FILM, HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY FIRE THE PREVIOUS EVENING. ON THE 21ST, COLONEL MUHAMMAD CHAN, COMMANDER OF THE BANDA ACEH KOREM, TOLD REPORTERS THAT ACEHNESE INFORMERS NEED NOT WORRY ABOUT GPK RETALIATION SINCE THE ARMY WOULD ASSURE THEIR PROTECTION. THE NEXT DAY THE PRESS CARRIED A REPORT THAT 35,000 PEOPLE HAD BEEN GATHERED TOGETHER ON THE 20TH IN LHOKSEUMAWA TO HEAR ULAMA LECTURE ON ISLAMIC UNITY AND THE LOCAL KOREM COMMANDER, COL. SUFFIAN, CALL FOR THE "PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION" IN IMPROVING SECURITY IN THE PROVINCE. MEANWHILE, A FIRE DESTROYED THE LARGEST TIMBER PROCESSING PLANT

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IN BANDA ACEH. ON THE 25TH, IN JAKARTA, ABDURRAHMAN WAHID OF THE JAVANESE NADHUTAL ULAMA (MU) WAS QUOTED AS STATING THAT THE NU WAS PREPARED TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT OVERCOME THE GPK PROBLEM. ON THE 26TH IT WAS BIREUN'S TURN, WITH FIRE DESTROYING 80 HOUSES AND STORES IN THE OLD FISH MARKET. ALSO REPORTED WAS THE CONVICTION IN BANDA ACEH OF A MAN FOR POSSESSING A HOME-MADE REVOLVER AND BULLETS, AS WELL AS A POLICE UNIFORM. ON THE 28TH, THE ACEH POLICE ANNOUNCED THAT 56 FIRES HAD BROKEN OUT IN THE PROVINCE BETWEEN JANUARY AND JUNE 1990.

FOREIGN PRESS

6. (LOU) THE FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW (AUGUST 2 EDITION) REPORTED THAT A GROUP CALLING ITSELF "THE NATIONAL LIBERATION

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	H-01	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-01
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R 120643Z SEP 90
FM AMCONSUL MEDAN
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INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
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AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI 0049

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 04 MEDAN 00406

CINCPAC FOR FPA

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
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REF: MEDAN 00341 AND PREVIOUS

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FRONT ACEH SUMATRA" HAD SENT A LETTER TO THE INDONESIAN PRESS STATING "WE WANT TO FREE THE ISLAMIC STATE OF ACEH SUMATRA AND SEPARATE IT FROM THE TOY OF JAVANESE INDONESIA WHICH CONTINUALLY VIOLATES THE RIGHTS OF ACEHNESE PEOPLE". ON AUGUST 14, USINFO TRANSMITTED TWO CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR ARTICLES, WHICH REPORTED THAT A "SHADOWY REBELLION IS GRIPPING ACEH. IN RECENT MONTHS, ABOUT 80 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED, MOST OF THEM JAVANESE SOLDIERS AND SETTLERS...MOTIVES FOR THE UPRISING ARE MURKY." A WESTERN DIPLOMAT, ALLEGED TO SEE THE VIOLENCE AS A "CYCLICAL OUTBREAK RATHER THAN A SERIOUS
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THREAT," IS QUOTED AS STATING THAT "IT'S NOT ALL INDEPENDENCE. IT'S ALSO RELIGION AND ECONOMICS." IN ADDITION, WE UNDERSTAND THAT AFP FILED AN AUGUST 15 REPORT STATING THAT ACEH MERDEKA MILITANTS HAVE NOW ALSO THREATENED FOREIGNERS (COMMENT: WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE TEXT OF THIS REPORT AND OF ANY OTHER REPORTS IN ADDRESSEES' LOCAL MEDIA. IN THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, AFP HAS FILED SEVERAL CONTROVERSIAL REPORTS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN ACEH).

PRIVATE PERSPECTIVES ON THE CONFLICT

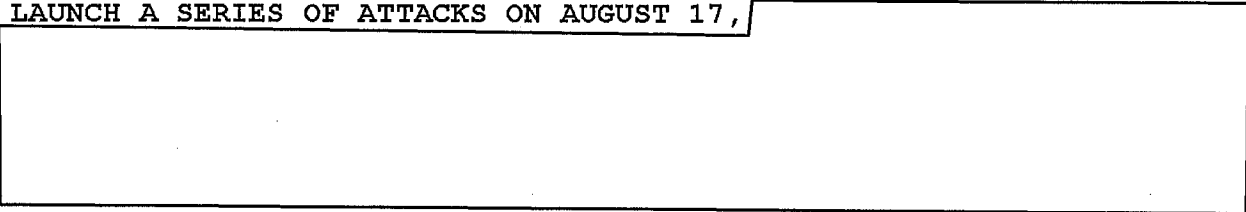
7. (C) ACEH MERDEKA IS ACTIVE IN A THREE HUNDRED KILOMETER BAND OF DENSELY POPULATED TERRITORY ALONG THE EAST COAST, FROM THE TOWN OF PIDIE TO JUST SOUTH OF THE PEREULAK RIVER. IT ALSO CARRIES OUT OPERATIONS IN BANDA ACEH AND LANGSA. BREAKS IN THE ACEH MERDEKA INFLUENCED TERRITORY INCLUDE SEUNEDON, MANE, SAMALANGA, AND SIGLI TOWN. HE CHARACTERIZED WHAT WAS A "SKIN DISEASE" SEVERAL MONTHS AGO AS HAVING BECOME A "CANCER. THE

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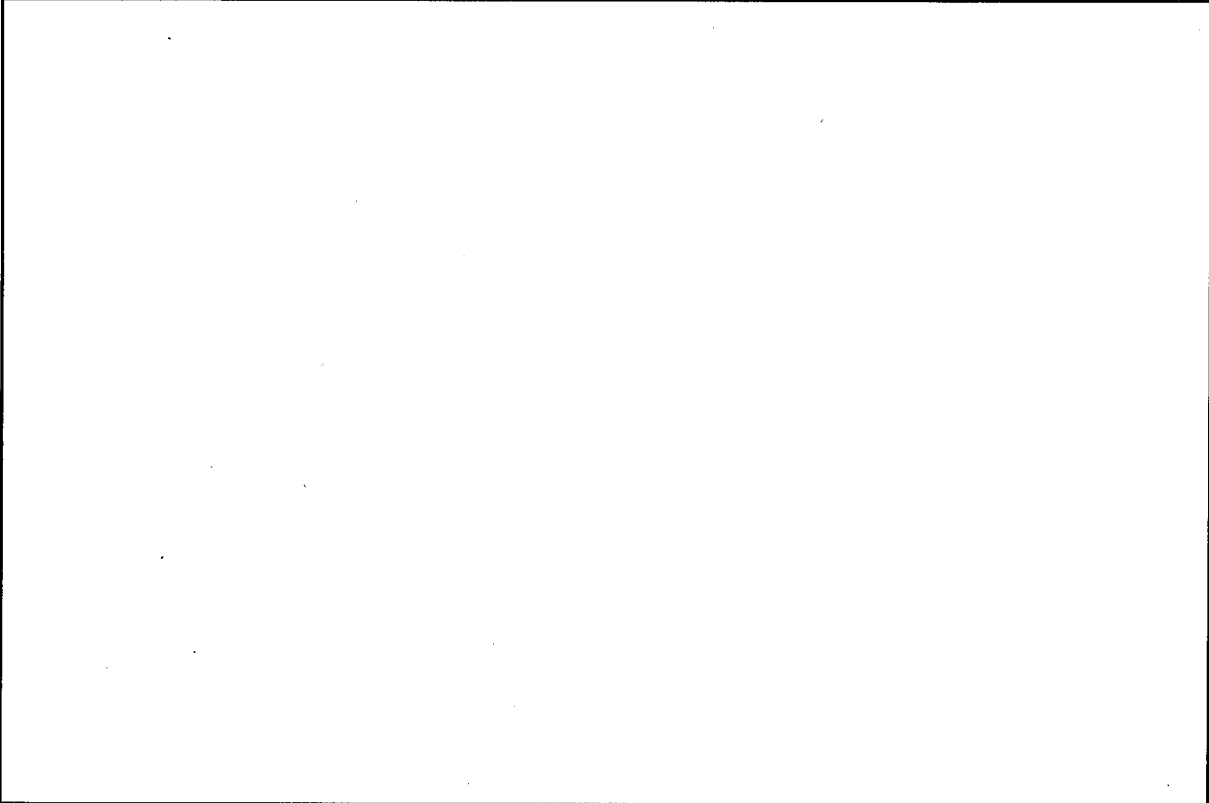
8. (C) WIDELY DISTRIBUTED ACEH MERDEKA LEAFLETS WARNING ACEHNESE TO AVOID PUBLIC CEREMONIES PLANNED IN CONJUNCTION
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WITH INDONESIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY, COMBINED WITH A WIDESPREAD ASSUMPTION THAT ACEH MERDEKA, QUIET FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, WOULD LAUNCH A SERIES OF ATTACKS ON AUGUST 17,



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CONFLICT ON THE GROUND



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ACTION EAP-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-05	SS-01	CIAE-00	EB-01	DODE-00
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SP-01 SNP-01 PRS-01 DS-01 SCT-03 P-02 T-01
DPR-01 /044 W

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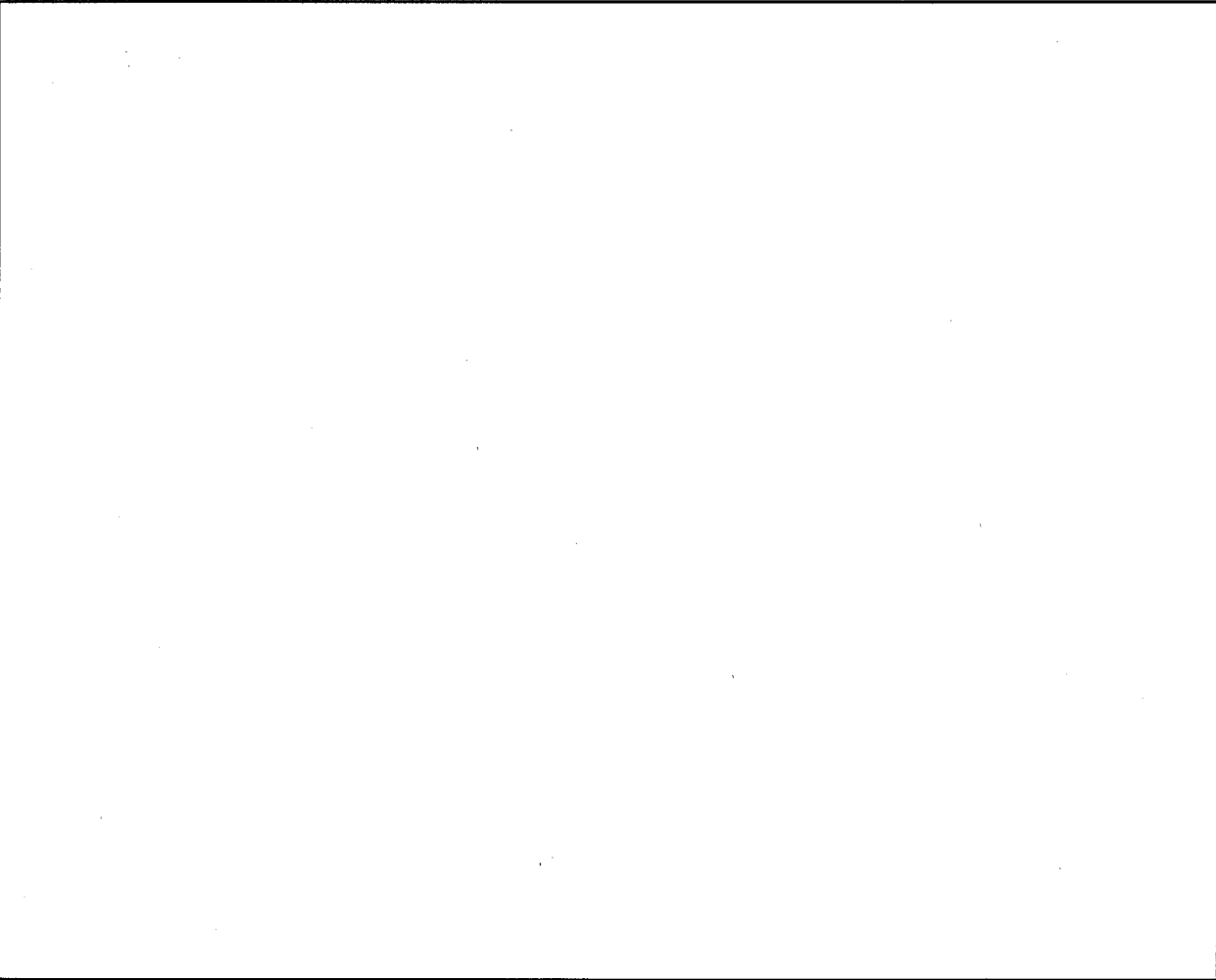
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FM AMCONSUL MEDAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4407
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI 0050

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 04 MEDAN 00406

CINCPAC FOR FPA

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
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CAUSES

12. (C) ANOTHER INTERLOCUTOR, WHO BELIEVES THAT ACEH MERDEKA HAS BEEN PURPOSELY "LYING QUIET FOR YEARS", EMPHASIZES THE NEED TO ACCOMODATE ACEH'S DISTINCT CULTURE AND VALUES. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE, AS DO SO MANY WHO POINT TO SOCIAL ECONOMIC TENSIONS, THAT A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN FUNDS FROM JAKARTA TWO YEARS AGO WOULD HAVE HEADED OFF THE CURRENT UNREST. INSTEAD, HE ARGUES THAT THIS CONFLICT IS, IN ESSENCE, A COLLECTION OF LOCAL EVENTS. A MILITARY RESPONSE JUST INFLAMES THE SITUATION, /

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LONG TERM SETBACK TO ACEH'S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, BUT PAINTED THE CONFLICT AS A RENEWAL OF THE MORE THEN A CENTURY OLD ACEHNESE SEARCH FOR INDEPENDENCE. IT IS NOT, IN HIS VIEW, "THE TIME TO SHED ACEHNESE BLOOD, BUT NO ACEHNESE CAN SAY NO WHEN HE IS ASKED TO FIGHT FOR HIS PEOPLE'S FREEDOM." HE KNOWS THAT ACEH "CAN'T WIN", BUT MOST ACEHNESE, EVEN THE LEADERS WHO HAVE GRADUATED FROM THE IAIN AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING, BELIEVE THEY CAN AND, IF THEY CAN'T, "THEY BELIEVE IN A MARTYR'S DEATH (MATI SHYAHID)". THE REVOLT,

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ACTION EAP-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-05	SS-01	CIAE-00	EB-01	DODE-00
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	PA-01	SJK-01	OMB-01	INRE-00	OCS-06	COR-01	CA-02
	USIE-00	SP-01	TFCE-00	SNP-01	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-03
	P-02	T-01	DPR-01				
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R 120643Z SEP 90
FM AMCONSUL MEDAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4408
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI 0051

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 04 MEDAN 00406

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CAPTIONS THRU REF LINES)

CINCPAC FOR FPA

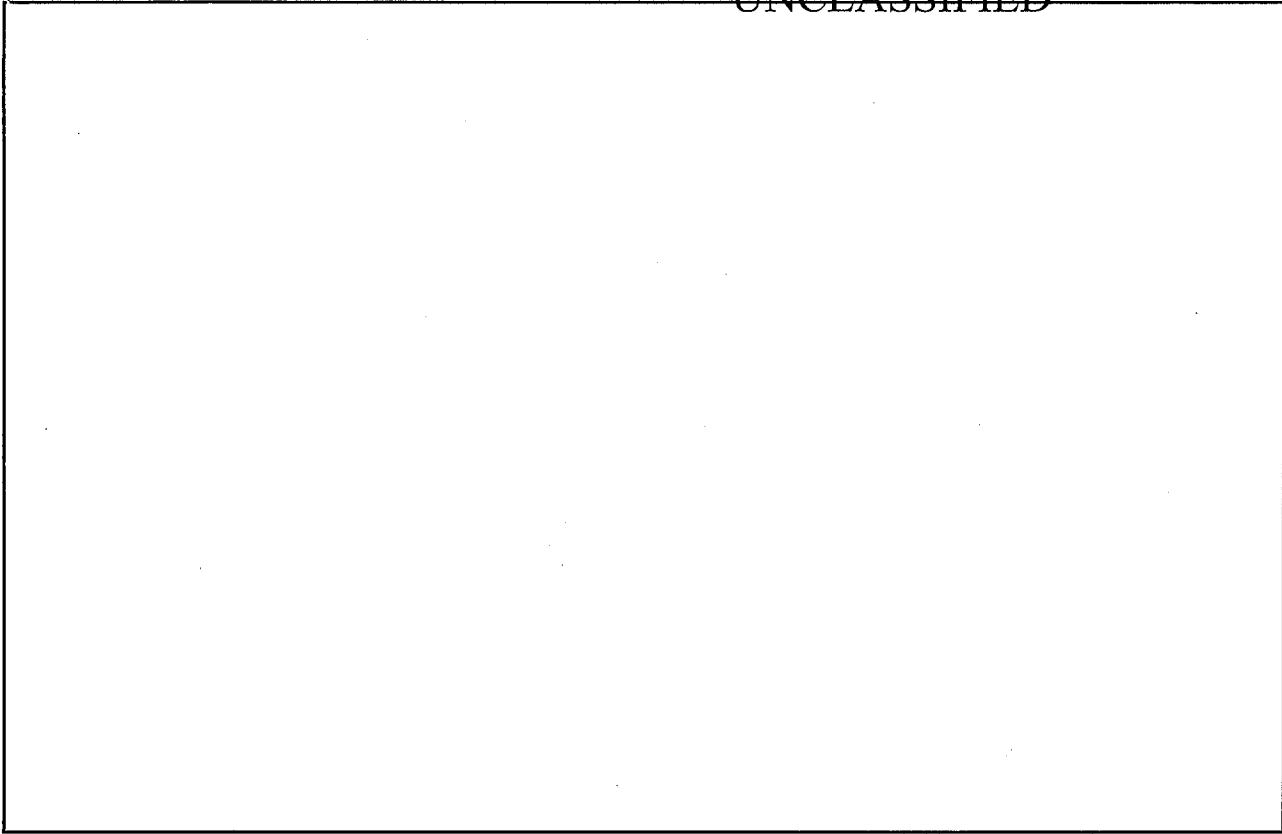
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PARTICULARLY IN THE KABUPATEN OF NORTH ACEH, IS LED BY ACEHNESE WHO HAVE RETURNED FROM ABROAD.

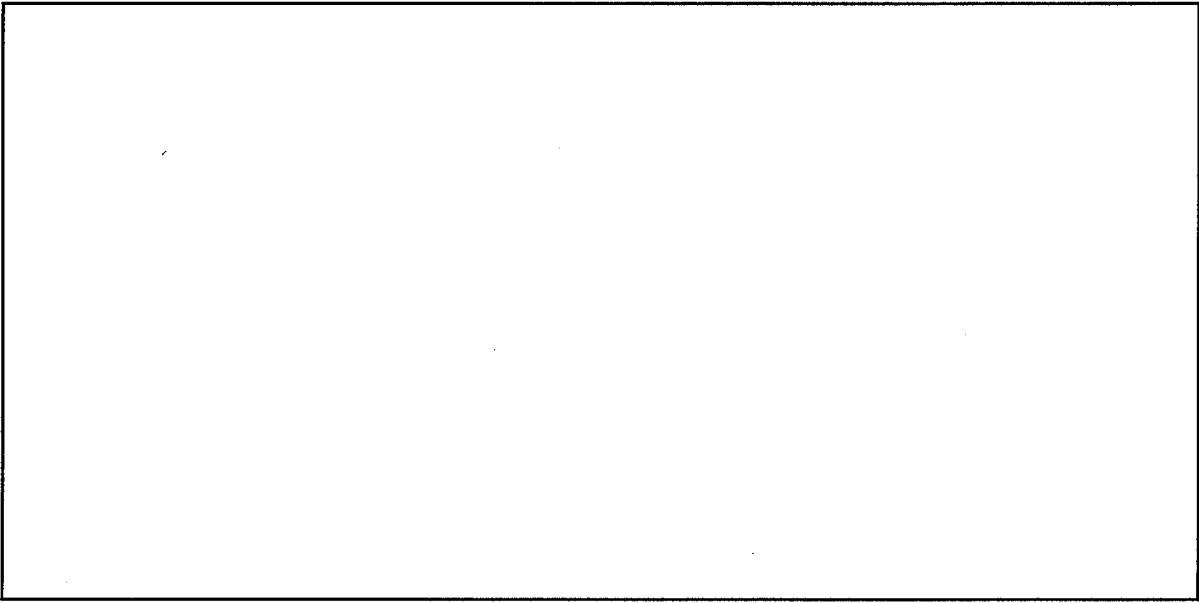


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THE THREAT TO FOREIGNERS

15. (C) MOST OF OUR INTERLOCUTORS, DESPITE THE AFP ARTICLE ALLEGING A THREAT TO FOREIGNERS (SEE PARA 5), DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ACEH MERDEKA HAS TARGETED FOREIGNERS. A FEW HAVE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT FEELINGS OF ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY COULD TAKE ON A STRONG ANTI-CHRISTIAN, ANTI-FOREIGN TONE.



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