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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)PAGE 01 MEDAN 00341 01 OF 04 010733Z
ACTION EAP-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-01	INR-05	SS-01	CIAE-00	EB-01
	DODE-00	H-01	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	COME-00	HA-09	L-03
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	OES-09	USIE-00	SP-01	DOEE-00	SNP-01	PRS-01	DS-01
	SCT-03	P-02	T-01	/052 W			

-----334120 011610Z /40

R 010711Z AUG 90
 FM AMCONSUL MEDAN
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4380
 INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
 AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
 AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
 AMCONSUL SURABAYA
 USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI 0044

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 MEDAN 00341

CINCPAC FOR FPA

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS PGOV, PINS, ID
 SUBJECT: ACEH: AMERICANS CONCERNED BUT NOT WORRIED

REFS: A) MEDAN 00333, B) MEDAN 00319, C) MEDAN 00292 AND
 PREVIOUS

1. (C) SUMMARY: DURING A JULY 24-25 VISIT TO LHOKSEUMAWE,
 ACEH, CONSUL MET INDIVIDUALLY WITH ALL AVAILABLE AMERICAN
 CITIZENS IN THE AREA TO DISCUSS THEIR PERCEPTIONS OF THE
 CURRENT SITUATION. AMERICANS DO NOT BELIEVE THEY ARE DIRECTLY
 THREATENED BY THE CONFLICT BETWEEN ACEH MERDEKA AND THE
 INDONESIAN ARMY, BUT THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT THEY COULD BE
 CAUGHT IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME AND FIND IT
 DIFFICULT TO PLACE INEVITABLE RUMORS IN PERSPECTIVE. AN
 UNANTICIPATED INCIDENT INVOLVING EXPATRIATES MIGHT RAPIDLY

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CHANGE THE NOW "WARY BUT NOT WORRIED" OUTLOOK OF MOST AMERICANS
 BASED AROUND LHOKSEUMAWE.



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MEDIA REPORTS

3 (U) MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE CONFLICT IN ACEH HAS BEEN RELATIVELY SCARCE OF LATE. ON JULY 26TH, THE "INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE" RAN A REUTERS REPORT (PRESUMABLY WRITTEN BY REUTERS JAKARTA CORRESPONDENT PISANI, WHO HAS RECENTLY TRAVELLED IN ACEH), WHICH STRESSED THE FEARS OF THOUSANDS OF JAVANESE TRANSMIGRANTS RECENTLY DRIVEN OUT OF ACEH BY WHAT REUTERS LABELED "SHADOWY GROUPS OF REBELS." THE REUTERS DISPATCH ALSO NOTED THAT MANY IN ACEH "SAY THEY BELIEVE THE REBELS ARE DISGRUNTLED FORMER SOLDIERS KICKED OUT OF THE ARMY FOR DISCIPLINARY OFFENSES. THEIR ATTACKS HAVE CENTERED ON POLICE AND MILITARY. AT LEAST 40 CIVILIANS AND PROBABLY AS MANY TROOPS HAVE DIED IN THE PAST FOUR MONTHS, AND MORE THAN 60 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED."

4. (U) ON THE 27TH, MOST MEDAN NEWSPAPERS CARRIED A STORY ABOUT AN ABDULLAH ISMAIL BIN IBRAHIM, AN ALLEGED LEADER OF THE "GPK" (SECURITY DISTURBANCE MOVEMENT) AT THE SUBDISTRICT LEVEL IN MUARA DUA, NORTH ACEH, WHO SURRENDERED TO ABRI ON JULY 25. KODAM I HEADQUARTERS, WHILE RELEASING THIS INFORMATION, ALSO
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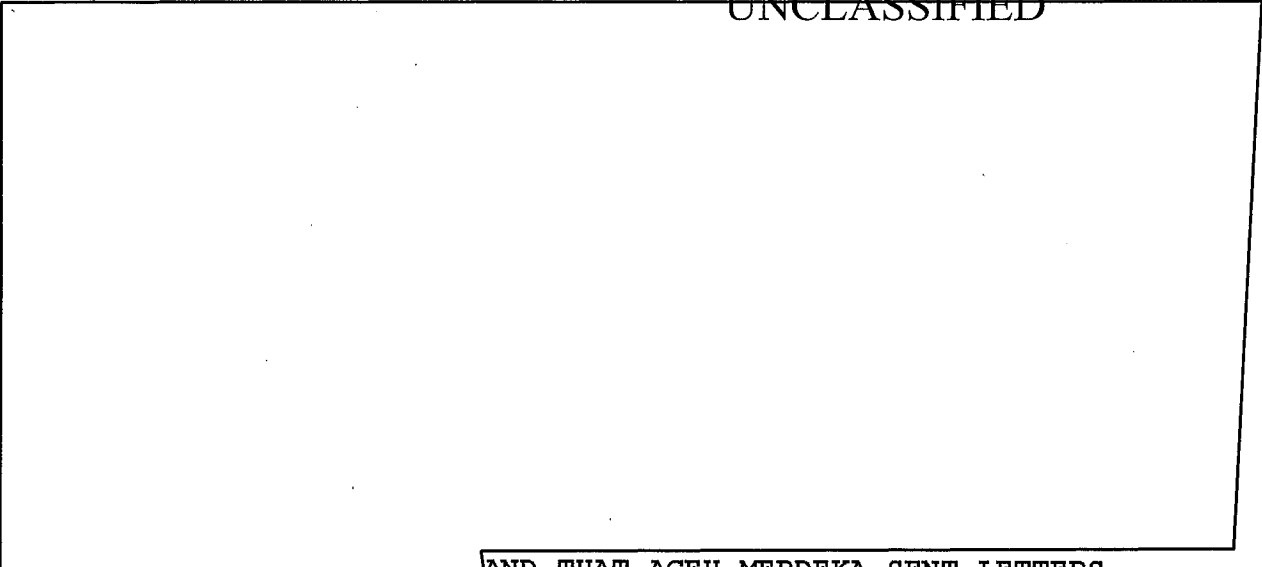
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SAID THAT 2 "GPK" MEMBERS WERE KILLED AND 4 WOUNDED WHILE RESISTING ARREST AT ULEO RUBEK BARAT, SEUNEUDON, NORTH ACEH. AT THAT TIME, AMMUNITION, DETONATORS, DOCUMENTS, CAMERAS, AND A FLAG WERE CONFISCATED. THIS BROUGHT THE TOTAL OF "GPK" MEMBERS KILLED TO 10, WHILE ANOTHER 15 HAVE BEEN WOUNDED. IN ADDITION, KODAM I ACCUSED THE "GPK" OF KILLING A RELIGIOUS TEACHER ON JULY 19 IN PIDIE AND, WHILE INVOLVED IN A CLASH WITH ABRI, A TWELVE-YEAR OLD BOY AT KRUEG KREH, MATANG KALI, NORTH ACEH ON JULY 23.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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AND THAT ACEH MERDEKA SENT LETTERS
TO LOCAL NEWSPAPERS EARLIER IN JULY ANNOUNCING WORDS TO THE
EFFECT THAT "WE ARE NOT THE GPK, BUT ACEH MERDEKA. WE
DO NOT OPPOSE CIVILIANS, BUT ABRI AND JAVANESE COLONIALISTS.

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	OES-09	USIE-00	SP-01	DOEE-00	SNP-01	PRS-01	DS-01
	SCT-03	P-02	T-01	/052 W			

-----334123 011610Z /40

R 010711Z AUG 90
FM AMCONSUL MEDAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4381
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI 0045

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 04 MEDAN 00341

CINCPAC FOR FPA

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, ID

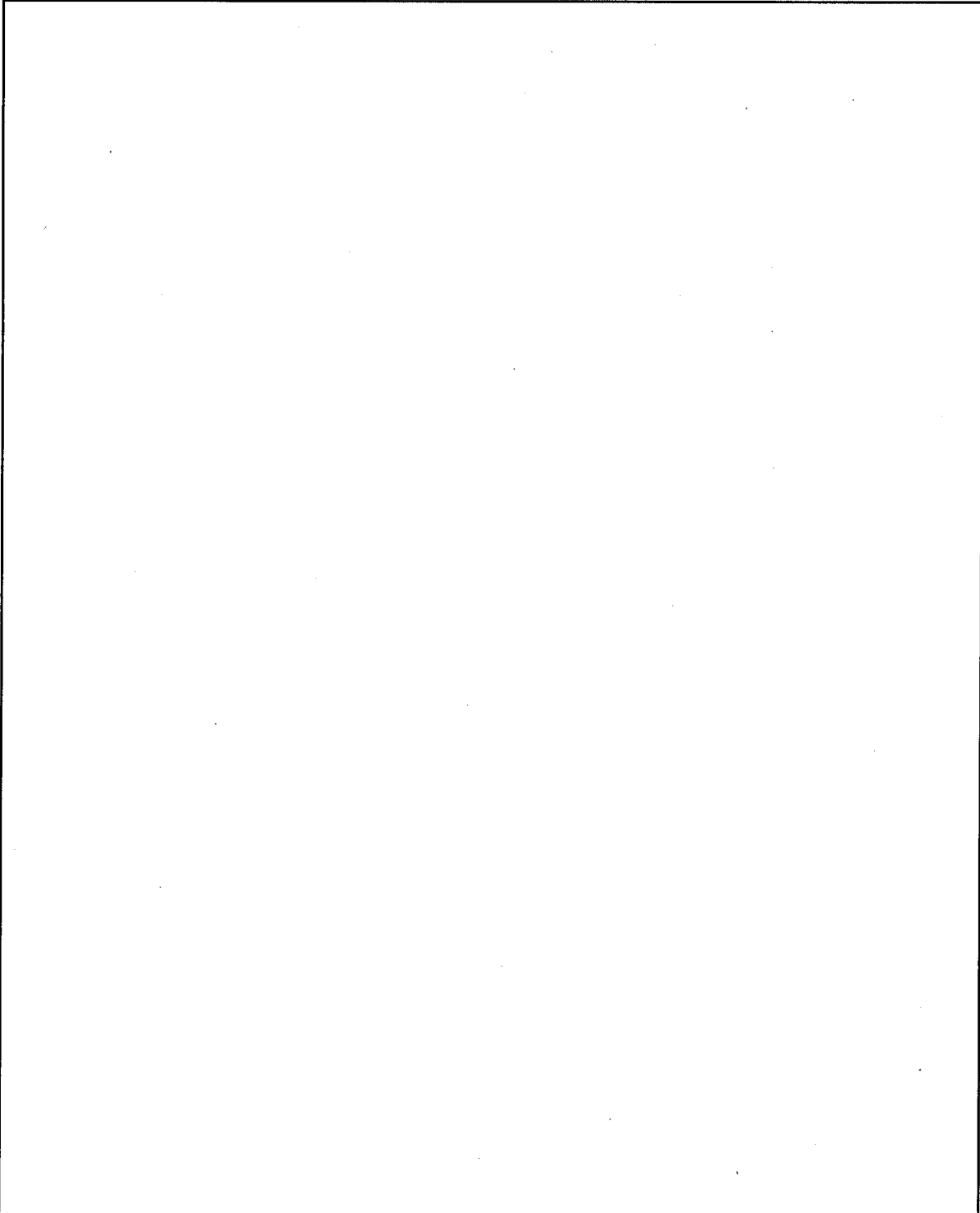
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SUBJECT: ACEH: AMERICANS CONCERNED BUT NOT WORRIED

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WE HOPE THAT OTHERS BEING COLONIZED BY JAVA WILL ALSO RISE
UP IN REVOLT."



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[REDACTED]

FOCUS INSTEAD ON THE SOCIAL CLASS OF THOSE ACEHNESE NOW INVOLVED IN THE STRUGGLE WITH ABRI AND THE POLICE. ACCORDING TO HIM, IN CONTRAST WITH THE ACEH MERDEKA MOVEMENT IN THE LATE 1970S, WHICH WAS LED BY ORGANIZED, WELL-KNOWN, AND OFTEN CHARISMATIC LEADERS, THE CURRENT STRUGGLE IS A DISORGANIZED MOVEMENT LED BY FRUSTRATED BUT UNKNOWN "VILLAGE PEOPLE".

[REDACTED] CLAIMS TO DISMISS REPORTS THAT ACEHNESE HAVE RECEIVED MILITARY TRAINING IN LIBYA.

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11. (C) AS IS TYPICAL WITH OUR ACEHNESE INTERLOCUTORS, IMRAN STRESSED ACEH'S LONG HISTORY OF REVOLTS AGAINST OUTSIDERS, INCLUDING THE DUTCH, THE JAPANESE, JAKARTA IN 1953, AND BEGINNING IN 1976, AGAINST JAKARTA THROUGH THE ACEH MERDEKA MOVEMENT LED BY HASAN TIRO. ACCORDING [REDACTED] TO THIS DAY THE GOI DOES NOT KNOW PRECISELY HOW HASAN TIRO MANAGED TO COLLECT THE MIX OF INTELLECTUALS AND FORMER DARUL ISLAM LEADERS THAT THEN CONSTITUTED ACEH MERDEKA, BUT FEW ACEHNESE "REALLY SUPPORTED THAT MOVEMENT". THE GOI FIRST ATTEMPTED TO PERSUADE ACEH MERDEKA TO SURRENDER," BUT THEN DECIDED TO PURSUE THE HARD CORE LEADERS, WITH CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS. THE OLD ACEH MERDEKA LEADERSHIP WAS DECIMATED AND THE MOVEMENT ALL BUT

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INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-01 INR-05 SS-01 CIAE-00 EB-01
DODE-00 H-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 COME-00 HA-09 L-03
TRSE-00 PM-01 PA-01 OMB-01 INRE-00 OCS-06 CA-02
OES-09 USIE-00 SP-01 DOEE-00 SNP-01 PRS-01 DS-01
SCT-03 P-02 T-01 /052 W

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R 010711Z AUG 90
FM AMCONSUL MEDAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4382
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI 0046

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 04 MEDAN 00341

CINCPAC FOR FPA

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PREVIOUS

DESTROYED BY 1981.

12. (C) THE NEW ROUND OF VIOLENCE PROBABLY BEGAN IN MARCH
1989, WITH THE MURDER OF TWO SOLDIERS IN PIDIE, THOUGH FEW
OBSERVERS REALIZED IT AT THAT TIME. THIS TIME, THE MOVEMENT
APPEARS TO CONSIST OF VILLAGE PEOPLE MIXED WITH EX-ABRI AND
EX-POLICE, WITH NO "RECOGNIZABLE" NAMES.

BUT HE BELIEVES THE

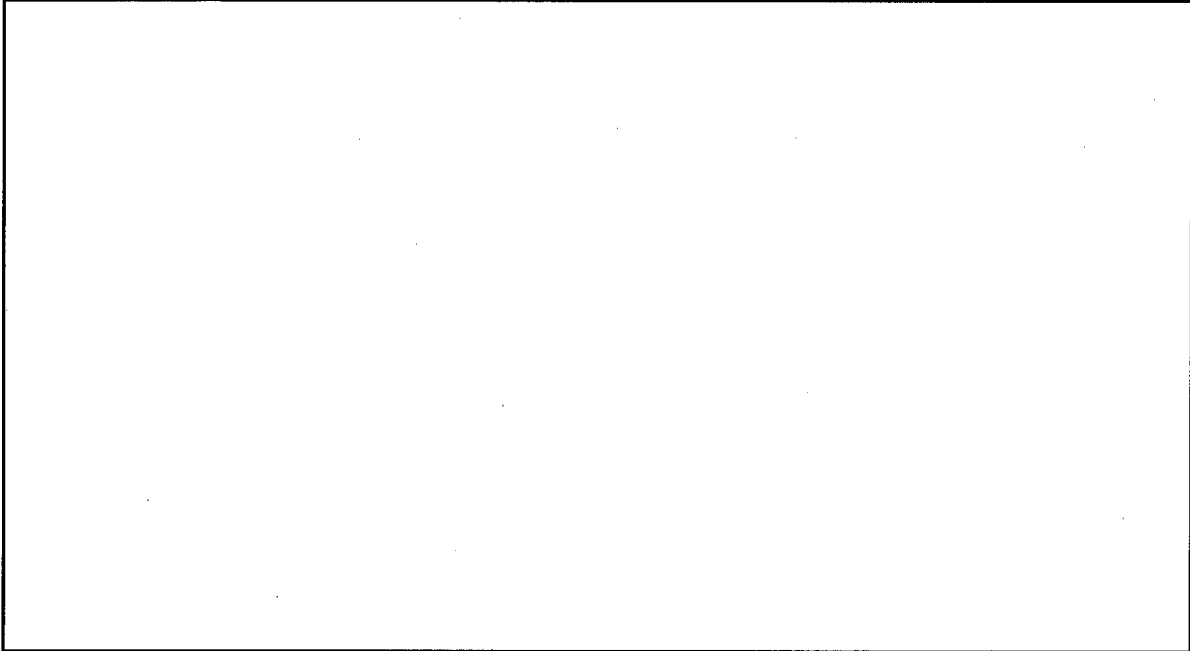
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MOVEMENT IS POORLY-ORGANIZED, LACKS A CLEAR OBJECTIVE, AND HAS NO
CONNECTION WITH "ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS GROUPS". INSTEAD, HE SEES
A SMALL CORE GROUP OF VIOLENT PEOPLE WITH TIES TO THE VILLAGES,
WHO SUCCESSFULLY "FORCE" OTHERS WITH "VERY LOW EDUCATIONS"
TO JOIN IN OFTEN "BRUTAL" ASSASSINATIONS. THE MOVEMENT IS
FOCUSED IN THE NORTH ACEH REGENCY AND HAS SPREAD TO PIDIE

WHERE THE PEOPLE ARE "MORE AGRESSIVE, MORE POLITICALLY-MINDED, AND EASILY SWAYED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT."

13. (C) SUPPRESSING THE CURRENT MOVEMENT "WILL TAKE TIME",



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AMERICANS CONCERNED BUT NOT WORRIED:

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15. (U) CONSUL MET INDIVIDUALLY WITH ALL AVAILABLE AMERICAN EMPLOYEES OF MOBIL, MOBIL EMPLOYEES AT P.T. ARUN, AMCIT EMPLOYEES AT P.T. KERTAS KRAFT PLANT, AND AMERICAN CONSULTANT AT ACEH ASEAN FERTILIZER PLANT, TO DISCUSS THEIR PERCEPTIONS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION AROUND LHOKSEUMAWA, ACEH. MOST OF THE WIVES AND CHILDREN OF THESE AMERICANS ARE STILL OUTSIDE INDONESIA ON LEAVE, THOUGH THEY ARE EXPECTED TO SOON START TRICKLING BACK TO ACEH.

16. (LOU) IN GENERAL, AMERICAN CITIZENS DO NOT FEEL PERSONALLY THREATENED, BUT THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT THEY COULD BE IN THE "WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME" AND, SINCE THEY BELIEVE THE QUALITY OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES IS POOR, THEY "FEAR THE UNKNOWN." IN ADDITION TO THIS BASIC CREDIBILITY PROBLEM, AMERICAN CITIZENS APPEAR TO BE AMBIVALENT ABOUT THE LARGE ABRI PRESENCE, NOTING THAT THE MILITARY PROVIDES "PROTECTION BUT IS ALSO A TARGET." A FEW AMERICAN

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CITIZENS MAY ALSO BE A BIT "NERVOUS." INCIDENTS WHICH HIT CLOSE TO HOME, SUCH AS THE USE OF A MOBIL VAN DURING THE MAY 28 ATTACK ON A POLICE POST AND THE JULY 4 "TECHNICAL PROBLEM" WHEN P.T. ARUN HAD TO DIVERT AND FLARE NATURAL GAS BECAUSE OF AN APPARENT LEAK, RAISED CONCERN.

17. (C) AMERICANS APPEAR TO APPRECIATE EFFORTS BY MOBIL MANAGER AND HEAD OF MOBIL CONTINGENT AT P.T. ARUN TO PROVIDE BRIEFINGS AND INFORMATION TO EXPATRIATE EMPLOYEES.

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[REDACTED] AND MOBIL HAS TOLD ITS EXPATRIATES THAT THEY ARE NOT TARGETS. MOST AMERICAN EMPLOYEES, MOREOVER, SEEM TO LOOK FORWARD TO THE RETURN TO ACEH OF THEIR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN. ALSO REASSURING TO MOBIL EMPLOYEES IS MOBIL'S POLICY OF PERMITTING ANY WHO WISH TO LEAVE OR MOVE THEIR FAMILY OUT OF ACEH TO DO SO. SO FAR, "NO ONE HAS INDICATED ANY INTEREST IN THESE OPTIONS." NONETHELESS, AN INCIDENT INVOLVING

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R 010711Z AUG 90
 FM AMCONSUL MEDAN
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4383
 INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
 AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
 AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
 AMCONSUL SURABAYA
 USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI 0047

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 04 MEDAN 00341

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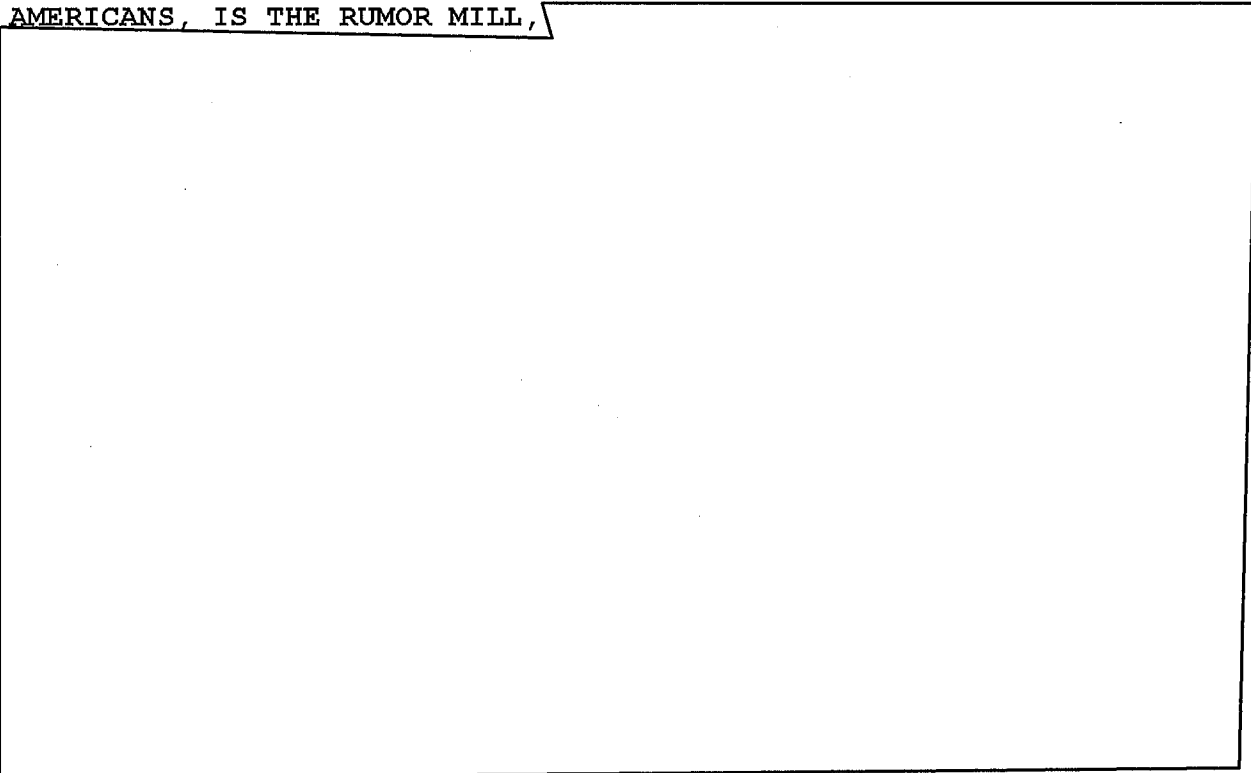
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AN EXPATRIATE OR INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES WOULD PROBABLY RAPIDLY CHANGE THE CLIMATE AMONG AMERICAN CITIZENS IN ACEH.

18. (C) THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM, ACCORDING TO SEVERAL AMERICANS, IS THE RUMOR MILL, 

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19. (U) THE CURRENT VIOLENCE IN ACEH HAS HAD AN IMPACT ON PEOPLE'S LIVES, BUT, AS ONE AMERICAN NOTED, "NO ONE IS REALLY IRRESPONSIBLE ENOUGH TO PUT THEMSELVES IN A POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS SITUATION." EXPATRIATES HAVE STOPPED DRIVING ON THE P.T. KERTAS KRAFT ROAD, THOUGH THEY CONTINUE TO DRIVE TO BANDA ACEH. THEY DO NOT DRIVE ON ANY PUBLIC ROADS AFTER DARK. CAMPING TRIPS ARE "NOW OUT." ONE AMCIT SAID HE AND HIS WIFE NO LONGER "LEAVE THEIR YOUNG CHILDREN BEHIND WHEN THEY GO TO SINGAPORE." OTHERS NOTED "RESTRICTIONS ON THE HASH (A RUN IN THE COUNTRYSIDE), PARTICULARLY FOR THOSE WHO LAY OUT THE COURSE." ONE WOMAN NO LONGER RIDES HER BIKE. HOWEVER, AN OLD MOBIL HAND SAID THAT, IN LATE 1970S, "PEOPLE WERE HASSLED BY THE ACEHNESE, THIS HASN'T HAPPENED YET."

20. (C) A POSSIBLE LONG TERM PROBLEM, NOTED BY SEVERAL AMERICANS, IS THAT ACEHNESE "CAN'T ALWAYS IDENTIFY AMCIT MOBIL EMPLOYEES AT P.T. ARUN," WHO MAY NOT, THEREFORE, BENEFIT FROM MOBIL'S GOOD REPUTATION AMONG THE ACEHNESE. ALSO PRESUMABLY AT GREATER RISK ARE THE MORE ISOLATED AMERICANS WORKING FOR THE


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P.T. KERTAS KRAFT PAPER PLANT OR ASEAN FERTILIZER. WITH REGARD
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TO KERTAS KRAFT, WHICH EMPLOYS 4 AMERICANS AT THE PLANT NEAR
LHOKSEUMAWA AND ANOTHER 10 OR 11 UP IN THE HILLS SUPERVISING
LOGGING NEAR TAKENGON, IN CENTRAL ACEH, 

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