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

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ACTION EAP-01

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	T-01	/029 W					

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R 240451Z JUL 90
 FM AMCONSUL MEDAN
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4372
 INF?PRUEHJA/AMBASSY JAKARTA 2690
 AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
 AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
 AMCONSUL SURABAYA
 USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI 0039

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 05 MEDAN 00333

CINCPAC FOR FPA

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PGOV, PINS, ID
 SUBJECT: ACEH: AUTHORITIES EMPHASIZE EFFORTS TO SUPPRESS
 ACEH VIOLENCE.

REFS: A) MEDAN 00319, B) MEDAN 00292, C) 89 MEDAN 00606

1. (C) SUMMARY: THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT HAS REINFORCED
 ITS ARMY IN ACEH AND LAUNCHED A PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN
 BOTH SUGGESTING THAT ABRI (THE ARMED FORCES) IS NOW EFFECTIVELY
 HUNTING DOWN ACEHNESE REBELS AND ENCOURAGING ACEHNESE TO
 REPENT BEFORE IT SUCCEEDS IN SUPPRESSING ACEH MERDEKA. THE
 GOVERNMENT HAS REPORTED NO LOSSES IN THE PAST 10 DAYS (PRIVATE
 SOURCES SUGGEST NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES ON THE GROUND, WITH 5
 SOLDIERS KILLED). ONE OF OUR INTERLOCUTORS, IN A DETAILED
 REVIEW OF THE SITUATION, SAID THAT THE CURRENT ACEHNESE
 STRUGGLE MAY TURN OUT TO BE MORE BITTER AND SUSTAINED THAN
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THE 1977 - 82 ACEH MERDEKA REVOLT.

2. (C) MOST FOREIGNERS CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE
 NOT DIRECTLY THREATENED BY THE VIOLENCE IN ACEH. BRITISH

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CITIZENS IN ACEH ARE REPORTEDLY "VERY RELAXED" AND THOSE IN THE ACEHNESE COUNTRYSIDE REPORTEDLY EXERCISE GREATER CAUTION ONLY AT NIGHT. [REDACTED] HOWEVER, HAVE BEGUN TO EXPRESS CONCERN THAT THE VIOLENCE COULD ESCALATE TO INCLUDE FOREIGNERS AND TO IMPEDE THE PRODUCTION OF ACEHNESE NATURAL GAS DESTINED FOR JAPAN. END SUMMARY.

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MEDIA REPORTS

3. (U) ACEH GOVERNOR IBRAHIM HASAN DOMINATED LAST WEEK'S HEADLINES. ON JULY 11, HE WAS REPORTED TO HAVE CALLED ON HIS FELLOW ACEHNESE TO RESIST THOSE WHO DISTURB SECURITY. NEXT DAY, AFTER BRIEFING PRESIDENT SOEHARTO ON THE VIOLENCE IN ACEH, HE SAID THE PRESIDENT HAD INSTRUCTED ABRI TO REINFORCE ITS TROOPS IN ACEH AND SUPPRESS THE GPK (SECURITY DISTURBANCE MOVEMENT). ON THE 16TH, AFP REPORTED THAT "UP TO 1,500 SPECIAL FORCES" HAD BEEN DEPLOYED TO ACEH WHERE "SMALL ARMED GROUPS HAVE KILLED 30 TROOPS AND POLICE AND AS MANY CIVILIANS OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS." ON THE 17TH, GOVERNOR HASAN AGAIN APPEALED TO ACEHNESE REBELS TO "REPENT" AND OFFERED ASSURANCES THAT THOSE WHO DO SO WILL RECEIVE "HUMANE TREATMENT". THE GOVERNOR ALSO REPORTEDLY INSTRUCTED LOCAL OFFICIALS TO MAKE A MORE CONCERTED EFFORT TO PASS ON "CORRECT" INFORMATION TO "ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY". ON THE 20TH, HASAN, IN AN EFFORT TO REASSURE INVESTORS, SAID THAT "SECURITY PROBLEMS IN ACEH ARE VERY SMALL BECAUSE CRIMINAL INCIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED ONLY IN LIMITED AREAS." HE WENT ON TO STATE THAT THE ESTIMATED 36 MEMBERS OF THE GPK HAD NOT "DISTURBED" THE OPERATIONS OF
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THE LARGE INDUSTRIAL PLANTS IN ACEH, AND ALLEGED THAT THE GPK IS, TO QUOTE THE POST, "NOT RELATED TO POLITICS EVEN THOUGH THE GANG ALWAYS USED POLITICAL ISSUES LIKE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEPARATE STATE IN THEIR OPERATIONS." HASAN WAS QUOTED AS STATING THAT "THEIR MOVEMENT IS ACTUALLY RELATED TO THE BUSINESS OF GANJA." HE THEN NOTED THAT, IN HIS VIEW, ACEH WILL NEED ABOUT US \$2.5 BILLION IN INVESTMENT, TWO-THIRDS OF WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE PRIVATE, IN THE MARCH 1989 - MARCH 1994 PERIOD TO ACHIEVE GOVERNMENT-TARGETED GROWTH OF 6 PERCENT PER ANNUM.

4. (U) IN CONTRAST, ON THE 13TH, KODAM I COMMANDER MAJOR GENERAL H.R. PRAMONO ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD SHOW NO TOLERANCE FOR "SECURITY DISTURBANCES". ON THE 16TH, A JAKARTA NEWSPAPER REPORTED THAT 16 MEMBERS OF THE GPK HAD SURRENDERED TO ABRI

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DURING AN UNDETERMINED TIME FRAME. THIS PAPER ALSO REPORTED THAT THE GPK HAD ORDERED ACEHNESE SCHOOL CHILDREN NOT TO ATTEND INDONESIAN NATIONAL DAY FLAG-RAISING CEREMONIES ON AUGUST 17. FINALLY, IT SAID THAT AN ACHENESE GPK MEMBER, MUSTAFA, HAD BEEN SHOT AND KILLED IN ULEE GLEE, PIDIE. ON THE 19TH, A MEDAN NEWSPAPER REPORTED THAT MG PRAMONO, AFTER A SHORT VISIT TO ACEH, HAD DECLARED THAT THE GPK PROBLEM WOULD BE "SETTLED COMPLETELY" BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE SECURITY SITUATION HAS IMPROVED RECENTLY. THE NEWSPAPER REPORTED THAT ANOTHER GPK MEMBER, ANWAR, HAD BEEN KILLED BY ABRI IN ALUE NIRIH, PEUREULAK, EAST ACEH KABUPATEN ON JULY 17. A RIFLE AND 22 CARTRIDGES WERE ALSO CONFISCATED DURING THIS ATTACK. SO FAR, 4 GPK MEMBERS HAVE BEEN SHOT. ON JULY 19, THE PRESS WAS INFORMED THAT ANOTHER 3 GPK MEMBERS HAD BEEN KILLED, AND ONE WOUNDED AND CAPTURED, ON JULY 18, IN ALUEBATE MEASAH VILLAGE, IN GELUMPANG, PIDIE. THE JAKARTA POST, IN ITS JULY 21 ISSUE, STATED THAT 23 CIVILIANS HAD BEEN KILLED BY "EXTREMISTS SINCE LAST MONTH" AND THAT THREATS AND INTIMIDATION BY THESE EXTREMISTS HAD FORCED 4,000 PEOPLE TO FLEE ACEH. MILITARY

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OMB-01 INRE-00 USIE-00 SP-01 SNP-01 PRS-01 P-02
T-01 /029 W

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R 240451Z JUL 90
FM AMCONSUL MEDAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4373
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI 0040

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 05 MEDAN 00333

CINCPAC FOR FPA

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, ID

SUBJECT: ACEH: AUTHORITIES EMPHASIZE EFFORTS TO SUPPRESS
ACEH VIOLENCE.

REFS: A) MEDAN 00319, B) MEDAN 00292, C) 89 MEDAN 00606

SOURCES IN BANDA ACEH WERE QUOTED AS STATING THAT 5 NEW ABRI
BATTALIONS HAD BEEN DEPLOYED TO ACEH.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

ON THE GROUND:

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6. [REDACTED] HAVE ALSO DESCRIBED RECENT NEWS THEY ACQUIRED, AS WELL AS THEIR OBSERVATIONS FROM A LATE-JUNE TRIP TO ACEH, IN WHICH THEY FLEW TO LHOKSEUMAWE AND DROVE BACK VIA LANGSA. THEY REPORTED NO VISIBLE SIGNS OF ONGOING ROADBLOCKS, POLICE-MILITARY SWEEPS, CURFEWS, OR A MILITARY PRESENCE. THEY HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH LOCAL ACEHNESE, WHO PRIVATELY EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR ACEH-MERDEKA. IT WAS WIDELY KNOWN THAT OVER 20 WEAPONS HAD BEEN STOLEN IN THE ACEH MERDEKA ATTACK OF LATE MAY. ACEHNESE SAID THAT THEY DID NOT GO OUT LATE AT NIGHT, BECAUSE THERE WAS AN EFFECTIVE CURFEW AFTER 11P.M.

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[REDACTED]

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THE EXPAT TOLD THEM THAT ACEH MERDEKA HAD TAPPED LEGITIMATE POPULAR GRIEVANCES AGAINST EXPLOITATION BY JAVANESE. HE HAD HEARD OF, BUT DID NOT HAVE IN HIS POSSESSION, ANTI-GOI LITERATURE. HE DID NOT TALK OF ANTI-CHINESE ATTACKS, OR ATTACKS AGAINST LOGGERS. HOWEVER, ON THEIR WAY BACK TO MEDAN, THE [REDACTED] SAW A BURNED-OUT LOGGING VEHICLE.

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[REDACTED]

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ACTION EAP-01

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R 240451Z JUL 90
 FM AMCONSUL MEDAN
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4374
 INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
 AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
 AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
 AMCONSUL SURABAYA
 USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI 0041

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 05 MEDAN 00333

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DESCRIBED THE CURRENT STRUGGLE IN ACEH AS THE MOST VIOLENT SINCE 1977 AND SAID HE BELIEVES IT MAY PROVE MORE BITTER AND DRAWN OUT THAN THE ACEH MERDEKA CONFLICT OF 1977-82. IN HIS VIEW, WHEN HASSAN TIRO DECLARED ACEH INDEPENDENT ON NOVEMBER 28, 1977, HIS TIMING WAS POOR. THE ACEHNESE PEASANTRY HAD NOT YET EXPERIENCED THE SOCIAL "ASSYMMETRY" THAT HAS NOW EMERGED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH ACEH'S INDUSTRIAL ZONE AND THE SITUATION WAS, THUS, NOT "FERTILE" FOR SUSTAINED RESISTANCE.

12. (C) NOW, HOWEVER, ACEH MERDEKA HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE ACEHNESE PEASANTRY, PARTICULARLY IN AND AROUND THE LHOKSEUMAWA INDUSTRIAL ZONE, BECAUSE THE "FEELINGS OF THE COMMON PEOPLE HAVE BEEN WOUNDED". SEVERAL OF THE CAUSES OF THE CURRENT REVOLT APPLY TO ALL ACEHNESE; SOME ARE SPECIFIC TO NORTH ACEH, WHERE THE VIOLENCE IS CENTERED. AMONG THE GENERAL PROBLEMS, ARE A) ACEHNESE HAVE NOW CONCLUDED THAT ACEH'S STATUS AS A "SPECIAL AREA" HAS "NO CONTENT", B) ALL THE PROFITS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT "GO TO INDONESIA, NOT ACEH", C) ACEHNESE HAVE LOST "STATUS". ONCE THEY HAD A "GREAT NAME", BUT WHEN ACEH WAS INCLUDED IN INDONESIA, ACEHNESE WERE "CALLED INDONESIANS" AND THUS NO LONGER RESPECTED INTERNATIONALLY AMONG MUSLIMS. ONCE ACEH, IN THE 17TH CENTURY UNDER ISKANDAR MUDA, HAD A POPULATION AND EMPIRE THE EQUIVALENT OF ANYTHING IN JAVA. NOW ACEH HAS THE SAME POPULATION IT DID THEN, AND "EVERYONE ELSE HAS GROWN". NOW ACEH IS SUBJECT TO JAVANESE "COLONIZATION". D) INDONESIA'S PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS ARE NOT INDONESIAN, BUT JAVANESE. FOR EXAMPLE, ALL THE TV PROGRAMS TRANSMIT JAVANESE CULTURE. "WHY CAN'T TVRI AT LEAST BROADCAST AN ACEHNESE DANCE PROGRAM ONCE."

13. (C) MORE SPECIFIC TO THE INDUSTRIAL ZONE IN NORTH ACEH
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IS (ALSO SEE REF C) THAT A) THAT THE ONLY JOBS THAT ACEHNESE GET ARE IN PUBLIC RELATIONS OR AS LABORERS. OUTSIDERS GET PREFERENCE FOR ALL OTHER JOBS; B) ACEHNESE HAVE LOST THEIR LAND, TO HOUSING AND FACTORY CONSTRUCTION, "EXCEPT THE LAND DIRECTLY AROUND THEIR HOUSES", AND HAVE THUS LOST THEIR ABILITY TO MAKE A LIVING; C) OUTSIDE OF A BAND OF 40 KILOMETERS FROM THE P.T. ARUN PLANT NEAR LHOKSEUMAWA, THERE IS NO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; D) THE JAVANESE AT THE MODERN PLANTS, P.T. ARUN SPECIFICALLY, LIVE "LIKE HOLLYWOOD OR CABINET MINISTERS," AND HAVE DRIVEN UP THE COST OF LIVING; E) ACEHNESE ARE "ENVIIOUS" BECAUSE ALL FACILITIES ARE ONLY FOR THE JAVANESE MANAGERS (KARYAWAN), ACEHNESE CHILDREN "CAN'T EVEN PLAY ON THE SOCCER FIELDS." NOW, THE ACEHNESE ARE FINALLY FED UP. OUR INTERLOCUTOR QUOTED AN ACEHNESE SAYING, "RATHER THAN ONLY HAVE A TINY BIT IN YOUR BOWL, YOU MIGHT AS WELL TURN IT OVER." THE ACEHNESE PEASANTRY IN THE NORTH ACEH REGENCY, WITH A QUARTER OF ACEH'S 3.2 MILLION PEOPLE, HAS TURNED OVER THE BOWL. IN PIDIE, ANOTHER HEARTLAND OF ACEHNESE SEPERATISM, THE "PEOPLE ARE REACTING MORE TO HISTORY, THEY ARE JOINING IN. IN LANGSA, ITS ALSO SPREADING."

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THE ABRI REACTION

15. (C) MG PRAMONO'S RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE GPK WILL

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R 240451Z JUL 90
FM AMCONSUL MEDAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4375
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI 0042

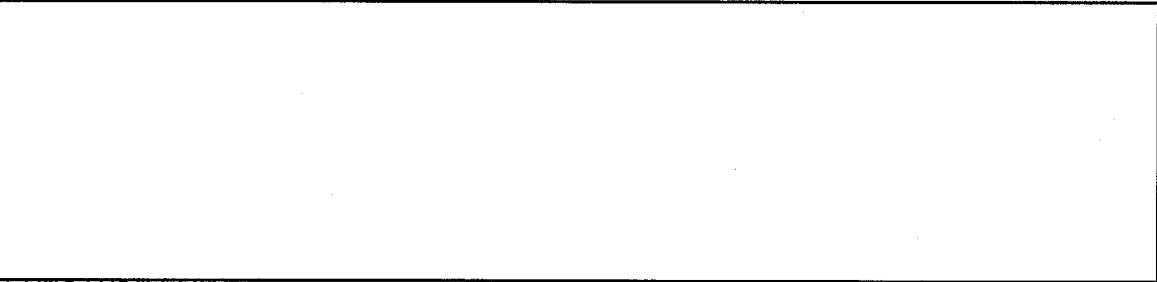
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 05 MEDAN 00333

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BE SUPPRESSED BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR HAS BEEN PRIVATELY
GREETED WITH CONSIDERABLE SKEPTICISM, BY OUR INTERLOCUTORS.



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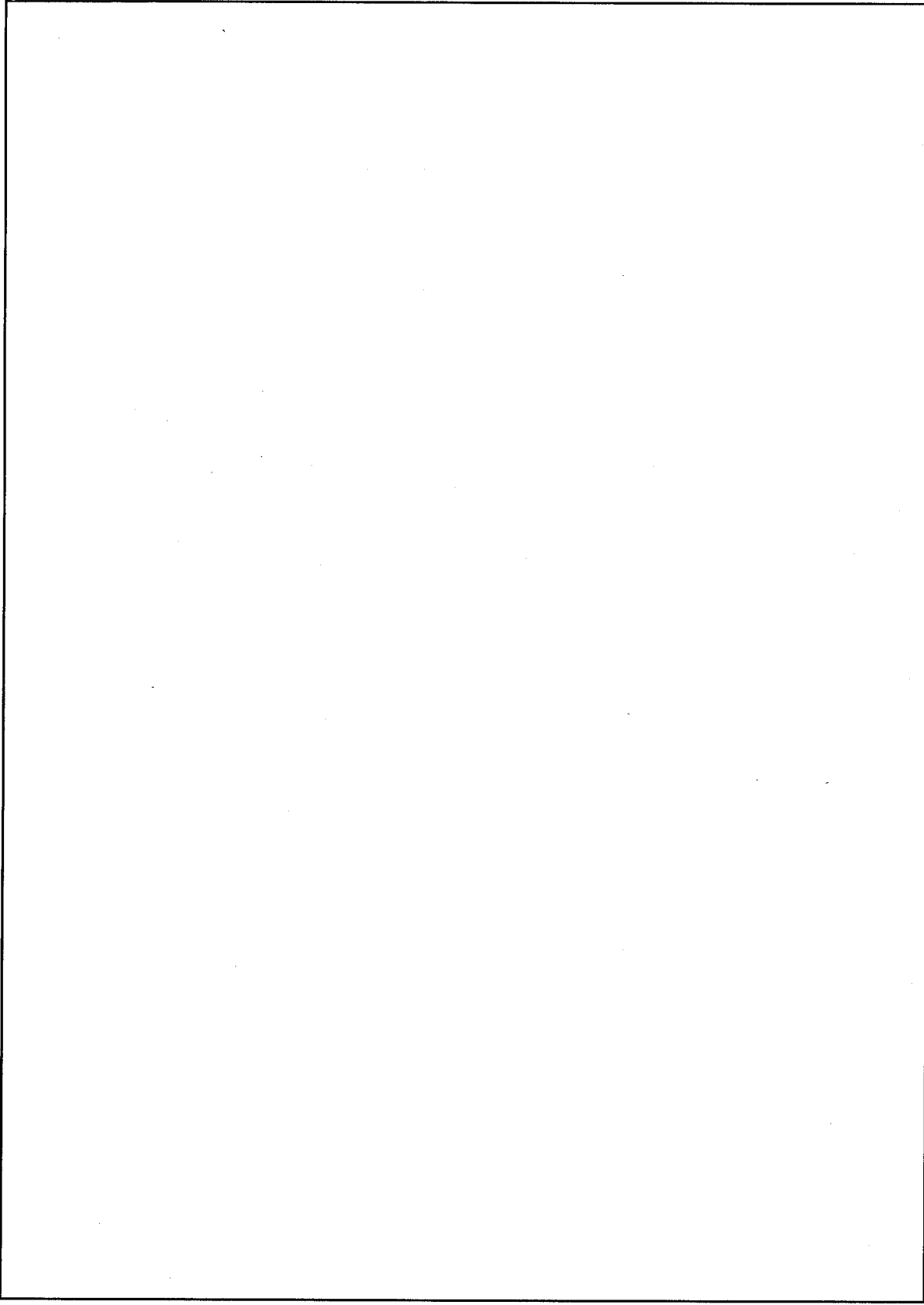
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AMERICANS AND OTHER FOREIGNERS

19. (C) WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY THREATS TO FOREIGNERS, ALTHOUGH [REDACTED] HAVE BEGUN TO EXPRESS SOME CONCERN. ALL OF OUR CONTACTS CONTINUE TO NOTE MOBIL'S COMPARATIVELY EXCELLENT RECORD IN SEEKING TO HIRE AND PROMOTE ACEHNESE AND ITS REPUTATION FOR SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROJECTS IN ACEH.

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20. (C) [REDACTED] SAID THAT BRITISH CITIZENS IN ACEH ARE "VERY RELAXED. ALL SAY THE VIOLENCE IS NOT AIMED AT US." THE MOST EXPOSED ARE THOSE WORKING ON AGRICULTURAL IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS, BUT EVEN THERE "IT'S ONLY THE JAVANESE EMPLOYEES WHO DON'T SPEND THEIR NIGHTS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE ANYMORE." THE BRITISH [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] BUT THEY FELT NO THREAT THEMSELVES.

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R 240451Z JUL 90
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4376
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
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AMCONSUL SURABAYA
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI 0043

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 05 OF 05 MEDAN 00333

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21. (C) [REDACTED] HOWEVER, HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN
THAT VIOLENCE COULD ESCALATE TO INCLUDE FOREIGNERS AND THAT
THE PRODUCTION OF NATURAL GAS COULD BE INTERRUPTED BY VIOLENCE.

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[REDACTED] HAVE REFERRED SEVERAL TIMES TO
ANTI-JAPANESE RIOTS THAT OCCURED IN INDONESIA IN 1974, AND
ARE SENSITIVE TO A RECURRENCE (HOWEVER, THEY ALSO SAID THAT
THEY BELIEVED THE 1974 RIOTS WERE IN FACT AN EXPRESSION OF
RESENTMENT AGAINST CHINESE-GOI COLLUSION.) THE CONCERN WITH
NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION REFLECTS JAPAN'S POSITION AS THE MAIN
BUYER OF ARUN PRODUCT. THUS, WHEN IT REPORTED IN EARLY JUNE
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THAT A SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS HAD OCCURRED AT PT ARUN BECAUSE
OF GAS LEAKS, THEY WERE WORRIED. (THEY WERE TOLD THAT
PRODUCTION HAD BEEN INTERRUPTED, BUT THAT SHIPMENTS WERE
CONTINUING OUT AS SCHEDULED.) IT IS THE ASSESSMENT OF THE
[REDACTED] INTERLOCUTORS THAT VIOLENCE IN ACEH WILL CONTINUE
FOR THE INDEFINITE FUTURE, THAT CHINESE WILL BE TARGETS OF
ESCALATION, AND THAT EXPATRIATES AS WELL COULD BECOME VICTIMS.

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