

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 MEDAN 00292 01 OF 03 221124Z
ACTION EAP-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-05	SS-01	CIAE-00	DODE-00	H-01
	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-01	PA-01
	OMB-01	INRE-00	OCS-06	CA-02	ANAE-00	USIE-00	SP-01
	SNP-01	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-03	P-02	T-01	/041 W

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P 221110Z JUN 90
 FM AMCONSUL MEDAN
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4351
 INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY
 AMCONSUL SURABAYA PRIORITY
 USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY 0030

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 MEDAN 00292

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PGOV, PINS, OADR
 SUBJECT: UPDATE ON ACEH UNREST JUNE 22, 1990

REFS: A) MEDAN 277 B) MEDAN 267 AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY

 1. (C) LOCAL NEWS MEDIA REPORT CONTINUED INCIDENTS OF SHOOTINGS OF POLICE IN ACEH PROVINCE. THE KODAM I MILITARY COMMAND PRESENTED A BRIEFING IN WHICH INCIDENTS OF TERROR OR INTIMIDATION AGAINST CIVILIANS BY ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES IN THE LAST MONTH WERE LISTED. THE BRIEFING CONCLUDED THAT THE MILITARY IS ONE WITH THE PEOPLE, AND SHOULD DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO ENSURE SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN ACEH.

B1

REPORTS IN THE MEDIA

4. (U) ALL MAJOR NEWSPAPERS ON JUNE 19 COVERED A LENGTHY PRESS BRIEFING BY THE ACTING CHIEF OF THE INFORMATION SECTION OF KODAM I/BB, WHICH INCLUDES ACEH PROVINCE. THE BRIEFING OFFICER ANNOUNCED THAT THREE CIVILIANS WERE SHOT BY ANTI GOVERNMENT FORCES (GPK) AT 1:30 A.M. JUNE 17 AS THEY WATCHED THE WORLD CUP SOCCER TOURNAMENT ON TV AT A NORTH ACEH POLICE STATION; ONE DIED. HE THEN GAVE A CHRONOLOGY OF RECENT INCIDENTS OF TERROR OR INTIMIDATION BY GPK IN ACEH AS FOLLOWS:

- MAY 13, 10:00 A.M. 8 GPK MEMBERS WITH TWO FIREARMS ENTERED A TRANSMIGRATION LOCATION AT SEUNEBUK RAMBONG VILLAGE IN NORTH ACEH. THEY ROUGHED UP A YOUNG TRANSMIGRANT AND THREATENED TO KILL ALL THE TRANSMIGRANTS IF THEY DID NOT RETURN TO THEIR PLACE OF ORIGIN. THE NEXT DAY, SEVERAL TRANSMIGRANTS LEFT THE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEDAN 00292 01 OF 03 221124Z

SITE.

- MAY 15, 4:00 P.M. A TRANSMIGRANT FROM A DIFFERENT SITE WAS INTERCEPTED ON HIS WAY HOME FROM THE FIELD BY FOUR GPK MEMBERS WHO ORDERED ALL TRANSMIGRANTS TO LEAVE OR BE KILLED.

- MAY 21, 11:30 A.M. GPK MEMBERS ON A MOTORBIKE SHOT A NORTH ACEH FISHERMAN IN THE CHEST.

- MAY 24, 3:30 P.M. AN HERBAL MEDICINE VENDOR WAS FOUND DEAD NEAR LHOKSEUMAWA. HIS NECK HAD BEEN TIED AND HEAD CHOPPED ALMOST OFF.

MAY 26, 12:00 A.M. TWO GPK MEMBERS SHOT A NORTH ACEH LEGISLATURE (DPRD) MEMBER IN THE ARM.

- JUNE 7, 8:00 P.M. A PROMINENT RESIDENT OF A TOWN NEAR SIGLI WAS SHOT AND KILLED BY GPK.

JUNE 9, 7:15 P.M. A SCHOOL SECRETARY IN A NEIGHBORING TOWN NEAR SIGLI WAS SHOT IN THE THIGH BY GPK.

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JUNE 14, 8:00 P.M. A NORTH ACEH RESIDENT WAS KILLED BY A SHOT FIRED BY THREE GPK MEMBERS ON A MOTORBIKE.

- JUNE 15, 1:30 A.M. A NORTH ACEH FARMER WAS SHOT IN THE SIDE BY GPK MEMBERS ON AN UNMARKED MOTORBIKE.

- JUNE 15, 7:30 P.M. EIGHT GPK MEMBERS WITH THREE FIREARMS STOPPED A TIMBER TRUCK IN EAST ACEH. THEY ROUGHED UP THE DRIVER AND HIS ASSISTANT, SEIZED THEIR ID CARDS, AND BURNED THE TRUCK. A JEEP THAT WAS PASSING BY AT THE TIME WAS ALSO STOPPED. THE DRIVER'S ID CARD WAS TAKEN, AND THE JEEP SHOT AT.

5. (U) THE KODAM BRIEFING OFFICER SAID THAT GPK MORALE IS LOW AND THEY ARE COWARDLY, BECAUSE THEY ARE SMALL IN NUMBER, WITHOUT PROPER EQUIPMENT, AND LACK THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE. HE SAID THE FOLLOWING CASE ILLUSTRATES HIS POINT:

- ON MAY 21, 35 GPK MEMBERS ATTEMPTED TO FORCE AN EAST ACEH TRANSMIGRANT GROUP OF 60 FAMILIES TO LEAVE ACEH. WHEN THE FAMILIES, UNDER THEIR VILLAGE CHIEF, REFUSED TO GO, THE GPK MEN THREATENED TO BURN DOWN THEIR HOUSES. WHEN THE TRANSMIGRANTS

CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEDAN 00292 02 OF 03 221126Z
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INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-05	SS-01	CIAE-00	DODE-00	H-01
	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-01	PA-01
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P 221110Z JUN 90
FM AMCONSUL MEDAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4352
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY
AMCONSUL SURABAYA PRIORITY
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY 0031

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 MEDAN 00292

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, OADR
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON ACEH UNREST - JUNE 22, 1990

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STILL REFUSED, THE GPK MEN FLED.

6. (U) THE KODAM BRIEFING OFFICER ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOI AND ABRI (MILITARY) HAVE DETERMINED THAT, AS ABRI IS ONE WITH THE PEOPLE, IT WILL NOT TOLERATE THOUGHTS AND ACTIONS THAT DISTURB THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE PEOPLE. ABRI WILL SACRIFICE EVERYTHING FOR THE SAKE OF THE CONTINUITY AND SMOOTH FLOW OF DEVELOPMENT IN ACEH. THE PEOPLE WERE REQUESTED TO REMAIN ALERT AND REPORT TO THE AUTHORITIES ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS.

7. (U) THE MEDAN DAILY SINAR INDONESIA BARU REPORTED THE JUNE 18 MURDER OF A NORTH ACEH RESIDENT. HE WAS KILLED BY CHOP
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEDAN 00292 02 OF 03 221126Z

WOUNDS FROM AN UNKNOWN ASSAILANT ABOUT MIDNIGHT AS HE WALKED HOME. SINAR INDONESIA BARU REPORTED THE JUNE 20 SHOOTING OF A POLICE MASTER SERGEANT BY THE GPK NEAR MOBIL OIL'S "POINT A" LANDING. HE WAS REPORTEDLY SHOT IN THE HEAD WHILE RIDING A MOTORBIKE AT ABOUT 10 A.M., AND TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL BY LOCAL RESIDENTS. HE WAS THEN SENT BY A MOBIL OIL PLANE TO A MEDAN HOSPITAL FOR FURTHER TREATMENT.

RECENT EVENTS

8. (U) THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY OF THE KODAM I/BB COMMAND WAS HELD IN MEDAN JUNE 20. THE NEW COMMANDER, BRIG. GENERAL H.R. PRAMONO (REF A), WAS NOT PRESENT, BUT THE ARMY DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, LT. GENERAL A. SAHALA RAJAGUKGUK, OFFICIATED AT THE LENGTHY EVENT HE DELIVERED A LONG SPEECH, IN WHICH HE INSTRUCTED KODAM MEMBERS AT ALL LEVELS TO MONITOR SOCIAL PROBLEMS AT AN EARLY STAGE AND PREVENT THEM FROM DEVELOPING INTO SECURITY OR DEFENSE PROBLEMS.

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9. (C) [REDACTED] COMMENTED THAT TWO ELEMENTS OF THE ANNUAL CEREMONY WERE NEW THIS YEAR: ETHNIC DANCES FROM EACH OF THE PROVINCES ENCOMPASSED BY KODAM I, LED BY AN ACEHNESE DANCE; AND, A CRISP RIFLE DRILL BY A RANGER PLATOON WHICH CLIMAXED IN A 60 GUN SALUTE THAT SHOOK THE AUDIENCE, FOLLOWED BY A BARE-CHESTED MARTIAL ARTS DEMONSTRATION PERFORMED BY A SECOND RANGER PLATOON.

B1

B1

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEDAN 00292 02 OF 03 221126Z

THAT A 10 P.M. CURFEW HAD BEEN IMPOSED IN THE CITY. THE LATEST RUMORS SAID THAT 150 M-16S HAD BEEN SMUGGLED INTO THE KRUENG RAYA PORT ABOUT 30 KM EAST OF BANDA ACEH, AND THAT "45 TERRORISTS WERE IN BANDA ACEH". NO SOURCE OR FURTHER DETAILS ON THE RUMORS WERE AVAILABLE. THE AMCIT ALSO REPORTED THAT HIS DRIVER WAS AFRAID TO LET THEM LEAVE THE HOUSE AT NIGHT. THEY PERSONALLY DID NOT FEEL ANY DANGER.

11. (C) AN EXPAT LIVING IN SIGLI REPORTED THAT HE HAD HEARD OF FREQUENT, BUT ISOLATED, ATTACKS ON MEMBERS OF THE POLICE AND MILITARY SINCE MARCH. SIMILAR ATTACKS HAD OCCURRED SINCE HIS ARRIVAL LAST YEAR - AT WHICH TIME A POLICE CHIEF AND HIS ASSOCIATE WERE SHOT IN TIRO, SOUTH OF SIGLI - BUT THEIR FREQUENCY IS NOW HIGHER. AN INDONESIA ASSOCIATE OF HIS WAS WOUNDED RECENTLY WHEN HIS VEHICLE FAILED TO STOP AT A ROADBLOCK SOUTH OF SIGLI. HIS INDONESIA OFFICE MANAGER REPORTED THAT A BUS HE WAS RIDING FROM MEDAN WAS STOPPED AT THE ACEH BORDER BY SOLDIERS, AND THE PASSENGERS SEARCHED AT GUNPOINT FOR WEAPONS. THIS IS A REGULAR OCCURRANCE, ACCORDING TO THE MANAGER.

12. (C) IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS, ONE POLICEMAN WAS MURDERED IN SIGLI WHILE DRINKING COFFEE, AND ANOTHER WAS STABBED IN A NEARBY TOWN. A THIRD PERSON WAS STABBED FOR BEING AN "INFORMER". IN SIGLI, A NIGHT WATCH (JAGA MALAM) HAS BEEN INSTITUTED BY THE LOCAL POLICE CHIEF. ITS MEMBERS ARE NOT POLICE, BUT HAVE RECEIVED PARAMILITARY TRAINING. EXTRA SECURITY HAS ALSO BEEN PLACED AT THE WAREHOUSE OF A COMPANY WHERE DYNAMITE IS STORED ABOUT 14 KM FROM BANDA ACEH. DESPITE HIS PROXIMITY TO THESE INCIDENTS, THE EXPAT HAS HIMSELF WITNESSED NO VIOLENCE. HE SAID HE DRIVES BETWEEN BANDA ACEH

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AND SIGLI SOME NIGHTS, AND HAS NEVER SEEN A ROADBLOCK.

13. (C) [REDACTED] INFORMED ACTING P.O. THAT
A HIGH LEVEL POLICE CONTACT TOLD HIM OF TWO UNSUCCESSFUL

B1

CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEDAN 00292 03 OF 03 221139Z
ACTION EAP-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-05	SS-01	CIAE-00	DODE-00	H-01
	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-01	PA-01
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P 221110Z JUN 90
 FM AMCONSUL MEDAN
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4353
 INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY
 AMCONSUL SURABAYA PRIORITY
 USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY 0032

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 MEDAN 00292

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
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REFS: A) MEDAN 277 B) MEDAN 267 AND PREVIOUS

ATTEMPTS TO STEAL REVOLVERS FROM POLICEMEN IN NORTH SUMATRA IN
 THE PAST WEEK. ONE INCIDENT OCCURRED ALONG THE NORTHERN COAST,
 NOT FAR FROM THE ACEH BORDER; THE OTHER OCCURRED IN BINJAI,

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NEAR MEDAN. THE POLICE CONTACT INSISTED THAT THE PERPETRATORS OF THE ATTEMPTS WERE GPK MEMBERS.

14. (C) TWO AMCITS WORKING AT THE MOBIL-ARUN COMPLEX IN LHOKSEUMAWA REPORTED HAVING HEARD THAT TWO SOLDIERS OR POLICE WERE KILLED OVER THE JUNE 16-17 WEEKEND BETWEEN MOBIL WELL CLUSTERS THREE AND FOUR. A THIRD WAS SHOT JUNE 20 NEAR POINT A (AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS), TAKEN TO THE MOBIL HOSPITAL, AND SENT BY MOBIL PLANE TO MEDAN. THEY HEARD THAT HE DIED EN ROUTE. THERE ARE NOW "MORE MILITARY THAN EVER" AROUND THE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEDAN 00292 03 OF 03 221139Z

MOBIL-ARUN SITE, THEY SAID, 130-140 SOLDIERS, COMPARED TO THE 13-14 NORMALLY STATIONED THERE. A 6 P.M. TO 6 A.M. CURFEW IS IN EFFECT IN THE VILLAGES AROUND THE SITE; LOCAL STAFF WHO WORK AFTER-HOURS SHIFTS RECEIVE AN ARMED ESCORT TO AND FROM THE JOB-SITE.

15. (C) THE AMCITS SAID THAT EVERYONE IS NERVOUS AS A RESULT OF CONTINUED INCIDENTS IN THEIR IMMEDIATE AREA. LOCAL STAFF, BOTH ACEHNESE AND NON-ACEHNESE, ARE MORE NERVOUS THAN EXPATS. MOST WILL NOT LEAVE THEIR HOMES AT NIGHT, EVEN TO ATTEND COMPANY FUNCTIONS. EXPAT STAFF WOULD BE MORE WORRIED IF THEIR WIVES AND FAMILIES WERE STILL IN LHOKSEUMAWA, BUT AN ESTIMATED 80 PERCENT OF THE DEPENDENTS HAVE LEFT THE COUNTRY FOR SUMMER VACATION. MOBIL HAS "POLISHED UP" ITS EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN, WHICH HAD NOT BEEN REVISED SINCE THE EARLY 1980'S, BUT THERE WAS NO INTENTION OF IMPLEMENTING IT UNLESS THE SITUATION SIGNIFICANTLY WORSENS.

INDEPENDENTLY PREDICTED THAT PUBLIC DISSATISFACTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BOIL OVER, EVENTUALLY, INTO WIDESPREAD OPEN REVOLT - NOT JUST IN ACEH, BUT NATIONWIDE. THE ACEH RESIDENT OBSERVED, HOWEVER, THAT RECENTLY THE GOVERNMENT SEEMS TO BE PUTTING MONEY BACK INTO THE PROVINCE. ROADS, FOR EXAMPLE, ARE

CONFIDENTIAL

B1

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEDAN 00292 03 OF 03 221139Z

BEING REPAIRED AND WIDENED. IF THIS IS A TREND, THE AMCIT ADDED, IT MAY ALLEVIATE PUBLIC RESENTMENT.

COMMENT

18. (C) THE FREQUENCY AND INTENSITY OF VIOLENT INCIDENTS IN ACEH DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE LET UP, NOR ARE THERE SIGNS THAT IT HAS SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED. AS REPORTED IN PREVIOUS CABLES, POLICE, MILITARY PERSONNEL AND "INFORMANTS" SEEM TO BE THE CHIEF TARGETS OF ANTI GOVERNMENT ATTACKS. THERE IS NO INFORMATION ON WHAT, IF ANY, REPRISALS ABRI AND/OR THE POLICE ARE TAKING AGAINST SUSPECTED ANTI GOVERNMENT PEOPLE, BUT IF THE REPORTS OF ROADBLOCK SHOOTINGS AND HARASSMENT OF LOCALS DURING ID SWEEPS ARE AN INDICATION, THE MILITARY COULD BE ADDING TO ACEHNESE RESENTMENT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. VISIBLE DEVELOPMENT WORK, SUCH AS THAT NOTICED BY THE AMCIT OBSERVER IN ACEH, MAY MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THIS NEGATIVE SPIRAL. THE REPORTED ATTEMPTS TO STEAL WEAPONS IN NORTH SUMATRA ARE THE FIRST INDICATION THAT VIOLENCE MAY SPILL ACROSS THE ACEH BORDER.

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