

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

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ACTION INM-07

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-07	SS-00	OIC-02	CIAE-00
	EB-00	DODE-00	IO-19	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	COME-00	L-03
	CTME-00	TRSE-00	PM-10	EAP-00	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00
	OCS-06	AGRE-00	CA-02	USIE-00	JUSE-00	DEAE-00	SP-02
	DOEE-00	DS-01	OIG-04	SCT-02	P-02	/069 W	

-----060525 310323Z /64

P R 310231Z MAY 89
 FM AMCONSUL MEDAN
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4123
 INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
 AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
 AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MEDAN 00288

E.O. 12356: OADR
 TAGS: SNAR, PGOV, ID
 SUBJECT: KILLING OF TWO SOLDIERS LINKED TO ANTI-GANJA CAMPAIGN

REFS (A) MEDAN 179 (B) MEDAN 172

1. (C) ON THE NIGHT OF MAY 25, TWO SOLDIERS WHO HAD ASSISTED IN THE RECENT NILA-I GANJA ERADICATION PROGRAM WERE AMBUSHED AND KILLED IN ACEH'S PIDIE DISTRICT AFTER VISITING THE SCENE, THE REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDER HAS DISPATCHED TROOPS TO TRY TO FIND THE ASSAILANTS FOR THE LONGER TERM, THE DILEMMA FOR THE ARMY IS WHETHER TO COMMIT ITS TROOPS ON A REGULAR BASIS TO COMBAT ACEH'S LARGEST GANJA SYNDICATE, WHICH INCLUDES FORMER- AND PERHAPS CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE HASAN TIRO REBELLIOUS MOVEMENT IN ITS LEADERSHIP. UP TO NOW, ANTI GANJA EFFORTS HAVE BEEN HANDLED PRIMARILY BY THE POLICE, WHO HAVE BEEN LARGELY INEFFECTIVE DUE TO A LACK OF RESOURCES AND CORRUPTION. END SUMMARY.

DETACHMENT COMMANDER AND ASSISTANT AMBUSHED ON ACEH ROAD
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2. (LOU) JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT ON MAY 25, THE FIRST LIEUTENANT IN CHARGE OF THE MILITARY DETACHMENT FOR THE SUBDISTRICT OF

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TIRO IN ACEH PROVINCE'S PIDIE DISTRICT, AND A PRIVATE WERE GUNNED DOWN AS THEY WERE RIDING A MOTORCYCLE HOME A MILE DOWN THE ROAD FROM A COMMUNITY MEETING THEY HAD ATTENDED ACCORDING TO THE ARMED FORCES (ABRI), THE MEETING WAS ABOUT REPAIRING A BRIDGE, AND ENDED AT THE UNUSUALLY LATE HOUR OF 11 P.M. THE TWO HAD ASSISTED IN THE POLICE FORCES' NILA-I GANJA ERADICATION CAMPAIGN (REFTELS), WHICH HAD RESULTED IN THE DESTRUCTION OF GANJA FIELDS, AND THE ARREST OF LOCAL PEOPLE BELIEVED TO BE INVOLVED IN GROWING AND TRAFFICKING

KODAM COMMANDER VISITS SCENE, DISPATCHES TROOPS

3. (U) THE FOLLOWING MORNING, MAY 26, THE MILITARY COMMANDER FOR NORTHERN SUMATRA, MAJOR GENERAL DJOKO PRAMONO, IMMEDIATELY LEFT MEDAN TO TRAVEL TO THE SCENE OF THE INCIDENT, 134 KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF BANDA ACEH. EXERCISING HIS SUPREME AUTHORITY AS REGIONAL CHAIRMAN OF BAKORSTANAS (THE NATIONAL STABILITY AND COORDINATING BODY), HE DIRECTED THE INITIAL INVESTIGATION, AND ATTENDED THE SOLDIERS' FUNERALS.

4. (U) TALKING TO REPORTERS AT BANDA ACEH'S AIRPORT ON MAY 27, GENERAL PRAMONO SAID THAT BULLET CASINGS FROM AN OLD-FASHIONED "L.E. HALL" TYPE RIFLE WERE FOUND AT THE SCENE, AND THAT THE SOLDIERS WERE KILLED AT CLOSE RANGE. THE ASSAILANTS TOOK THEIR WEAPONS A STEN GUN AND A .46 CALIBRE PISTOL. THE GENERAL REPORTED THAT WHEN HE HAD VISITED, EVERYTHING APPEARED CALM. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS DISPATCHING TROOPS TO TRY TO FIND THE ATTACKERS.

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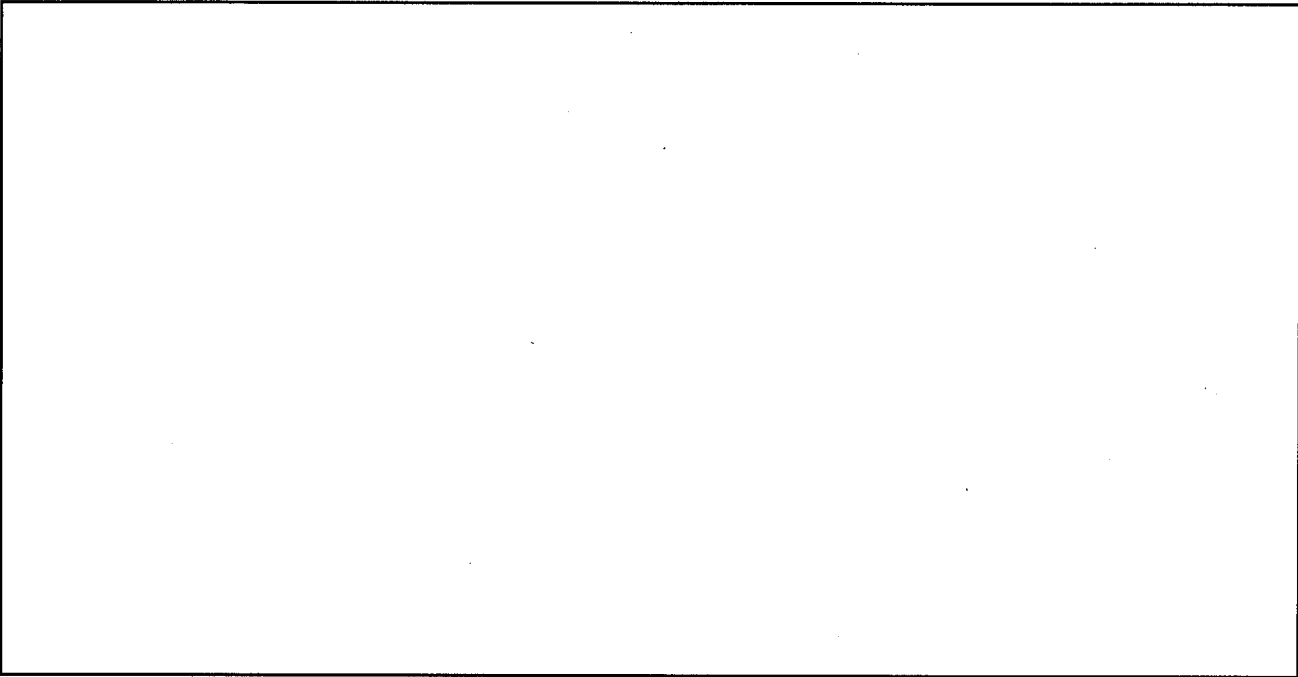
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--AND BELITTLES POSSIBILITY OF LINK TO SEPARATIST REBELLION

5. (U) PRAMONO REPEATEDLY REJECTED REPORTERS' SUGGESTIONS THAT THE ATTACK MIGHT HAVE BEEN PROMPTED BY THE RECENT SHOOTING BY SECURITY FORCES OF A LOCAL MAN NAMED ZAINUDDIN, WHO WAS IDENTIFIED AS "COMMANDER SAGOE" OF THE HASAN TIRO REBELLIOUS MOVEMENT. THE GENERAL SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE MURDERS WERE COMMITTED BY PERSONS CONNECTED WITH THE "GANJA MAFIA", AND PLEADED WITH THE PRESS NOT TO BE CARRIED AWAY WITH BLOWING UP THE INCIDENT.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

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P R 310231Z MAY 89
FM AMCONSUL MEDAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4124
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MEDAN 00288

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9. (C) THE MAIN U.S. INTEREST IN ACEH IS NATURAL GAS EXPLORATION AND LNG PRODUCTION BY MOBIL OIL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PERTAMINA, AND THE WELFARE OF THE 250 AMERICANS LIVING IN THE LHOKSEUMAWE AREA WHERE MOBIL IS BASED. BECAUSE ACEH IS A DEVOUT MUSLIM LAND THAT OCCASIONALLY PRODUCES FANATICS, OUT OF CONCERN FOR THE SAFETY OF THESE AMERICANS IN PARTICULAR, WE SHOULD AVOID PROVIDING ASSISTANCE THAT MIGHT BE SEEN AS COLLABORATING IN GANJA ERRADICATION EFFORTS THERE. NONE OF THIS GANJA IS REACHING THE U.S.

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WHILE IT IS DIFFICULT TO GAUGE HOW MUCH INCREASED GANJA PRODUCTION IS TAKING PLACE IN ACEH, THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF FARMERS THERE CONTINUE TO BE INVOLVED IN TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURE, LARGELY CENTERED AROUND RICE FARMING. OUR INTERESTS WOULD BE BEST SERVED BY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE THAT HELPS TO RAISE THE STANDARD OF LIVING IN ACEH'S POOR REMOTE AREAS WHERE THE GANJA GROWING OCCURS.

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