

PTQ1888

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)

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ACTION EAP-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	AID-00	ACQ-01	CA-02	CIAE-00
	SMEC-00	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00
	FBIE-00	H-01	IM-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01
	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OIC-02	OMB-01
	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	CIO-00	SP-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-04	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/028W

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O 140826Z MAY 98
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1529
INFO ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 JAKARTA 002689

DEPARTMENT FOR MONITORING WORKING GROUP, S/S-0 (CRISIS MANAGEMENT CENTER), EAP/PIMBS

USCINCPAC FOR FPA AMB TEARE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/15/08
TAGS: PINS, CASC, PHUM, PGOV, ID
SUBJECT: MGIDO1: KEY FORMER MINISTER SPEAKS OF SOEHARTO'S
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: CHARLES E LAHIGUERA
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 13 MAY 2023
DATE/CASE ID: 19 JUN 2006 200502473

UNCLASSIFIED

1. CLASSIFIED BY POLCOUNS ED MCWILLIAMS, REASON: 1.5 (D).

2. (U) FORMER MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS RUDINI, AN INFLUENTIAL RETIRED MILITARY LEADER AND REGIME CRITIC, INVITED POLCOUNS TO CALL ON HIM MAY 14 AND PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING READOUT ON CURRENT RAPIDLY CHANGING DEVELOPMENTS.

3. (C) RUDINI SAID THAT HE MET WITH [REDACTED] MAY 13 AND TOLD HIM BLUNTLY THAT IT WAS NOW TIME FOR ABRI TO CHOOSE. EITHER ABRI WOULD SIDE WITH THE PEOPLE, OR SIDE WITH THE PRESIDENT AND, ALONG WITH THE PRESIDENT, "GO DOWN TO DEFEAT." RUDINI, NOTING THAT HE HAS HAD A CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH

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[REDACTED]

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ACCORDING TO RUDINI, THE FIRST QUESTION ON THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF [REDACTED] GENERALS WAS, WHETHER TO INFORM PRESIDENT SOEHARTO, NOW ENROUTE BACK TO INDONESIA FROM EGYPT, THAT ABRI COULD NOT ASSURE HIS SAFETY IF HE RETURNED.

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4. (C) RUDINI SAID HE HAS ALSO TOLD GENERAL [REDACTED] THAT ABRI SHOULD STAND ASIDE AS "TENS OF THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS" MARCH TO THE PARLIAMENT ON THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 14. HE EXPLAINED THAT THIS WOULD ENTAIL EITHER GUARDING THEIR LINE OF MARCH OR SIMPLY NOT INTERFERING WITH THE MARCH. RUDINI SAID THAT WERE THERE TO BE SUCH A LARGE GATHERING, IT WOULD PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR A [REDACTED] MESSAGE TO SOEHARTO THAT HE COULD NOT GUARANTEE HIS SECURITY.

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5. (C) RUDINI CLAIMED THAT MOST OF ABRI, "RIGHT DOWN TO THE BOTTOM RANKS," WANTED THE PRESIDENT TO STEP DOWN IMMEDIATELY. HE

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

7. (C) RUDINI SAID THAT STUDENTS AND ACADEMICS HAD APPROACHED HIM ABOUT SERVING AS A REPLACEMENT FOR SOEHARTO. HE NOTED THAT HE HAD ABRI'S TRUST, AND SPECIFICALLY THAT OF [REDACTED] RUDINI TOLD POLCOUNS HE WAS READY TO ASSUME THIS ROLE. HE SAID THAT HE ANTICIPATED THAT IN A TRANSITION SCENARIO, VICE PRESIDENT HABIBIE WOULD REPLACE SOEHARTO "FOR ONE DAY," AND THAT A SESSION OF THE PEOPLE'S CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY WOULD REPLACE HABIBIE WITH HIMSELF (RUDINI). RUDINI SAID HE BELIEVED HE WOULD HAVE STUDENT SUPPORT AND WOULD ENSURE THAT BY OFFERING STUDENTS SIX MONTHS OF STIPENDS FOR TUITION AND LIVING EXPENSES. RUDINI BELIEVED HE WOULD ALSO HAVE SUPPORT OF MAJOR OPPOSITION FIGURES, ESPECIALLY

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 IF HE AGREED TO SUPPORT A REFORM AGENDA, INCLUDING REFORM OF THE FIVE POLITICAL LAWS, SO THAT THERE COULD BE A "REALLY DEMOCRATIC ELECTION" IN 2002. RUDINI ENVISAGED HIMSELF SERVING AS PRESIDENT UNTIL 2002.

8. (C) RUDINI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOME MIGHT OPPOSE HIM AS A TRANSITION PRESIDENT, NOTABLY ISLAMIC ELEMENTS SUCH AS AMIEN RAIS, ADI SASONO AND POSSIBLY HABIBIE HIMSELF. HE NOTED THE POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH AN ISLAMIC FORCE MIGHT DRAW SUPPORT FROM PRABOWO, BUT IN THE END, CONSIDERED THE FORCES DRAWN UP IN HIS SUPPORT TO ENSURE THAT "ANY OBJECTION COULD BE OVERCOME."

9. (C) POLCOUNS REITERATED U.S. POLICY OF NO INVOLVEMENT IN THE INTERNAL POLITICS OF INDONESIA BUT SUPPORT FOR THE HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS OF THOSE WHO SOUGHT TO BRING ABOUT REFORM THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS. RUDINI SAID HE WAS WELL AWARE OF THIS AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE EMBASSY'S ROLE IN RECENT MONTHS.

10. (C) COMMENT: RUDINI'S ACCOUNT OF HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH

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[REDACTED] IS PLAUSIBLE ON ITS FACE, ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN OF ITS PARTICULARS. IT IS WORTH NOTING THOUGH THAT A LARGE STUDENT DEMONSTRATION INDEED MATERIALIZED ON MAY 14 AND THAT THE SECURITY FORCES HAVE THUS FAR (AS OF 2:00 P.M.) DONE NOTHING TO IMPEDE ITS MOVEMENTS TOWARD THE MPR. AS FOR RUDINI'S SUPPOSED PRESIDENTIAL AMBITIONS, WE WOULD RATE HIM ONLY AS A VERY

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