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B1, 1.4(D)

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ACTION EAP-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	AID-00	AIT-03	AMAD-01	ACQ-01
	CA-02	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EB-00	ED-01	FBIE-00	FRB-00	HHS-01	H-01
	IM-01	SSA-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	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-01
	DRL-04	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/035W		

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O 171228Z MAY 98  
 FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1581  
 DEPTTREAS WASHDC  
 INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING  
 ASEAN COLLECTIVE  
 AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
 AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
 AIT TAIPEI 0703  
 USMISSION GENEVA  
 AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
 USDOC WASHDC  
 USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
 AMCONSUL SURABAYA

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: CHARLES E LAHIGUERA  
 CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)  
 DECLASSIFY AFTER: 10 OCT 2020  
 DATE/CASE ID: 06 DEC 2006 200503180

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DEPARTMENT FOR TFIDO1

S/S-O OPERATIONS CENTER FOR FINANCIAL CRISIS WORKING GROUP

CINCPAC FOR FPA TEARE .

STATE FOR EAP/PIMBS, EB/OMA/ AND INR/IL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 5/08/2008

TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, SOCI, SCUL, CASC, PINR, ID

SUBJECT: TFIDO1: SHIFTS IN SENIOR MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CABINET POSITIONS (5/17)

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY POLCOUNS ED MCWILLIAMS, REASON: 1.5(D) .
2. (C) SUMMARY: THE ARMED FORCES MET ON THE MORNING OF MAY 17 TO RESOLVE TENSIONS BETWEEN THE FACTIONS LED BY DEFENSE MINISTER/CINC WIRANTO AND STRATEGIC RESERVE COMMANDER PRABOWO, ACCORDING TO A SENIOR GOLKAR FIGURE. THE SOURCES SAID THAT ABRI WAS FACED WITH TWO ALTERNATIVES: TO BROADEN WIRANTO'S MANDATE (UNCLEAR EXACTLY HOW) OR TO CHOOSE A NEW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF WHO WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH FACTIONS. BY THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 17, LOCAL JOURNALISTS WERE REPORTING THAT WIRANTO HAD BEEN REMOVED AS CINC BUT WOULD RETAIN HIS DEFENSE MINISTER PORTFOLIO. THERE ARE ALSO INCREASINGLY RELIABLE REPORTS THAT A POWERFUL INTERNAL SECURITY AGENCY WOULD BE RE-CREATED, POSSIBLY UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PRABOWO. WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE CABINET RESHUFFLE COULD BE ANNOUNCED ON THE MORNING OF MAY 18. THE ARMED FORCES AND AN ELITE MUSLIM ORGANIZATION (ICMI) APPEAR TO AGREE THAT THE PRESIDENT'S ELDEST DAUGHTER "TUTUT", CRONY BOB HASAN, AND RETIRED GENERAL HARTONO SHOULD BE REPLACED. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD THAT ICMI  
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ACTIVISTS ADI SASONO, AMIEN RAIS AND NURCHOLISH MADJID HAVE BEEN OFFERED SPOTS IN THE CABINET, BUT THAT ICMI TURNED THE DEAL DOWN BECAUSE OF OBJECTIONS FROM RAIS.

REPLACEMENT OF COMMANDER IN CHIEF  
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3. (C) A SENIOR GOLKAR FIGURE [REDACTED] TOLD POLOFF MAY 17 THAT ABRI MET ON THE MORNING OF MAY 17 TO RESOLVE TENSIONS WITHIN ABRI OVER RIVAL PRABOWO AND WIRANTO FACTIONS. THE SOURCE

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SAID THAT ABRI WAS FACED WITH TWO ALTERNATIVES: TO BROADEN WIRANTO'S MANDATE IN ORDER TO END FACTIONALISM WITHIN ABRI (UNCLEAR EXACTLY HOW), OR TO CHOOSE A NEW COMMANDER IN CHIEF WHO WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH FACTIONS. LOCAL JOURNALIST SOURCES REPORT AS OF LATE MAY 17 THAT WIRANTO HAS BEEN REMOVED AS COMMANDER IN CHIEF BUT THAT HE RETAINS HIS POSITION AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE. A SOURCE WITH CLOSE TIES TO THE ARMED FORCES REPORTED THAT THE ABRI LEADERSHIP ISSUE WOULD BE RESOLVED WHEN SOEHARTO ANNOUNCED THE CABINET "RESHUFFLE," WHICH COULD COME AS EARLY AS THE MORNING OF MONDAY MAY 18.

CABINET RESHUFFLE  
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4. (C) THE SENIOR GOLKAR SOURCE ALSO NOTED THAT MINISTER OF TOURISM, ARTS AND CULTURE ABDUL LATIEF RESIGNED MAY 17. LATIEF WAS ONE OF EIGHT CURRENT CABINET MEMBERS THAT ABRI SUPPOSEDLY WANTED PURGED, ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATS. IN ADDITION TO LATIEF, THEY INCLUDED MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS SITI RUKMANA HARDIYANTI (TUTUT, THE PRESIDENT'S ELDEST DAUGHTER), MINISTER OF TRADE BOB HASAN, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS HARTONO, MINISTER OF EDUCATION WIRANTO ARISMUNANDAR, STATE MINISTER FOR FOOD, DRUGS, AND HORTICULTURE HARYANTO DHANUTIRTO, AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION

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ALWI DAHLAN. ANOTHER SOURCE REPORTED THAT UP TO 20 MEMBERS COULD BE REPLACED, AND THAT IT WAS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT SOME WOULD SIMPLY SWITCH MINISTRIES.

5. (U) SOEHARTO'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO RE-SHUFFLE HIS CABINET CREATED SCANT ENTHUSIASM IN MOST POLITICAL CIRCLES. FORMER ENVIRONMENT MINISTER SARWONO SAID PUBLICLY THAT HE WAS "NOT IMPRESSED," SOEHARTO SHOULD HAVE ANNOUNCED A GOOD CABINET FROM THE BEGINNING. THIS MOVE WOULD NOT SOLVE ANY PROBLEMS. HE RECOMMENDED THAT SOEHARTO STEP DOWN INSTEAD, SAYING "AS A FORMER AIDE OF HIS, I WILL BE SAD AND I PITY HIM IF HE STAYS FOR HIS OWN INTERESTS BECAUSE WE ALREADY KNOW THAT HE'S INCREASINGLY BECOMING PART OF THE PROBLEM." FORMER MINISTER FRANS SEDA SAID "IT'S TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE," AND ANOTHER FORMER MINISTER, SUBROTO, SAID THAT AN ENTIRELY NEW GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT, WAS NEEDED. AMIEN RAIS SAID THAT A CABINET RESHUFFLE WAS NOT SUFFICIENT BECAUSE THE PEOPLE WERE DEMANDING THAT SOEHARTO STEP DOWN.

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TOLD POLOFF MAY 17 THAT MINISTER OF DEFENSE/ARMED FORCES COMMANDER WIRANTO HAD BEEN PUT IN CHARGE OF THE CABINET RE-SHUFFLE, AND WAS PREPARED TO OFFER SPOTS TO THREE ICMI MEMBERS, SECRETARY GENERAL ADI SASONO, AMIEN RAIS, AND

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POSITIONS (5/17)

NURCHOLISH MADJID. ADI SASONO WAS ALSO TOLD HE COULD GIVE AS  
MUCH INPUT AS HE WANTED ON OTHER SPOTS. IN ADDITION TO SEVERAL  
OF THE MEMBERS THAT BRI WAS TRYING TO HAVE REPLACED (PARA. 4),  
ICMI ALSO SOUGHT THE REMOVAL OF MINISTER OF FINANCE FUAD  
BAWAZIER.

7. (C) SASONO WAS PREPARED TO TAKE THIS DEAL, ACCORDING TO THIS  
SOURCE, AS A WAY TO ACHIEVE A COMPROMISE (COMMENT: AND OF COURSE  
TO GAIN THE INFLUENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT THAT BELIEVED IT WAS  
DENIED BY THE FIRST FAMILY DOMINATED CABINET FORMED IN MARCH. END  
COMMENT) BUT ONLY WITH AMIEN RAIS' ENDORSEMENT. ALSO, SASONO  
THOUGHT THAT RAIS SHOULD ENTER THE SUPREME ADVISORY COUNCIL (DPA)  
RATHER THAN THE CABINET. AT FIRST, IT SEEMED THAT RAIS WOULD GO  
ALONG, BUT ON THE MORNING OF MAY 17, AFTER MEETING WITH HIS  
ADVISORS IN YOGYAKARTA, RAIS INFORMED SASONO THAT HE DID NOT WANT

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TO ENTER THE GOVERNMENT AND REJECTED THE DEAL. AFTERWARD, SASONO COMMUNICATED TO WIRANTO, VIA SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HARMOKO, THAT ICMI WOULD NOT GO ALONG WITH THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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8. (C) SOEHARTO COULD HAVE DIFFICULTY PERSUADING SERIOUS PEOPLE TO ENTER HIS CABINET AT THIS POINT. FOR EXAMPLE, SOURCE SAID THAT SASONO HAD CALLED THE RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GADJA MADAH IN YOGYAKARTA TO SEE IF HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN BEING CONSIDERED FOR THE POST OF MINISTER OF EDUCATION. THE RECTOR REFUSED, SAYING THAT HE DID NOT WANT THE STUDENTS TO "BURN HIS HOUSE DOWN."

9. (C) SOURCE ALSO SAID THAT SASONO, WHO HAD A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH KOSTRAD COMMANDER LT. GENERAL PRABOWO, HAD "OPENED HIS EYES" AFTER THE REPORTS CIRCULATING THAT PRABOWO WAS CONNECTED TO THE KIDNAPPING OF ACTIVISTS AND THE SHOOTING OF STUDENTS AT TRISAKTI UNIVERSITY. PRABOWO AND MUSLIM LEADER AMIEN RAIS WERE SUSPICIOUS OF EACH OTHER, ESPECIALLY SINCE RAIS HAD FORMED THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL (MAR), WHICH PRABOWO VIEWED AS EXTRA-CONSTITUTIONAL AND A THREAT TO HIS OWN LEADERSHIP ASPIRATIONS.

POSSIBLE RECREATION OF POWERFUL INTERNAL SECURITY APPARATUS

10. (C) RUMORS HAVE BEEN RUNNING THROUGH JAKARTA FOR DAYS THAT SOEHARTO MIGHT RECREATE THE POWERFUL INTERNAL SECURITY AGENCY KNOWN AS KOPKAMTIB ("LAW AND ORDER RESTORATION COMMAND"). A SOURCE [REDACTED] TOLD POLOFF MAY 16 THAT SOEHARTO MIGHT BE PLANNING TO RECREATE THE KOPKAMTIB UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF GENERAL PRABOWO. ON MAY 17, POLCOUNS LEARNED FROM THE

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[REDACTED] THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN.

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