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B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

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E62

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ACTION EAP-01

INFO	LOG-00	NP-01	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	INL-01
	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	WHA-01	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00
	ED-01	EUR-01	OIGO-01	FBIE-00	HHS-01	H-01	SSA-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	AC-01
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	STR-00	TRSE-00
	USIE-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00
	MR-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/021W		

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P 131100Z AUG 99
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9309
INFO ASEAN COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION GENEVA
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//FPA
CG III MEF

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/13/04
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PHUM, PINR, KCRM, SOCI, MOPS, UN, ID
SUBJECT: EAST TIMOR: OBSERVATIONS FROM DILI

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY ACTING POLCOUNS GREGORY FERGIN; REASON 1.5(D).

2. (C) IN AN AUGUST 9-12 VISIT TO EAST TIMOR, POLOFF FOUND

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: CHARLES E LAHIGUERA
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 12 AUG 2024
DATE/CASE ID: 16 JUL 2004 200300722

[REDACTED] FOR AN AUGUST 30
 VOTE. THEY ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT NO ONE WANTS TO SEE FURTHER DELAYS. DETAILED EVIDENCE COMPILED BY UNAMET PERSONNEL, CARTER CENTER OBSERVERS, AND EAST TIMORESE NGO'S MADE VERY CLEAR THAT MILITIAS CONTINUE TO OPERATE UNFETTERED, WITH TNI PERSONNEL PLAYING INTEGRAL ROLES IN THEIR ACTIVITIES, WHILE THE RECENTLY AUGMENTED INDONESIAN POLICE FORCES REMAIN LARGELY INEFFECTIVE. ACCORDING TO THESE OBSERVERS, IN DILI AND ELSEWHERE THE OVERALL SECURITY SITUATION ACTUALLY HAS DETERIORATED SINCE LATE JULY. RANDOM SAMPLING OF ORDINARY CITIZENS' VIEWS IN DILI REVEAL INCREASINGLY VOCIFEROUS SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE AND EQUATIONS OF INDONESIAN RULE WITH LAWLESSNESS. MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVED THAT THE INDEPENDENCE SIDE EASILY WOULD PREVAIL EVEN IN A VOTE HELD UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS. A SUDDEN OFFER BY MILITIA LEADERS TO DISARM IS SEEN AS JAKARTA'S ATTEMPT TO FEND OFF GROWING PRESSURE RESULTING FROM FORMER PRESIDENT CARTER'S CRITICISM, THE TRIPARTITE MEETINGS IN JAKARTA, AND FALINTIL'S UNILATERAL CANTONMENT OF FORCES. RECENT CHANGES IN LOCAL MILITARY LEADERSHIP IN EAST TIMOR ARE NOT EXPECTED TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. END SUMMARY.

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 UNAMET "SKEPTICS"

3. (C) UNAMET [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] DESPITE THE GREAT SUCCESS OF THE REGISTRATION,
 [REDACTED] STRESSED THAT THERE WERE THREE AREAS OF CONTINUING
 CONCERN:

-- PRO-INTEGRATION MILITIA ARE STILL INTIMIDATING THE POPULATION AND OPERATING AT WILL. THERE HAS BEEN NO EFFORT TO REIN THEM IN. [REDACTED] SAID THE KILLING OF TWO STUDENTS BY MILITIA IN VIQUEQUE ON AUGUST 11, "WHILE SHOCKING, WAS NOT SURPRISING." HE SAID THE SECURITY ENVIRONMENT WAS STILL FAR TOO DANGEROUS FOR THE PRO-INDEPENDENCE SIDE TO OPERATE.

-- THE RESPONSES OF THE INDONESIAN POLICE TO INCIDENTS SUCH AS THAT IN VIQUEQUE REMAIN "FEEBLE AND INADEQUATE." POLICE ARE UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO ARREST ANY MILITIA MEMBERS OR EVEN TO OBSTRUCT THEIR ACTIVITIES. THE POLICE AUTHORITIES CONTINUED TO VIEW THE MILITIAS AS THEIR PARTNERS, NOT AS LAW BREAKERS.

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-- THERE IS OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE THAT TNI CONTINUES TO DIRECT AND PARTICIPATE IN MILITIA OPERATIONS. [REDACTED] REMARKED THAT, IN CONTACTS WITH UNAMET, LESS SOPHISTICATED TNI PERSONNEL BELOW THE DISTRICT COMMANDER LEVEL FREELY ADMIT THEIR ROLE IN THE MILITIAS. [REDACTED] ADDED THAT UNAMET HAD SEEN NUMEROUS DOCUMENTS CO-SIGNED BY LOCAL MILITARY AND MILITIA COMMANDERS. CARTER CENTER OBSERVERS ALSO HAVE COMPILED EXTENSIVE EVIDENCE OF

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CONTINUING TNI-MILITIA LINKS.

MILITIA ACTIVITY PICKING UP AGAIN

4. (C) [REDACTED] AND OTHER OBSERVERS ARGUED THAT THE OVERALL SECURITY SITUATION ACTUALLY HAD DETERIORATED SINCE LATE JULY, ESPECIALLY IN COVALIMA, BOBONARO AND LIQUICA DISTRICTS.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CONFIRMED THAT INTIMIDATION, HOUSE BURNINGS AND ROADBLOCKS RECENTLY HAD INCREASED AGAIN, WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS AND MILITIAS PRESSING PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN PRO-INTEGRATION CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES. IN DILI ITSELF, THE AITARAK MILITIA HAD BECOME MORE ACTIVE, ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT, AND CONTACTS IN THE COMORO AREA REPORTED HEARING FREQUENT GUNFIRE. POLOFF OBSERVED A LARGE, NOISY AITARAK GATHERING IN CENTRAL DILI ON AUGUST 10 AS NERVOUS LOCAL RESIDENTS, SHOPKEEPERS AND MOTORISTS STAYED WELL CLEAR OF THE AREA. EARLIER ON AUGUST 10, WHILE TRAVELING ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT, POLOFF ENCOUNTERED A DILI RESIDENT WHO HAD JUST BEEN ROBBED BY AN ARMED AITARAK MEMBER.

BUT NO ONE WANTS ANOTHER DELAY

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	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	AC-01
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	STR-00	TRSE-00

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USIE-00 ASDS-01 PMB-00 DSCC-00 PRM-01 DRL-02 G-00
 MR-00 . NFAT-00 SAS-00 SWCI-00 /021W
 -----EC1810 131126Z /22

P 131100Z AUG 99
 FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9310
 INFO ASEAN COLLECTIVE
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
 AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
 AMEMBASSY LISBON
 AMEMBASSY ROME
 AMEMBASSY TOKYO
 AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
 USMISSION GENEVA
 USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//FPA
 CG III MEF

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5. (C) WHILE STRESSING THAT THE SECURITY SITUATION WAS NOT YET CONDUCTIVE FOR A FREE AND FAIR VOTE ON AUGUST 30, [REDACTED] SAID UNAMET WAS FACING A DILEMMA, BECAUSE THE ONLY WEAPON IT HAD TO PRESS JAKARTA TO FULFILL ITS COMMITMENTS WAS THE THREAT TO DELAY THE CONSULTATION, AND NO ONE, INCLUDING UNAMET, WANTED ANOTHER POSTPONEMENT. FOR UNAMET AND THE INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS, AS WELL AS LOCAL PRO-INDEPENDENCE ACTIVISTS, THE WILLINGNESS TO GO AHEAD WITH A VOTE UNDER ADVERSE SECURITY CONDITIONS SEEMS AT LEAST PARTIALLY BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT, EVEN WITH THE CURRENT LEVELS OF INTIMIDATION, THE PRO-INDEPENDENCE VOTE IS LIKELY TO BE A CONVINCING 70 PERCENT OR HIGHER. ORDINARY DILI RESIDENTS RANDOMLY ENCOUNTERED BY POLOFF WERE, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, VOCIFEROUS IN THEIR SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE, MORE SO THAN IN PREVIOUS VISITS. SEVERAL COMPLAINED ABOUT MILITIA INTIMIDATION AND EQUATED INDONESIAN RULE WITH A CLIMATE OF LAWLESSNESS.

A SUDDEN OFFER TO DISARM

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6. (C) ACCORDING TO UNAMET OFFICIALS, MILITIA LEADERS JOAO TAVERES, EURICO GUTERRES AND JOANICO CESARIO SUDDENLY APPEARED AT THE DILI OFFICE THE COMMISSION FOR PEACE AND STABILITY (KPS) LATE IN THE EVENING ON AUGUST 11 AND EXPRESSED AN URGENT DESIRE TO SIGN A DISARMAMENT ACCORD WITH FALINTIL. THE MILITIA LEADERS REPEATEDLY MAINTAINED THAT THEY WERE ACTING
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INDEPENDENTLY OF TNI. CNRT REPRESENTATIVE MAHUDU WAS SUMMONED TO THE MEETING AND HE AGREED TO SUBMIT THE DISARMAMENT PROPOSAL TO XANANA GUSMAO AND FALINTIL COMMANDER MATAN RUAK. UNAMET OFFICIALS SUSPECTED THAT THE OFFER WAS ANOTHER TNI-DIRECTED PUBLIC RELATIONS GAMBIT AND AN ATTEMPT TO DEFUSE GROWING PRESSURE GENERATED BY THE TRIPARTITE MEETINGS IN JAKARTA, THE STRONG STATEMENT FROM FORMER PRESIDENT CARTER, AND FALINTIL'S UNILATERAL CANTONMENT OF ITS FORCES. DESPITE THIS, UNAMET WILL FOLLOW UP ON THE PROPOSAL. IT WAS EXPECTED THAT FALINTIL WOULD RESPOND WITH A COUNTER PROPOSAL THAT THE MILITIAS FIRST MOVE THEIR PERSONNEL INTO CANTONMENT AREAS (GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE MILITIA GROUPS, UNAMET DID NOT CONSIDER THIS TO BE A SERIOUS POSSIBILITY).

SHAKEUP IN LOCAL TNI COMMAND

7. (C) LOCAL COMMANDER COL. TONO SURATMAN WAS REPLACED ON AUGUST 12 BY COL. MOHAMED NOER MUIS. TONO'S DEPARTURE HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED, BUT WAS NOT EXPECTED UNTIL AFTER THE CONSULTATION VOTE. IN ANY CASE, THE INFLUENCE OF THE LOCAL COMMANDER IN DILI HAS DECREASED SIGNIFICANTLY WITH THE ARRIVAL OF GENERALS ZACKY ANWAR AND GLENNY KAIRUPAN, WIDELY SEEN AS EXERCISING THE REAL POWER. IN ADDITION TO TONO, DISTRICT COMMANDERS IN DILI, MANATUTO, AND AINARO WERE RECENTLY REPLACED, BUT LOCAL OBSERVERS EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT SOME OF THE MORE PROBLEMATIC DISTRICT COMMANDERS REMAINED IN PLACE.
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