

UNCLASSIFIED
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Current Class: ~~SECRET~~
Current Handling: EXDIS, ONLY

Case Number: 200203808

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.5(B), 1.5(D)

~~SECRET~~

PAGE 01 JAKART 15303 01 OF 06 230418Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 SSO-01 /027 W
-----367433 230431Z /11

P 230359Z SEP 83
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6026
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ROME

~~SECRET~~ SECTION 01 OF 06 ~~JAKARTA 15303~~

EXDIS

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SHUM PGOV PREL PINS CASC ID
SUBJECT: CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST TIMOR:
- [REDACTED] ON RENEWED FIGHTING,
- ACCESS BY FOREIGNERS, ETC.

B1

REFS: (A) JAKARTA 14397, (B) JAKARTA 14033

1. ~~SECRET~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

2. SUMMARY: IN LENGTHY CONVERSATION ON
SEPTEMBER 14, [REDACTED]

B1

REVIEWED SITUATION IN EAST TIMOR. THIS

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PAGE 02 JAKART 15303 01 OF 06 230418Z

TELEGRAM TRANSMITS NEW OR SUBSTANTIALLY
DIFFERENT VIEWS GLEANED FROM THAT CONVER-
SATION. [REDACTED] UNDERSTAND THE

DECAPTIONED

B1

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~

Page: 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: THEODORE J. HEAVNER
DATE/CASE ID: 1 APR 2003 200203808
CLASSIFICATION: SECRET REASON: 25X1, 25X6

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Current Class: ~~SECRET~~
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Case Number: 200203808

MILITARY CAMPAIGN WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE DRY SEASON (APPROXIMATELY TWO MORE MONTHS). [REDACTED] HEARD THAT THE CAMPAIGN IS DIRECTED ONLY AGAINST FRETILIN AND LOCAL SECURITY UNITS WHICH PARTICIPATED IN THE AUGUST 8 BREAKING OF THE CEASEFIRE. [REDACTED] A VERSION OF THE AUGUST 8 INCIDENT AND ITS AFTERMATH, INCLUDING TORTURE/BEHEADINGS OF INDONESIAN TROOPS AND POSSIBLE RETALIATION AGAINST VILLAGERS, TO WHICH [REDACTED] FAIRLY HIGH CREDIBILITY. POST-ATTACK DESERTIONS BY LOCAL SECURITY FORCES APPEAR TO HAVE PROVIDED A SUBSTANTIAL BOOST TO FRETILIN STRENGTH. INDONESIAN TROOP STRENGTH FOR THE OPERATION AGAINST FRETILIN IS ESTIMATED AT 10-12,000, WITH A NEW PROVINCIAL MILITARY COMMANDER REPLACING COLONEL PURWANTO. CURRENTLY, THE SITUATION IN EAST TIMOR IS REPORTED TO BE "VERY TENSE" WITH ARRESTS AND HOUSE SEARCHES CARRIED OUT IN DILI AND OTHER TOWNS. THERE ARE REPORTS OF MOVEMENTS OF PEOPLE, INCLUDING NEW MOVEMENTS OF TIMORESE TO ATAURO. OVERALL, FOREIGNERS' ACCESS TO EAST TIMOR APPEARS TO BE DOWN, ALTHOUGH SOME FOREIGNERS WORKING OUTSIDE TROUBLE AREAS ARE STILL ABLE TO TRAVEL TO AND FROM THE PROVINCE. (NOTE: WE WILL ~~SECRET~~)

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B1

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PAGE 03 JAKART 15303 01 OF 06 230418Z

CONTINUE TO MONITOR SITUATION ESPECIALLY CLOSELY AS IT PERTAINS TO SAFETY OF U.S. OFFICIAL OR PRIVATE PERSONNEL VISITING THE PROVINCE; ALL OFFICIAL TRAVEL TO EAST TIMOR IS CAREFULLY COORDINATED BY THIS EMBASSY AND WE WILL MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH [REDACTED] ENTITIES REGARDING SECURITY OF THEIR AMERICAN PERSONNEL.) [REDACTED] ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF OPERATIONS ON THE FOOD AND WELFARE SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

B1

B1

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED

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Current Class: ~~SECRET~~
Current Handling: EXDIS, ONLY

Case Number: 200203808

DURATION OF CAMPAIGN

3. [REDACTED] THAT THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST FRETILIN WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE DRY SEASON, I.E., UNTIL LATE NOVEMBER OR EARLY DECEMBER. ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT, THE FONDEPT ARGUED FOR A DELAY IN THE CAMPAIGN UNTIL AFTER THE UNGA VOTE, BUT THE MILITARY'S ARGUMENT FOR ACTION NOW WAS ACCEPTED. MILITARY OFFICIALS NOTED THAT AFTER THE BEGINNING OF THE RAINY SEASON (MORE OR LESS CONCURRENT WITH THE UNGA VOTE) MILITARY OPERATIONS WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO RESUME BEFORE MAY 1984, TOO LONG AFTER THE AUGUST 8 PROVOCATION.

B1

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PAGE 01 JAKART 15303 02 OF 06 230425Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 SSO-01 /027 W

-----367520 230435Z /11

P 230359Z SEP 83
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6027
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION GENEVA

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~

Page: 3

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AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ROME

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 06 JAKARTA 15303

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SHUM PGOV PREL PINS CASC ID
SUBJECT: CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST TIMOR:

EXTENT OF CAMPAIGN

4. [REDACTED]

B1

THAT THE

GOALS OF THE CAMPAIGN ARE LIMITED TO THE
PUNISHMENT OF FRETELIN AND LOCAL SECURITY
FORCES INVOLVED IN THE AUGUST 8 ATTACK.
THIS NEAR UNANIMITY OF INDONESIAN VIEWS

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PAGE 02 JAKART 15303 02 OF 06 230425Z

BEING SPREAD TO FOREIGN MISSIONS RAISES
DOUBTS ABOUT THEIR RELIABILITY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] HOWEVER, TO
DATE THEY HAVE NO FIRM EVIDENCE OF
INDONESIAN INTENTIONS.

B1

THE AUGUST 8 INCIDENT AND ITS AFTERMATH

5. [REDACTED]

B1

APPARENTLY WAS IN EAST TIMOR UNTIL
EARLY AUGUST, AND HE HAS RECEIVED

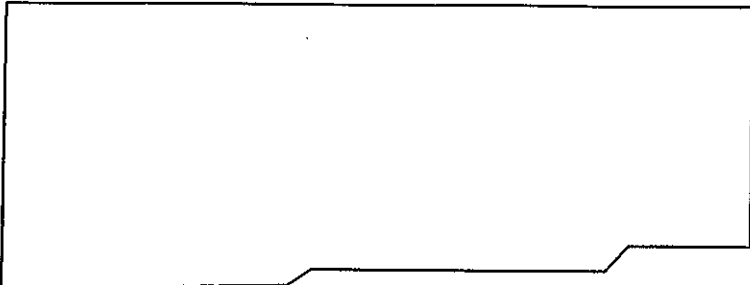
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Case Number: 200203808



B1

6. ACCORDING TO THE STORY OF THE

~~[REDACTED] BOTH BRETTIN AND AHANSTIP
(LOCAL SECURITY FORCE) ELEMENTS
TORTURED AND THEN KILLED INDONESIAN
SOLDIERS STILL ALIVE AFTER THE ATTACK.~~

B1

SOME WERE ALSO BEHEADED. TWO OF THE
FOUR CIVILIAN CATECHISTS DIED IN THE
INITIAL ATTACK. THE THIRD ESCAPED TO
A NEARBY VILLAGE, WHERE HE WAS SET

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PAGE 03 JAKART 15303 02 OF 06 230425Z

UPON AND MURDERED BY THE VILLAGERS.
(COMMENT: THIS VERSION OF EVENTS
WOULD EXPLAIN THE CONFLICTING NUMBERS
OF INDONESIANS REPORTEDLY KILLED IN
THE AUGUST 8 INCIDENT. WE HAVE HEARD
VARIOUSLY FIFTEEN, SIXTEEN AND NINETEEN.
PRESUMABLY, SIXTEEN INDONESIAN SOLDIERS
AND THREE CIVILIAN CATECHISTS DIED.
IN ADDITION, THE STORY OF THE ESCAPE
AND SUBSEQUENT MURDER OF ONE CATECHIST
ADDS DETAILS TO THE ACCOUNT REPORTED
REF A. END COMMENT.)

7. [REDACTED] HAS REPORTS
THAT INDONESIAN SOLDIERS KILLED
APPROXIMATELY 200 VILLAGERS IN THE
VIQUEQUE AREA IN RETALIATION FOR THE
ATTACK. THE SOURCE EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE
THE NUMBER WAS APPROXIMATE, [REDACTED]
IS CONVINCED THAT THE ORDER OF MAGNITUDE
IS ACCURATE. (COMMENT. THIS IS THE
SECOND REPORT OF A RETALIATION AGAINST
VILLAGERS ALLEGEDLY IMPLICATED IN THE
AUGUST 8 INCIDENT. BOTH HAVE COME

B1

B1

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~

Page: 5

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Current Class: ~~SECRET~~
Current Handling: EXDIS, ONLY

Case Number: 200203808

[REDACTED] AND
WE HAVE NOT/NOT RECEIVED SUBSTANTIATION
FROM OTHER SOURCES. IT IS INTERESTING
IN THIS RESPECT THAT THERE APPARENTLY
HAVE BEEN NO RETALIATION STORIES CIR-
CULATED OUTSIDE INDONESIA AS YET BY

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PAGE 01 JAKART 15303 03 OF 06 230434Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 SSO-01 /027 W
-----367716 230441Z /11

P 230359Z SEP 83
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6028
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION GENEVA
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~~SECRET~~ SECTION 03 OF 06 JAKARTA 15303

EXDIS

NOFORN

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~

Page: 6

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~
Current Handling: EXDIS, ONLY

Case Number: 200203808

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SHUM PGOV PREL PINS CASC ID
SUBJECT: CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST TIMOR:

FRETILIN SUPPORTERS WHO WOULD HAVE
REASON TO EMPHASIZE THE NEGATIVE, WHETHER
TRUE OR NOT. END COMMENT.)

8. [REDACTED]
~~RECEIVED, POSSIBLE, BUT NOT ABSOLUTE~~
~~CONFIRMATION OF ALLEGATIONS OF~~
TORTURE/BEHEADINGS FROM ARMED FORCES

B1

[REDACTED] ON AUGUST 15,
WHEN HE TOLD [REDACTED] THAT
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B1

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PAGE 02 JAKART 15303 03 OF 06 230434Z

INDONESIAN TROOPS WERE "BUTCHERED"
IN THE AUGUST 8 ATTACK. [REDACTED]
NOTE THAT IT WOULD NOT/NOT BE OUT OF
CHARACTER FOR FRETILIN TO COMMIT
ATROCITIES; THERE ARE WELL ESTABLISHED
CASES OF FRETILIN CRUELTY IN THE PAST.

B1

"HANSIP" DESERTIONS

9. [REDACTED]
CLAIMS THAT 600 LOCAL DEFENSE FORCES
("HANSIP") DESERTED TO FRETILIN WITH
THEIR WEAPONS AFTER THE AUGUST 8 INCIDENT.

B1

[REDACTED] SOURCES TOLD [REDACTED]
THERE HAD BEEN DESERTIONS, BUT WERE NOT
SPECIFIC ABOUT NUMBERS. [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED] SAID THAT
AROUND 100 FRETILIN DESERTED. OTHER
[REDACTED] SOURCES HAVE SUGGESTED

B1

THAT TWO TO THREE HUNDRED OR PERHAPS
AS MANY AS FIVE HUNDRED WENT OVER TO
FRETILIN (REF A). WHATEVER THE NUMBERS,
THESE DESERTIONS WOULD APPEAR TO RE-
PRESENT A SUBSTANTIAL INCREMENT TO KNOWN
FRETILIN STRENGTH AND MIGHT PROVIDE A
JUSTIFICATION FOR THE APPARENTLY LARGE

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Current Class: ~~SECRET~~
Current Handling: EXDIS, ONLY

Case Number: 200203808

INCREASE IN INDONESIAN TROOP STRENGTH
FROM OUTSIDE EAST TIMOR, [REDACTED]

B1

NUMBERS OF TROOPS/NEW COMMANDER

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PAGE 03 JAKART 15303 03 OF 06 230434Z

10. [REDACTED] ESTIMATE IS THAT THE GOI HAS DESIGNATED SIX TO EIGHT INDONESIAN BATTALIONS FOR THE EAST TIMOR OPERATION IN ADDITION TO THE FOUR BATTALIONS ALREADY THERE. [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED] UNCERTAIN WHETHER ALL THESE TROOPS HAVE ARRIVED IN EAST TIMOR.) BECAUSE OF THE PROVEN UNRELIABILITY OF "HANSIP" UNITS, THEY CANNOT BE COUNTED IN THE OPERATIONAL TOTAL. [REDACTED] ESTIMATE THE FINAL GOI TROOP STRENGTH WILL BE TEN TO TWELVE THOUSAND.

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11. PROVINCE MILITARY COMMANDER COLONEL PURWANTO HAS BEEN REMOVED. THE STORY IS THAT SOMEONE HAD TO TAKE A FALL FOR THE AUGUST 8 INCIDENT. HIS REPLACEMENT IS SAID TO BE A COLONEL ROEDJITO FROM MEDAN. IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THE PROVINCIAL MILITARY COMMANDER OR A HIGHER RANKING OFFICER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MILITARY CAMPAIGN.

CURRENT SITUATION IN EAST TIMOR

12. THE SITUATION IN EAST TIMOR IS "VERY TENSE," ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] AND THIS HAS MADE INFORMATION HARD TO COME BY AS PEOPLE ARE

B1

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~

Page: 8

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~
Current Handling: EXDIS, ONLY

Case Number: 200203808

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PAGE 01 JAKART 15303 04 OF 06 230440Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 SSO-01 /027 W
-----367745 230441Z /11

P 230359Z SEP 83
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6029
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
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S E C R E T SECTION 04 OF 06 JAKARTA 15303

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SHUM PGOV PREL PINS CASC ID
SUBJECT: CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST TIMOR:

MORE RELUCTANT THAN USUAL TO ASK
QUESTIONS AND SEEK OUT INFORMATION.
HOWEVER, [REDACTED] HAVE HEARD
OF SEARCHES AND ARRESTS CARRIED OUT
IN DILI TWO WEEKS AGO. THERE ARE
ALSO STORIES OF ARRESTS IN OTHER

B1

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~

Page: 9

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~
Current Handling: EXDIS, ONLY

Case Number: 200203808

TOWNS. SOME OF THOSE ARRESTED ARE RUMORED TO HAVE BEEN MOVED OUTSIDE EAST TIMOR, BUT THERE IS NO INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION OF THIS SECRET

~~SECRET~~

PAGE 02 JAKART 15303 04 OF 06 230440Z

[REDACTED]

B1

THAT ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN DILI AND IN THE VIQUEQUE AREA.

ATAURO/MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE

[REDACTED]

B1

CLAIMED THAT A FEW PEOPLE HAD BEEN SENT BACK TO THE ATAURO ISLAND DETENTION FACILITY, BUT HE OFFERED NO NUMBERS. GOI OFFICIALS, BY CONTRAST, SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO MOVEMENTS TO ATAURO.

[REDACTED]

B1

THERE HAD BEEN NO NEW MOVEMENTS TO ATAURO.

14. THE GOI OFFICIALS WHO DENIED MOVEMENTS TO ATAURO ADDED THAT THERE MIGHT BE TRANSFERS OF PEOPLE TO OTHER AREAS. PEOPLE WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN MOVED TO ATAURO WOULD BE SHIFTED "ELSEWHERE," THEY REPORTEDLY SAID. IN THIS CONTEXT, THEY NOTED SEVERAL VILLAGES HAD ALREADY BEEN MOVED, BUT LOCATIONS WERE NOT SPECIFIED. SUBSEQUENTLY [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED] THAT THERE HAVE, IN FACT, BEEN MOVEMENTS OF TIMORESE TO ATAURO.

~~SECRET~~

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PAGE 03 JAKART 15303 04 OF 06 230440Z

Current Class: SECRET

Page: 10

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~
Current Handling: EXDIS, ONLY

Case Number: 200203808

NUMBERS WERE UNAVAILABLE.

ACCESS

15. A FONDEPT OFFICIAL SAID ON SEPTEMBER 12 THAT THE WEST SOMOAN FONMIN (DUE TO ARRIVE IN JAKARTA SEPTEMBER 17) WOULD BE ALLOWED TO GO TO EAST TIMOR AS PREVIOUSLY PLANNED.

[REDACTED] TOLD THE AMBASSADOR SEPTEMBER 15 THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEMS WITH THE LATTER'S VISITING EAST TIMOR IF HE CARED TO GO.

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16. ICRC: ACCESS FOR THE ICRC NURSE/ NUTRITIONIST AND TRACING SPECIALIST REPORTEDLY IS "ROUTINE." AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, ALL ATAURO RESETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES ARE IN ABEYANCE, ALTHOUGH FEEDING AND HEALTH PROGRAMS AT ATAURO CONTINUE.

17. UNICEF: A TEAM FROM UNICEF HAD HOPED TO LEAVE FOR EAST TIMOR DURING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 12-16, BUT THEY DID NOT/HAVE PERMISSION TO TRAVEL AS OF SEPTEMBER 19. THE TEAM EXPECTS TO BE ALLOWED TO GO, BUT THEY MAY NOT BE ABLE TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE DILI.
(NOTE: UNICEF SITES ARE LOCATED

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Current Class: ~~SECRET~~

Page: 11

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
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Current Class: ~~SECRET~~
Current Handling: EXDIS, ONLY

Case Number: 200203808

~~SECRET~~

PAGE 01 JAKART 15303 05 OF 06 230446Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 SSO-01 /027 W
-----370065 230447Z /11

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6030
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION GENEVA
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~~SECRET~~ SECTION 05 OF 06 JAKARTA 15303

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SHUM PGOV PREL PINS CASC ID
SUBJECT: CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST TIMOR:

MAINLY IN UPLAND AREAS OF CENTRAL AND
EASTERN EAST TIMOR NEAREST THE AREAS
OF SUSPECTED FRETELIN ACTIVITY. IF
MILITARY OPERATIONS ARE IN PROGRESS,
IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THE TEAM WOULD BE
PERMITTED ACCESS TO THESE AREAS.)

18. CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES: AROUND
SEPTEMBER 1, CRS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] DROVE

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PAGE 02 JAKART 15303 05 OF 06 230446Z

HIMSELF FROM SARE (IN THE WEST) TO
DILI. NO PERMIT WAS REQUIRED. HE

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 12

UNCLASSIFIED

B1

UNCLASSIFIED
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Current Class: ~~SECRET~~
Current Handling: EXDIS, ONLY

Case Number: 200203808

HAD NO ESCORT, AND HE SAW NO SIGNS OF CONCERN OR HEIGHTENED SECURITY MEASURES. THE EVALUATION VISIT TO THE CRS SITE WHICH WILL INCLUDE A USAID OFFICIAL HAS BEEN MOVED TO NOVEMBER BY CRS FOR REASONS UNRELATED TO SECURITY. CRS IS PLANNING TO GO AHEAD WITH A ROUTINE VISIT REQUEST. MEANWHILE,

[REDACTED] STILL HAS A LONG-TERM ACCESS PERMIT. CRS ANTICIPATES NO PROBLEMS IN HIS RETURNING TO EAST TIMOR IN OCTOBER.

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19. CATHOLIC CHURCH: ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO, THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE SILESIAN FATHERS VISITED JAKARTA. AS HE IS FROM THE SAME ORDER AS THE NEW APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR OF EAST TIMOR, HE ASKED PERMISSION TO VISIT THERE. HE RECEIVED NO ANSWER TO THE REQUEST. ABOUT THE SAME TIME, REPRESENTATIVES OF TWO ORDERS OF NUNS SOUGHT AND WERE REFUSED PERMISSION TO GO. MEANWHILE, THE VATICAN APPARENTLY REQUESTED ACCESS FOR SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES VISITING FROM ROME. ALTHOUGH THE REQUEST WAS NOT REFUSED DIRECTLY, PAPAL NUNCIATURE REPRESENTATIVES WERE TOLD A VISIT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE.

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PAGE 03 JAKART 15303 05 OF 06 230446Z

IMPACT OF MILITARY OPERATIONS

20. [REDACTED] CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF MILITARY OPERATIONS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES ON THE FOOD SITUATION AND GENERAL WELFARE. UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, FIELD PREPARATION AND PLANTING SHOULD START IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. OBVIOUSLY, IN AREAS OF MILITARY OPERATIONS, RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT ARE LIKELY TO BE INTENSIFIED

B1

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~

Page: 13

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~
Current Handling: EXDIS, ONLY

Case Number: 200203808

WITH REDUCED OPPORTUNITIES TO PREPARE FOR PLANTING. IN ADDITION, THIS IS THE NORMAL TIME FOR PRE-POSITIONING OF FOOD STOCKS IN FOOD DEFICIT AREAS, SUCH AS ILIOMAR. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] IN LATE JULY NOTED THAT FOOD PRE-POSITIONING ACTIVITIES WERE NOT/NOT YET UNDERWAY. THIS COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO INEFFICIENCY RATHER THAN TO INTERFERENCE BY THE MILITARY OPERATIONS. HOWEVER, THE LOGISTICS AND COSTS OF MOVING FOOD ONCE THE RAINY SEASON STARTS COULD AFFECT THE ABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO RESPOND TO FOOD SCARCITY.

21. THE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE COULD ALSO CAUSE PROBLEMS. WITHOUT KNOWING WHERE TIMORESE HAVE BEEN MOVED, IT IS

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PAGE 01 JAKART 15303 06 OF 06 230450Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 SSO-01 /027 W
-----370120 230457Z /11

P 230359Z SEP 83
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6031
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~

Page: 14

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~
Current Handling: EXDIS, ONLY

Case Number: 200203808

USMISSION GENEVA
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S E C R E T SECTION 06 OF 06 JAKARTA 15303

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SHUM PGOV PREL PINS CASC ID
SUBJECT: CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST TIMOR:

DIFFICULT TO SPECULATE ABOUT THEIR
CONDITIONS, BUT BASED ON PAST PER-
FORMANCE, [REDACTED] IT
LIKELY THAT PREPARATIONS, INCLUDING
HOUSING AND PLACES TO PLANT, MAY BE
INADEQUATE. IN THIS RESPECT, MOVE-
MENT OF PEOPLE TO ATAURO COULD BE A
BLESSING OF A SORT. WITH THE PROGRAM
FOR RESETTLING ATAURO DETAINEES IN
ABEYANCE, [REDACTED] IS IN A POSITION TO

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PAGE 02 JAKART 15303 06 OF 06 230450Z

CONCENTRATE THEIR ATTENTION AND MONEY
ON ATAURO. [REDACTED]

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(COMMENT: THE

U.S. CONTRIBUTION, WHEN MADE, WOULD PROVIDE
A FURTHER CUSHION, ALTHOUGH NOT MOVING
US CLOSER TO OUR GOAL OF SEEING ALL
ATAURO DETAINEES RESETTLED IN THEIR
HOME AREAS. END COMMENT)

SECURITY OF AMERICANS

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~

Page: 15

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~
Current Handling: EXDIS, ONLY

Case Number: 200203808

22. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION ESPECIALLY CLOSELY AS IT PERTAINS TO SAFETY OF U.S. OFFICIAL OR PRIVATE PERSONNEL VISITING THE PROVINCE; ALL OFFICIAL TRAVEL TO EAST TIMOR IS CAREFULLY COORDINATED BY THIS EMBASSY AND WE WILL MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH CRS AND OTHER ENTITIES SUCH AS UNICEF REGARDING SECURITY OF THEIR PERSONNEL WHO VISIT EAST TIMOR FROM TIME TO TIME.

23. FINAL COMMENT: WE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH WELL-INFORMED OBSERVERS

[REDACTED]

B1

AND WILL ATTEMPT TO UPDATE AND CLARIFY THE FOREGOING

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PAGE 03 JAKART 15303 06 OF 06 230450Z

INFORMATION. HOLDRIDGE

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~

Page: 16

UNCLASSIFIED

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