

GRS 266

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIORITY

CY CAT/A

FM JAKARTA 170650Z

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TO PRIORITY F C O TELNO 385 OF 17 OCTOBER, AND TO MODUK (D12 - FOB)
R F I TO KUALA LUMPUR, WASHINGTON; SINGAPORE AND CANBERRA.

YOUR TELNO 245 (NOT TO ALL): PORTUGUESE TIMOR

1. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY TELL US THAT OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS FURTHER MILITARY REINFORCEMENTS HAVE BEEN SENT TO INDONESIAN TIMOR. THESE INCLUDE A POLICE MOBILE BATTALION, POLICE COMMANDO UNITS, TWO BATTERIES OF FIELD ARTILLERY AND, POSSIBLY, MORE MARINES (KKO). BUT THEY ASSESS THIS BUILD-UP AS BEING STILL IN THE CONTEXT OF A STEPPED-UP CLANDESTINE OPERATION, IN WHICH INDONESIAN PARTICIPATION CONTINUES TO BE LIMITED AND DENIABLE. UNCONFIRMED NEWS REPORTS ARE APPEARING QUOTING FRETILIN SOURCES TO THE EFFECT THAT BALIBO AND MALIANA HAVE BEEN CAPTURED BY ANTI-FRETILIN FORCES INCLUDING INDONESIAN TROOPS FROM OVER THE BORDER. JAKARTA RADIO CONTINUES TO TALK ONLY ABOUT ANTI-FRETILIN FORCES; AND THERE HAS BEEN NO BUILD-UP IN PROPAGANDA HERE OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS.

2. MAJOR GENERAL ALI MURTOPO, BAKIN DEPUTY AND MAJOR GENERAL BENNY MOERDANI, HANKAM INTELLIGENCE HEAD, WHO HAVE BEEN IN CHARGE OF THE CLANDESTINE OPERATION, ARE OUT OF THE COUNTRY AT THE MOMENT ON SEPARATE VISITS TO THE UNITED STATES. IT WOULD BE SURPRISING IF ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT WERE TO HAPPEN IN THEIR ABSENCE.

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3. I INCLINE TO THE VIEW THAT THE INDONESIANS ARE IN FACT INCREASING THEIR CLANDESTINE SUPPORT OF THE ANTI-FETILIN ELEMENTS BUT THAT THE PRESIDENT IS STILL AGAINST OVERT INTERVENTION. THE PRESSURE ON HIM TO ACT MUST BE GROWING AS THE RAINY SEASON APPROACHES AND THE DIFFICULTIES MOUNT OF COPING WITH SUPPLIES AND REFUGEES. WE HAVE HEARD TOO THAT CONTINUED INACTION IS ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE MORALE OF INDONESIAN TROOPS IN ADVANCED POSITIONS.

FORD

FILES
SEAD
SED
PUSD
MR MALE
MR CAMPBELL
MR HIBBETT

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