

S E C R E T

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IMMEDIATE

CYPHER CAT/A

FM JAKARTA 240810Z

S E C R E T

U K E Y E S A L P H A



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Memo:
 Issue to Mr. Edwards, Cabinet Office. His reports indicate that para 1 exaggerates anti-Fretilin success; that they have not got Bobonaro.

TO IMMEDIATE F C O TELNO 393 OF 24 OCTOBER 1975, AND TO MODUK (D 12 FOB), R F I TO KUALA LUMPUR, WASHINGTON, SINGAPORE AND CANBERRA.

Pa 8A 27/6

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MY TEL 385: PORTUGUESE TIMOR

1. THE STEPPED UP CLANDESTINE OPERATION APPEARS TO BE SUCCEEDING. PRESS REPORTS ON 23 OCTOBER THAT ANTI FRETILIN FORCES HAVE TAKEN BOBONARO AND ARE NOW ON THE EDGE OF MAUBARA ONLY 25 KMS FROM DILI ARE, WE BELIEVE, TRUE.
2. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HAVE NOW CONFIRMED (BUT HAVE ASKED US NOT TO PLAY THIS BACK TO THEM IN CANBERRA OR TO TELL OTHERS) THAT PRESIDENT SUHARTO HAS AUTHORISED THE STEPPING UP OF CLANDESTINE OPERATION (INCLUDING THE USE OF SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT). HE HAS ALSO AGREED TO THE CREATION OF A SPECIAL BUDGET. HITHERTO THE OPERATION HAS HAD TO BE FINANCED BY RAIDING THE REGULAR MILITARY BUDGET.
3. THE AIM IS A TOTAL ENCIRCLEMENT OF DILI BY 15 NOVEMBER. THE INDONESIA'S HOPE THIS WILL LEAD TO THE COLLAPSE OF FRETILIN. THERE WOULD THEN BE NO NEED FOR TRIPARTITE NEGOTIATIONS. INSTEAD THERE WOULD BE NEGOTIATIONS WITH UDT AND APODETI FOR A FORMAL HANDOVER TO INDONESIA SOME TIME IN THE SPRING.
4. THIS BEARS OUT OUR PREVIOUS ASSESSMENT THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD CONTINUE TO INSIST ON A DENIABLE OPERATION WHICH WOULD CAUSE THE MINIMUM OF INTERNATIONAL FUSS. SO FAR HE IS SUCCEEDING.

/5. THE AUSTRALIANS

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5. THE AUSTRALIANS HAVE GOT TOO DEEPLY INVOLVED IN COMMENTING ON THE COURSE OF EVENTS AND ARE IN CONSIDERABLE EMBARRASSMENT AT HOME. THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR SAID AT SIR MICHAEL PALLISER'S DINNER ON 21 OCTOBER THAT TIMOR WAS HIGH ON KISSINGER'S LIST OF PLACES WHERE THE US DO NOT WANT TO COMMENT OR TO GET INVOLVED. I AM SURE WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE AMERICAN EXAMPLE.

FORD

F I L E S

SEAD
SED
PUSD
MR MALE
MR CAMPBELL
MR HIBBERT