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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 04 [redacted]

SERIAL: (U) IIR [redacted]

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) INDONESIA (ID).

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PRESIDENT SOEHARTO RESIGNS (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT

- FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE REPORT

- CLASSIFIED - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 980521.

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SUMMARY: ~~(C)~~ PRESIDENT ((SOEHARTO)) ANNOUNCED HIS RESIGNATION AT 0905 LOCAL TIME ON 980521. DR. B.J. ((HABIBIE)) IS SWORN IN AS NEW PRESIDENT. WIRANTO BACKS HABIBIE AND STATES THAT ABRI IS UNITED. STUDENTS CELEBRATE AND CALL FOR REMOVAL OF HABIBIE. TEXT: 1. (U) IN WHAT WILL LONG BE REMEMBERED AS AN HISTORICAL DAY IN INDONESIAN HISTORY, PRESIDENT ((SOEHARTO)), INDONESIA'S PRESIDENT FOR THE PAST 32 YEARS, HAS RESIGNED. THE SPEECH ITSELF WAS SHORT AND CONCISE. THE FOLLOWING PROVIDES AN UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF PRESIDENT'S SOEHARTO SPEECH:

STATEMENT:

FOR SOME TIME, I HAVE CLOSELY WATCHED DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NATIONAL SITUATION, ESPECIALLY THE PEOPLE 'S ASPIRATIONS FOR REFORM IN ALL SPHERES OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIFE. ON THE BASIS OF MY DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF THESE ASPIRATIONS AND PROMPTED BY THE CONVICTION THAT THESE REFORMS MUST BE IMPLEMENTED IN AN ORDERLY, PEACEFUL, AND CONSTITUTIONAL MANNER, IN ORDER TO GUARD THE UNITY OF THE NATION AS WELL AS THE CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, I DECIDED TO FORM A REFORM COMMITTEE AND RESHUFFLE THE SEVENTH DEVELOPMENT CABINET

THE NEW CABINET FORMED IN MARCH 98).

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HOWEVER, IN THE EVENT, IT TURNED OUT THAT UP UNTIL NOW IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO FORM SUCH A REFORM COMMITTEE BECAUSE THE RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSAL TO FORM THE COMMITTEE WAS NOT SATISFACTORY. IN THE DESIRE TO UNDERTAKE REFORM AS WELL AS POSSIBLE, I CONCLUDED THAT THE INABILITY TO FORM THE COMMITTEE MEANT IT WAS NO LONGER NECESSARY TO RESHUFFLE THE CABINET EITHER. TAKING THE ABOVE INTO ACCOUNT, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO EXECUTE MY GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT WELL. FOR THIS REAS ON, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION ARTICLE 8 OF THE 1945 CONSTITUTION, AND AFTER SINCERELY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY (DPR) LEADERS AND LEADERS OF THE FRACTIONS WITHIN PARLIAMENT (DPR), I DECIDED TO DECLARE THAT I AM RESIGNING FROM MY POSITION AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, EFFECTIVE AS OF WHEN I READ THIS STATEMENT, THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1998. THE STATEMENT MADE AS I RESIGN FROM MY POSITION AS

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, I CONVEY BEFORE ALL OF YOU, LEADERS OF THE PARLIAMENT (DPR) OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, AND THERE ARE ALSO LEADERS OF THE PEOPLE'S CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY (MPR) HERE THIS MORNING ON THE OCCASION OF THIS FRATERNAL GATHERING. IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 8 OF THE 1945 CONSTITUTION, IT IS THE VICE PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, PROF. DR. IR. B.J. HABIBIE WHO WILL FULFILL THE REMAINING TERM OF THE PRESIDENT WHO HOLDS THE MANDATE FROM THIS MPR 1998-2003. FOR THE ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE AS LONG AS I LED THIS COUNTRY AND PEOPLE, I EXPRESS MY THANKS AND REQUEST FORGIVENESS FOR ANY SHORTCOMINGS AND MISTAKES, MAY THE PEOPLE OF INDONESIA REMAIN GREAT WITH PANCASILA AND THE 1945 CONSTITUTION. BEGINNING TODAY ALSO, THE SEVENTH DEVELOPMENT CABINET IS "DEMISSIONER" (NOTE: THIS HAS MEANT IN THE PAST THAT OUTGOING MINISTERS PERFORM HOUSEKEEPING DUTIES, BUT MAKE NO POLICY DECISIONS) AND TO THE MINISTERS I EXPRESS MY THANKS. BECAUSE CIRCUMSTANCES MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO ADMINISTER THE OATH BEFORE THE DPR, IN ORDER TO AVOID A VOID IN GOVERNING, THE VICE PRESIDENT WILL TAKE THE PRESIDENTIAL OATH NOW BEFORE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF INDONESIA. END UNOFFICIAL STATEMENT

2. ~~(C)~~ AFTER SOEHARTO DELIVERED HIS RESIGNATION SPEECH, DR. B.J. ((HABIBIE)), SOEHARTO'S VICE PRESIDENT, WAS SWORN IN BEFORE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF INDONESIA. AFTER THE NEW PRESIDENT HABIBIE FINISHED HIS OATH, PRESIDENT SOEHARTO WALKED OVER TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SUPREME COURT AND SHOOK THEIR HANDS BEFORE DEPARTING.

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3. ~~(C)~~ THE RESIGNATION OF SOEHARTO AND THE SWEARING IN OF HABIBIE ONLY TOOK AN ESTIMATED 10 MINUTES. AFTERWARDS, THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF INDONESIAN ARMED FORCES AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE, GENERAL ((WIRANTO)) ISSUED A BRIEF STATEMENT. THE FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION:

WIRANTO'S STATEMENT:

WITH THE CEREMONY WHICH WE WITNESSED THIS MORNING ON THE REPLACEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT, I, MINISTER OF SECURITY AND DEFENSE AND CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES OF INDONESIA, WILL CONVEY POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE AND APPEALS TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF INDONESIA.

FIRST, CONTEMPLATING THE DEVELOPING SITUATION AND THE PEOPLE'S ASPIRATIONS, ABRI SUPPORTS AND GREETES WELL THE RESIGNATION REQUEST OF BAPAK SOEHARTO AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA AND ALSO, BASED ON THE CONSTITUTION, SUPPORTS VICE PRESIDENT BAPAK B. J. HABIBIE AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA.

SECOND, ABRI REMAINS UNITED, HOPES AND SUGGESTS TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF INDONESIA THAT THEY ACCEPT THE PERSONAL DESIRE OF PRESIDENT SOEHARTO WHICH IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 8 OF THE 1945 CONSTITUTION.

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THIRD, IN THIS REGARD, ABRI WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE TO PREVENT DEVIATIONS AND SUCH THINGS WHICH COULD THREATEN THE WHOLENESS OF THE PEOPLE.

FOURTH, HOLDING IN HIGH RESPECT THE NOBLE VALUES OF THE PEOPLE'S CULTURE, ABRI WILL CONTINUE TO ENSURE THE SECURITY OF AND RESPECT FOR THE FORMER PRESIDENT-MPR MANDATE HOLDER INCLUDING PRESIDENT SOEHARTO AND MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY.

FIFTH, ABRI URGES ALL SIDES TO REMAIN CALM, TO AVOID DESTRUCTION AND VIOLENT BEHAVIOR WHICH IN THE END WILL ONLY DAMAGE THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES. THANK YOU.

4. (U) AFTER WIRANTO'S SPEECH, OUTGOING INFORMATION MINISTER ALWI DAHLAN ISSUED A BRIEF STATEMENT. THE FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION.

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ALWI DAHLAN'S STATEMENT:

DR. HABIBIE HAS EXPRESSED THE COMMITMENT OF THE NEW PRESIDENT TO FULFILLING THE PEOPLE'S ASPIRATIONS IN A CONSTITUTIONAL MANNER. THOSE ASPIRATIONS ARE TO IMPLEMENT REFORM IN A THOROUGH WAY, INCLUDING POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, LEGAL, AND ALL OTHER TYPES OF REFORMS.

CONCERNING FOREIGN RELATIONS, HE ANNOUNCED THAT THE INDONESIAN PEOPLE ARE THANKFUL THEY CAN WORK TOGETHER WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS AND PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND WILL IMPLEMENT COMMITMENTS THAT ARE ALREADY AGREED INCLUDING COMMITMENTS FOR REFORM MADE TO THE IMF. THANK YOU.

COMMENTS: [REDACTED] (C) 1. THE DOWNFALL OF THE SOEHARTO REGIME WAS A COMBINATION OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND THE

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LONG-ENDURED SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE OF CORRUPTION AND COLLUSION. AS LONG AS THE ECONOMY WAS HEALTHY, THE INDONESIAN CITIZENS OVERLOOKED ALL THE INDULGENCES OF THE ELITE. AFTER THE ECONOMIC COLLAPSE, INDONESIAN CITIZENS WERE NO LONGER RECEIVING THEIR PIECE OF THE PIE, SO THEY REBELLED. THE STUDENTS TOOK AND ACCEPTED THE ROLE AS THE NATION'S PROTESTORS, JUST LIKE THEY DID IN 1965. THE ONLY PIECE MISSING WAS THE SPARK TO LIGHT THE FUSE. THIS OCCURRED WHEN FOUR (4) STUDENTS WERE KILLED AT TRISAKTI UNIVERSITY. THE STUDENTS BECAME MARTYRS AND THE ONLY QUESTION REMAINING WAS HOW LONG WOULD BAPAK SOEHARTO MANAGE TO HANG ON.

THIS QUESTION WAS ANSWERED ON 980520 BY SPEAKER OF THE DPR ((HARMOKO)) WHEN HE CALLED FOR THE IMPEACHMENT OF SOEHARTO UNLESS

POLITICAL REFORMS WERE ESTABLISHED IMMEDIATELY. LEFT WITHOUT PROTECTION BY HIS CLOSEST ADVISERS, PRESIDENT SOEHARTO RESIGNED IN ORDER TO RETAIN WHAT WAS LEFT OF HIS POWER AND INFLUENCE. IT CAN BE ASSUMED THAT BACKSTAGE BARGAINING AND COMPROMISES WERE

MADE BY ALL PARTIES INCLUDING THE PROMISE BY ABRI TO PROTECT THE FIRST FAMILY AND THEIR WEALTH.

2. (U) [REDACTED]

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ADMIN

COLL: (U)

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ACQ: (U)

DISSEM: (U)

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~~DRY FROM~~ SCG, OCTOBER 97.

~~DECL ON: (U) XI:~~

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