

**CDS**

(b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

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**HEADER**

P R 212310Z MAY 98

(b)(3):50 USC 403-1(i)

TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC/  
INFO RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC  
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(b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 403-1(i)

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**CONTROLS**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02

(b)(3):10 USC 424

SERIAL: (U) IIR (b)(3):10 USC 424

**BODY**

COUNTRY: (U) **INDONESIA** (ID).

(b)(3):10 USC 424

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SUBJECT: IIR (b)(3):10 USC 424 DMC HEADQUARTERS REACTION TO THE  
**RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT SUHARTO (U)**

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

EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED --

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (b)(3):10 USC 424

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
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DOI: (U) 980521.

(b)(3):10 USC 424

(b)(1),(b)(3):10 USC 424,1.4 (c)

SUMMARY: ~~(C)~~ THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE INDONESIAN MARINE CORPS HAS BREATHED A GUARDED SIGH OF RELIEF WITH THE NEWS OF **PRESIDENT ((SUHARTO))'S RESIGNATION**. THEY STILL ARE NOT SURE WHETHER THE APPOINTMENT OF VICE PRESIDENT ((HABIBIE)) WILL DEFUSE THE SITUATION.

TEXT: 1. ~~(C)~~ THE MOOD OF THE INDONESIAN MARINE CORPS HEADQUARTERS STAFF IS ONE OF GUARDED RELIEF UPON HEARING THE NEWS OF **PRESIDENT ((SUHARTO))'S RESIGNATION**. THE IMMEDIATE SWEARING IN OF VICE PRESIDENT B.J. ((HABIBIE)) HAS CAUSED CONCERN DUE TO HIS UNPOPULARITY BY THE PEOPLE. "HE (HABIBIE) IS NOT WELCOME BY THE PEOPLE" (b)(1),1.4 (c) INDICATED. THE STABILITY OF THE NATION AND SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE A LOT TO DO WITH THE ROLE AND POLICIES OF THE COMMANDER AND CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE, GENERAL ((WIRANTO)). GEN WIRANTO INDICATED IMMEDIATELY AFTER HABIBIE'S ACCEPTANCE THE ARMED FORCES (ABRI) WILL SUPPORT THE NEW PRESIDENT. THE STUDENTS CURRENTLY OCCUPYING THE PEOPLES CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY (MPR) COMPOUND WILL BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN THERE FOR "PROBABLY A FEW MORE" DAYS. THE MARINES WILL REMAIN IN THEIR POSITIONS IN THE STREETS FOR A FEW MORE DAYS ALSO.

2. ~~(C)~~ HABIBIE WILL HAVE PROBLEMS GAINING THE APPROVAL OF THE PEOPLE AND STUDENTS. USING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE (b)(1),1.4 (c) THAT HABIBIE MIGHT FARE WELL IF HE WILL "SHUT HIS MOUTH LAH". THE (b)(1),1.4 (c) THAT WE MUST PRAY THAT THE SITUATION HAS BEEN DEFUSED AND FOR THE NATION AS A WHOLE.

3. ~~(C)~~ THE INDONESIAN MARINE CORPS HAS PERFORMED EXCEPTIONALLY WELL DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS. THE PEOPLE OF **INDONESIA** HOLD THE

NATIONAL POLICE IN VERY LOW ESTEEM AND TO A LESSER EXTENT THE ARMY ALSO. WHEN THE MARINE UNITS ARRIVE IN THE STREETS THEY ARE GREETED BY CHEERS AND MINGLE FREELY WITH THE PEOPLE. (b)(1),1.4 (c) FEELS THAT THE EVENTS OF THE PAST FEW WEEKS AND THE CONDUCT OF THE MARINES HAS INCREASED THEIR PRESTIGE IN THE EYES OF THE PEOPLE AND ABRI AS WELL. (b)(1),1.4 (c) THEY ARE PROUD OF THEIR EFFORTS THUS FAR.

COMMENTS: (b)(3):10 USC 424 1. ~~(C)~~ THE TENSION OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT RELIEVED WITH TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT. WE ARE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET. AFTER THE **RESIGNATION** ANNOUNCEMENT, THE STUDENTS IN THE MPR COMPOUND BEGAN CELEBRATING, BUT MANY VOICES WERE HEARD DENOUNCING HABIBIE'S ASCENSION TO THE PRESIDENCY. HABIBIE'S APPOINTMENT AS VICE PRESIDENT IN MARCH 1998 WAS NOT POPULAR WITH ABRI, SO THE (b)(1),1.4 (c) COMMENTS REGARDING HIM BECOMING PRESIDENT ARE NOT SURPRISING.

2. ~~(C)~~ THE OBSERVATION OF THE MARINES AND THE PEOPLE BEING ON FRIENDLY TERMS HAS BEEN REPORTED IN DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE PAST. IT COULD BE THAT THEY ARE CONSIDERED AS A MORE REASONABLE FORCE,

**ADMIN**

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