

**CDS**

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

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**HEADER**

O P 190723Z MAY 98 (b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC  
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RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC/

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC (b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 403-1(i)  
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BT

**CONTROLS**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 (b)(3):10 USC 424

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

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

**BODY**

COUNTRY: (U) INDONESIA (ID).

(b)(3):10 USC 424

SUBJECT: (U) IIR (b)(3):10 USC 424 **PRESIDENT SUHARTO'S SPEECH**  
- **AND ARMED TROOPS IN THE STREETS (U).**  
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) 980519.

(b)(3):10 USC 424

SUMMARY: (G) **PRESIDENT SUHARTO MAKES A RESIGNATION SPEECH AT 1145L ON 980519, BUT LEAVES UNSTATED THE EXACT TIMING. 17,000 TROOPS (ALL AVAILABLE) ARE DEPLOYED THROUGHOUT THE CITY AND HAVE BEEN ISSUED BALL AMMUNITION.**

TEXT: 1. (U) ON 980519 AT APPROXIMATELY 1145L (0445Z), **PRESIDENT SUHARTO MADE A TELEVISED RESIGNATION SPEECH. HE SAID THAT IT WAS NOT IMPORTANT FOR HIM PERSONALLY TO HOLD ON TO POWER, BUT WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS THAT THE NATION MOVE FORWARD IN A CONSTITUTIONAL WAY TO AVOID CHAOS. UNFORTUNATELY, HE DID NOT MENTION AN EXACT TIME SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IN THE RESIGNATION PROCESS**

2. (G) (b)(1),1.4 (c) **ARMORED VEHICLES DEPLOYED TO VARIOUS MAJOR INTERSECTIONS IN THE CITY FOR THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS. TODAY THERE ARE MORE AT MERDEKA SQUARE THAN THERE HAVE BEEN IN THE PAST WITH SOME AT EACH CORNER. ON THE SOUTHEAST CORNER (NEAR THE AMERICAN EMBASSY), THERE ARE AT LEAST TWO SCORPIONS AND THERE IS A BELT OF BALL AMMUNITION DRAPED OVER THE TOP-SIDE MACHINE GUN. ALSO, WE HAVE SEEN FOR THE FIRST TIME, NEWLY CONSTRUCTED BARRIERS WRAPPED IN BARBED WIRE AND THESE ARE POSITIONED ON THE MAJOR ROADS NEAR THE EMBASSY AND THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE.** (b)(1),1.4 (c)

(b)(1),1.4 (c) **THAT 17,000 TROOPS (ALL THAT ARE AVAILABLE) HAVE BEEN POSTED THROUGHOUT THE CITY, AND THEY HAVE BEEN ISSUED LIVE BALL**

AMMUNITION.

3. (S) (b)(1),1.4 (c) THAT ABRI IS ATTEMPTING TO PREVENT MORE STUDENTS FROM COMING INTO JAKARTA TO JOIN IN THE DEMONSTRATIONS SCHEDULED FOR 980520. THEY ARE ESPECIALLY LOOKING FOR SOME WHO HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED AS TROUBLE-MAKERS. NO DISCUSSION OF EXACTLY HOW THEY WERE GOING TO CARRY THIS OFF.

COMMENTS: (b)(3):10 USC 424 1. (S) THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH SOUNDED LIKE WHAT EVERYONE WAS HOPING TO HEAR, BUT BEING VERY NON-SPECIFIC STILL LEAVES A LOT OF DOUBT IN THE AIR.  
2. (S) THE WORD IS THAT THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT HAVE NOT CHANGED (I.E. THEY ARE STILL TO USE LIVE AMMUNITION ONLY AS A LAST RESORT TO SAVE THEIR OWN LIFE/LIMB). HOWEVER, THE ISSUANCE OF LIVE AMMO TO MASSES OF TROOPS IS A VERY DANGEROUS DEPARTURE FROM THE NORMAL PROCEDURE. IF THE DEMONSTRATORS ARE NOT HAPPY WITH THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH, VIOLENCE COULD BREAK OUT AGAIN.

3. (S) (b)(1),1.4 (c) A SITUATION REPORT THAT THERE IS A CROWD OF STUDENTS AT THE MPR (PARLIAMENT). THE APCs WHICH WERE REPORTED AT THE MPR THIS MORNING HAVE RE-DEPLOYED TO LOCATIONS UNKNOWN. (b)(1),1.4 (c) THAT THE NUMBER OF APCs LOCATED NEAR THE EMBASSY HAS DIMISHED AND THE BARRIERS ARE WITHDRAWN TO THE SIDES OF THE ROAD. HOWEVER, THE MACHINE GUNS ON THE APCs ARE STILL LOADED WITH LIVE ROUNDS.

4. (S) (b)(1),1.4 (c) AFTER WATCHING THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH. ALL AGREE THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL STEP DOWN BUT THE TIMING IS WHAT WORRIES THEM. LOCAL TELEVISION REPORTS STATE THAT ((GUS DUR)), LEADER OF THE SECOND LARGEST MOSLEM GROUP, ESTIMATES THREE TO SIX MONTHS. THE QUESTION ON EVERYONE'S MIND IS WHAT THE STUDENTS AND/OR ACTIVISTS FEEL ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH. IF THEY THINK THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL REALLY MOVE QUICKLY TO ENACT REFORMS, THEN THE SITUATION MAY CALM DOWN. IF THEY FEEL (b)(1),1.4 (c), THAT SOEHARTO IS ONLY TRYING TO BUY TIME IN ORDER TO DEFUSE THE DEMONSTRATIONS AND PUT HIS OWN HOUSE IN ORDER, THEN THE SITUATION COULD POSSIBILITY DETERIORATE QUICKLY.

(b)(1),1.4 (c) THE SITUATION THROUGHOUT JAKARTA.

5. (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 403-1(i)

(b)(3):10 USC 424 PLEASE REFER ANY QUESTIONS/COMMENTS TO

ADMIN

COLL: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

INSTR: (U)

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DISSEM: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

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(b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 403-1(i)

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