SEARCH DISPLAY (b)(3):10 USC 424

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TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC
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RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC
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MACDILL AFB FL
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RUWSMXI/USCINC TRAN
SCOTT AFB IL
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CONTROLS
CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 03
SERIAL: (U)
/**************************** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE ****************************/

BODY
COUNTRY: (U) INDONESIA (ID).
/IPSP: (U)

SUBJECT: (U) SITUATION IN JAKARTA - MORNING 14 MAY 98 (U).

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 980514.

REQS: (U)
SOURCES: A. (U) OPEN SOURCES, VARIOUS MEDIA DAILIES.

- B. (U)

SUMMARY: (U) FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE DAY, INDONESIAN POLICE OFFICERS STAYED AWAY FROM THEIR TRAFFIC POSTS WHILE THE MILITARY MAINTAINS A STRONG PRESENCE THROUGHOUT JAKARTA. SITUATION REMAINS TENSE AT TRISAKTI AND ATMA JAYA UNIVERSITIES. LOOTING AND DAMAGE DIRECTED AGAINST ETHNIC CHINESE SHOPOWNERS BY NON-STUDENT LOOTERS.

TEXT: 1. (U) FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE DAY, INDONESIAN POLICE HAVE STAYED AWAY FROM MANY OF THEIR ASSIGNED TRAFFIC POSTS. MORNING COMMUTERS IN JAKARTA FOUND THAT TRAFFIC POLICE WERE NOT AT THEIR USUAL STATIONS AND HAD DESERTED THE MAIN BOULEVARDS OF JALAN SUDIRMAN AND JALAN THAMRIN[_________] THESE TWO ROADS ARE THE MAJOR THROUGHFARES INTO JAKARTA PROPER FROM THE SOUTH. USUALLY POLICE ARE STATIONED ON EVERY CORNER OF THESE TWO MAJOR ARTERIES BUT NONE WERE SIGHTED FOR THE PAST TWO DAYS).

2. (U) ACCORDING TO SOURCE A, MOTORISTS WHO TURNED UP AT THE JAKARTA POLICE HEADQUARTERS TO RENEW THEIR DRIVER'S LICENSES WERE SENT AWAY BY OFFICERS STATING THAT BUSINESS HAD BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. SOURCE A FURTHER STATES THAT THE REASON FOR THE ABSENCE OF POLICE FROM THEIR REGULAR POSTS WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY KNOWN, BUT RESIDENTS SPECULATED ABOUT A POSSIBLE STRIKE OR FEARS OF RETRIBUTION FOR THE STUDENT DEATHS ON 980512. MILITARY TROOPS FROM KODAM JAYA AND KOSTRAD WERE SIGHTED THROUGHOUT THE DAY MOVING AROUND IN TROOP TRANSPORT TRUCKS.

3. (U) THE FATAL SHOOTING OF SIX (6) TRISAKTI STUDENTS IN WEST JAKARTA ON TUESDAY TRIGGERED SPORADIC VIOLENT RIOTING, LOOTING AND LOUD RALLIES IN THE CITY WHICH PARALYZED MOST OF THE TRAFFIC IN JAKARTA ON 980513. THE RIOT IN FRONT OF TRISAKTI UNIVERSITY ON 980513 CLAIMED THE LIFE OF ONE STUDENT WHO WAS CRUSHED BY A TRUCK. SOURCE A REPORTS THAT OVER TEN (10) STUDENTS WERE INJURED BY POLICE AND TROOPS USING BATONS AND RUBBER BULLETS. IT WAS ALSO REPORTED THAT MANY MOTORCYCLES AND VEHICLES WERE DAMAGED AND SET AFIRE.
4. (U) DOZENS OF PRIVATE BANKS, INCLUDING BRANCHES OF BANK CENTRAL ASIA AND LIPPOBANK, SHOPS, HOUSES, GASOLINE STATIONS, DISCOTHEQUES AND ONE (1) POLICE POST WERE BADLY DAMAGED AND SET AFIRED. SOURCE A REPORTED THAT THE AREA AROUND TRISAKTI UNIVERSITY LOOKED LIKE A WAR ZONE WHEN MILITARY HELICOPTERS ARRIVED AND TROOPS FROM KOPASSUS FAST-ROPE DOWN TO SUPPORT THE TROOPS ALREADY DEPLOYED. JAKARTA POLICE SPOKESMAN, LTCOL E. (ARITONANG) TOLD SOURCE A ON 980513 THAT 72 PEOPLE WERE BEING QUESTIONED AND STATED THAT NO FATALITIES HAD OCCURRED EXCEPT FOR THE STUDENT RUNOVER BY THE DRIVERLESS TRUCK. LTCOL ARITONANG STATED THAT "WE'RE NOT DEALING WITH STUDENTS ANYMORE BUT LOOTERS."

5. (U) LATE ON 980513, FLAMES AND BLACK SMOKE FROM BURNING VEHICLES AND BUILDINGS COULD STILL BE SEEN IN THE AREAS OF GROGOL, CENGKARENG, TUBAGUS ANGKE AND ANGKE JELAMBAR IN WEST JAKARTA, AND ON JALAN (ROAD) BANDENGAN UTARA IN NORTH JAKARTA. MAJOR STREETS WERE DESERTED AND LITTERED WITH BRICKS AND STONES. IN MANY PARTS TEXT: 1. (U) FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE DAY, INDONESIAN POLICE OF THE CITY, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WERE STRANDED BECAUSE OF A LACK OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION RESULTING FROM THE CLOSURE OF STREETS YESTERDAY AFTERNOON. SOME AIRLINES HAD TO DELAY FLIGHTS YESTERDAY AS TRAVELERS COULD NOT REACH THE AIRPORT, WHICH LIES TO THE WEST OF THE CITY, DUE TO THE ROAD CLOSURES. SOURCE A REPORTED THAT ALL INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES RAN AS SCHEDULED YESTERDAY AND MOST WERE FULLY BOOKED, ESPECIALLY THOSE LEAVING FOR SINGAPORE, HONG KONG AND AUSTRALIA.

6. (C) AS OF TODAY (980514), THE MORNING HAS STARTED UP AGAIN WITH REPORTS FROM TRISAKTI UNIVERSITY THAT LOOTERS HAD SET ABLAZE THE HERO'S FOOD STORE NEAR THE CAMPUS. WE HAVE ALSO RECEIVED REPORTS THAT STORES IN CHINATOWN HAVE BEEN SET ABLAZE AS WELL AS SHOPS IN PASAR BARU. THESE AREAS ARE LOCATED NORTHEAST AND NORTHWEST OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS FROM AN AMERICAN EX-PAT STATE THAT RESIDENTIAL HOUSES IN THE ELITE SUBDIVISION OF PONDAH INDAH MAY HAVE BEEN BROKEN INTO AND SOME LOOTED. WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY REPORTS OF INJURIES OR DEATHS AT THE TIME OF THIS REPORT.

7. (C) CONFIRMED REPORTS BY EMBASSY PERSONNEL HAVE STATED THAT THE MASSES OF PEOPLE ARE NOT STUDENTS BUT IN INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE OUT AND ABOUT WATCHING THE SITUATION IN THE STREETS. THESE MASSES THEN
PROCEED TO LOOT AND RIOT AFTER BEING RILED UP BY THE CROWD. REPORTS STATE THAT THE STUDENTS ARE STILL ENCAMPED ON THEIR RESPECTIVE CAMPUSES AND THAT THE LOOTING AND RIOTING THAT HAS INCREASED TODAY IS THE RESULT OF THE MASSES RUNNING "AMUCK". WIDESPREAD LOOTING, SETTING OF FIRES, AND RIOTING HAVE NOW INCREASED THROUGHOUT JAKARTA. FROM THE EMBASSY ROOF, SEE
LARGE BILLOWS OF SMOKE TO THE WEST, NORTH, AND EAST OF US.

TRAVELED FROM THE AIRPORT TO THE US EMBASSY. THE TRIP NORMALLY TAKES 20 - 45 MINUTES DEPENDING ON TRAFFIC. THIS TRIP TOOK OVER TWO (2) HOURS DID NOT SEE A SINGLE POLICE OR MILITARY PERSON UNTIL HE PASSED THE UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA CAMPUS NEAR THE US EMBASSY. TWO (2) PLATOONS OF TROOPS, ONE (1) MILITARY POLICE AND ONE (1) MOBILE BRIGADE, WITH RIOT GEAR WERE DEPLOYED BUT SITTING ON THE GROUND. PASSERSBY AND STUDENTS TOOK NO NOTICE. THE CROWDS WERE MODERATE, SIMPLY WALKING TO AND FROM ON THE ROADS. SOME SIGNS OF DESTRUCTION WERE SCATTERED ON THE ROAD INCLUDING SMALL TREES, TRAFFIC SIGNS, AND TIRES. DID NOT SENSE ANY REAL DANGER DURING THE TRIP.

COMMENTS: 1. THE SITUATION IS SERIOUS IN TEXT: 1. (U) FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE DAY, INDONESIAN POLICE SEVERAL SECTORS OF JAKARTA. WHAT STARTED OUT AS STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS HAS SPREAD INTO LOOTING AND WANTON DESTRUCTION. SO FAR, MEDIA REPORTS ON THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE POSSIBLY KILLED AND INJURED VARYS AND ARE UNCONFIRMED. IN THE EVENING OF 980513, ONE AMERICAN-CHINESE HOTEL MANAGER WAS FORCED OUT OF HIS CAR AND BEATEN BY LOOTERS. HIS CAR WAS DAMAGED AND SET ABLAZE. HIS INDONESIAN DRIVER WAS ALSO BEATEN BY THE MASSES.
2. RSO REPORTED THAT ALL POLICE FULLY DEPLOYED. RSO FURTHER STATED THAT THERE ARE NO MORE RESERVES LEFT TO SUPPORT THE DEPLOYED TROOPS. IF A SITUATION OCCURS AT THE EMBASSY, RSO STATED THAT THE POLICE COULD NOT BE COUNTED ON AS BACK UP.
3. PLEASE REFER ANY QUESTIONS/COMMENTS TO ADMIN

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