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

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

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) INDONESIA (ID).

//IPSP: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

SUBJECT: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424 WEAK INTELLIGENCE AND DESTROYED

- POLICE STATIONS - A BAD PICTURE (U).

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

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- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
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DOI: (U) 990202.

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

SOURCE: (U) OPEN SOURCES, VARIOUS.

SUMMARY: (U) ANGRY MOBS BURNED DOWN 80 POLICE STATIONS OVER THE PAST EIGHT (8) MONTHS, MOST OF THEM IN CENTRAL AND EAST JAVA. RIOT INSTIGATORS HARD TO CAPTURE DUE TO WEAK INTELLIGENCE

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GATHERING BY POLICE INTELLIGENCE UNITS.

TEXT: 1. (U) ACCORDING TO VARIOUS OPEN SOURCE NEWSPAPERS, ANGRY MOBS HAVE BURNED DOWN 80 POLICE STATIONS DURING THE PAST 8 MONTHS.

MOST OF THESE INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN IN CENTRAL AND EAST JAVA, NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF LT GEN ((ROESMANHADI)) STATED TO SOURCE ON 990201. ANOTHER 100 POLICE STATIONS WERE DESTROYED OVER THE SAME PERIOD DURING "THIS ERA OF REFORMS". ROESMANHADI BLAMED ANGRY MOBS FOR BURNING DOWN OR SMASHING UP THE POLICE STATIONS BUT DID

NOT FURTHER EXPLAIN WHAT HAD INCITED THE CROWDS TO RUN AMOK. ROESMANHADI SAID VAST SUMS OF MONEY ARE REQUIRED TO REPAIR AND THE

REBUILD THE STATIONS. BECAUSE OF THIS, ROESMANHADI STATED THAT THE "NATIONAL POLICE MAY TAKE OVER THE MANAGEMENT OF ISSUING DRIVERS' LICENSES (SIM) FROM A THIRD PARTY." (b)(3):10 USC 424  
DRIVERS' LICENSES ARE CURRENTLY ISSUED BY A PRIVATE COMPANY, WHICH

IS SUPPOSED TO GIVE A FIXED PERCENTAGE OF ITS REVENUE TO POLICE BUT FREQUENTLY FAIL TO FOLLOW THROUGH AND PAY). ROESMANHADI COMPLAINED THAT THE COMPANY'S FINANCIAL OPERATIONS ARE "NOT TRANSPARENT", DESPITE APPEALS FOR MORE OPENNESS. "WE NEVER GET ACCURATE DATA FROM THEM, THEY ONLY REMIT MONEY BUT FAIL TO PROVIDE

DETAILS. AS SUCH, WE PLAN TO TAKE IT OVER", STATED ROESMANHADI.

2. (U) ROESMANHADI SAID THE ISSUANCE OF SIMS BRINGS IN ABOUT RP 70-72 BILLION PER YEAR (APPROXIMATELY 8 MILLION USD). ROESMANHADI STATED THAT ANY MONEY EARNED FROM THE ISSUANCE OF SIMS WILL BE USED TO PURCHASE SECURITY EQUIPMENT AND RENOVATE POLICE STATIONS

HIT BY ANGRY MOBS. "ALL THE MORE SO AS SOME 300 PIECES OF SECURITY EQUIPMENT WERE DESTROYED DURING LAST YEAR'S SPATE OF DEMONSTRATIONS."

3. (U) ON THE SUBJECT OF RIOT INSTIGATORS, ROESMANHADI STATED THAT "IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO CAPTURE THEM BECAUSE OUR INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM IS WEAK." HE SAID THAT POLICE INTELLIGENCE UNITS HAVE SO FAR FOCUSED ON CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES AND NEGLECTED "ISSUES RELATED TO POLITICS". HE CRITICIZED THE WORK OF THE POLICE INTELLIGENCE UNITS AS "SLOW IN IDENTIFYING SIGNS OF TROUBLE". "I HAVE ASKED ALL REGIONAL POLICE CHIEFS TO DEPLOY THEIR BEST PEOPLE IN INTELLIGENCE AS THEY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE LATEST SECURITY SITUATION," SAID ROESMANHADI.

COMMENTS: (b)(3):10 USC 424 1. (E) ATTACKS AGAINST POLICE STATIONS ARE EVIDENCE THAT INDONESIAN POLICE ARE GENERALLY HELD IN

LOW ESTEEM BY THE PUBLIC. SINCE THE FALL OF FORMER PRESIDENT ((SOEHARTO)) LAST MAY, INDONESIA HAS BEEN STEADILY ROCKED BY PRO-DEMOCRACY DEMONSTRATIONS AND VIOLENT RIOTS. LAST MONTH IN AMBON, AT LEAST 65 PEOPLE DIED AND HUNDREDS OF HOUSES AND SHOPS WERE BURNED DOWN IN THREE DAYS OF MASS RIOTS, THE WORST SINCE UNREST STRUCK JAKARTA LAST MAY. INSTIGATORS OR PROVOCATEURS, POSSIBLY SHIPPED IN FROM OUTSIDE LOCATIONS, HAVE BEEN BLAMED FOR

CREATING TENSION AND DISTURBANCES THROUGHOUT THE NATION. THE FACT THAT THE CHIEF OF THE INDONESIAN POLICE FORCE HAS BLAMED WEAK INTELLIGENCE IS INTERESTING BECAUSE ABRI HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN AN "INTERNAL CONTROL"-ORIENTED INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM. MANY EVENTS HAVE LEAD TO THE WEAKENING OF ABRI'S INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM: THE ALLEGED ABUSES IN A CEH, EAST TIMOR, AND IRIAN JAYA; THE KIDNAPPING OF STUDENT ACTIVITISTS BY KOPASSUS TROOPS; AND THE SHOOTING OF STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITIES OF ATMA JAYA AND TRISAKTI. ABRI APPEARS TO BE SEVERELY "BEATEN DOWN" BY ALL THE BAD PRESS. PERHAPS THIS LOSS OF CREDIBILITY HAS LEAD TO THE WEAKENING OF THEIR OLD STYLE OF INTELLIGENCE GATHERING AND INTERNAL CONTROL. WHATEVER THE CASE, THE POLICE (AND PROBABLY ABRI'S) INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM WILL UNDERGO CHANGES. WHAT DIRECTION THEY TAKE THOUGH REMAINS A QUESTION. (b)(3):10 USC 424

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3. (C) ACCORDING TO SOURCE, ABRI HELD A TOP LEVEL MEETING ON 990204, BRINGING TOGETHER SENIOR ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE AND NATIONAL POLICE OFFICERS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOURCE REPORTED THAT THE LACK OF ADEQUATE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION IN THE RUN-UP TO A NUMBER OF RECENT RIOTS WAS AMONG ITEMS ON THE AGENDA FOR THE THREE HOUR CLOSED MEETING. SOURCE REPORTED THAT DURING THE RARE MEETING, ARMED FORCES COMMANDER GENERAL WIRANTO DELIVERED A SPEECH OUTLINING HIS VIEWS ON THE GENERAL ELECTION, EAST TIMOR AND SECURITY PROBLEMS FACING THE NATION IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. SOURCE REPORTED THAT WIRANTO AND NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF ROESMANHADI WOULD DISCUSS THE MEETING IN GREATER DETAIL WITH THE MEDIA ON 990206.

4. (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

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