

30 December 2003



Defense Analysis Report

File - Timika

29 December 2003

(U) Indonesia: Progress on the Timika Investigation

~~(S)~~ The US Embassy reports Indonesian military officials cooperated closely with a just-departed FBI team investigating the August 2002 ambush murder of two American and one Indonesian mine employees in Timika, Papua province. The handover of a highly sensitive taped "confession" elicited from separatist rebels reaffirms Jakarta's keen interest in resuming defense ties. Follow-on actions to bring the alleged perpetrators to justice still await further military efforts to obtain "airtight" proof, although verification of the army's evidence will require eventual direct access to the rebel suspects and their weapons.

(U) Two-Week Visit Considered Fruitful

~~(S)~~ The FBI team departed for home on 19 December with new materials provided by the military, intended to move the investigation forward.

(b)(1);(b)(3):10 USC 424;Sec. 1.4(c)

(U) The Case against the Separatist Rebels

~~(S)~~

(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c)

Although details vary, most informants accuse separatist leader Kelly Kwalik of ordering a 21-man force to carry out the attack while he remained behind at his headquarters.

- ~~(S)~~ The accounts describe Kwalik lieutenant Antonius Wamang as the leader of a small ambush group and identify another rebel killed in an army shoot-out the day after the ambush.

- (b)(1);Sec. 1.4(b);Sec. 1.4(c)

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- ~~(S)~~ Although potential motives for a rebel attack remain unclear, the local military points to Kwalik's known previous confrontations with the mine and believes he was angry over the mine's ties to the government and receiving inadequate largesse from the mine's local community assistance programs.

(U) Hoping to Clear the Military's Name

~~(C)~~ In meeting the FBI team, Armed Forces Commander Gen Sutarto reaffirmed his intent to punish any military members that might be found complicit in the attack but, based on repeated investigations, felt military members were not involved.

- ~~(S)~~ There has been no recent intelligence pointing to military involvement, although the regional army command earlier suspected that a Papuan soldier illegally provided or sold ammunition to the rebels, according to sensitive information.
- (U) Apparently to underscore the Army's openness, Army Chief Gen Ryamizard announced during the FBI visit that the military would allow its troops to be interviewed by the FBI, "as long as there is no spying," he said.

(U) Continuing Complexities

~~(S)~~ (b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c) the military is very eager to have the police take over responsibility for bringing the accused to justice, but has been reluctant to engage them in the case due to rivalries and other sensitivities.

- ~~(S)~~ Military-police relations are poor, reflecting the military's low regard for the police and residual anger against earlier police accusations of military complicity in the killings, which now have been implicitly retracted by the involved police investigator.
- ~~(S)~~ The military sees the police as shirking its responsibility to investigate the case fully. According to the US Embassy, the local police command has made no discernible effort to seek further leads since the FBI's previous visit in January 2003.
- ~~(S)~~ The military fears any premature handover of the tape to the police would endanger its informants and jeopardize the case.

~~(S)~~ (b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c) the military earlier located Kwalik's new base camp, but has been hesitant to move against this facility, which purportedly contains many family members.

- ~~(S)~~ (b)(1);(b)(3):10 USC 424;Sec. 1.4(c);Sec. 1.4(d) underscore the army's sensitivity to the police's jurisdiction in making arrests and a desire to avoid a large-scale operation that could easily turn deadly, with accusations of a military cover-up to silence potential rebel witnesses.

(U) Next Moves

(C) Senior Indonesian officials, including President Megawati and Gen Sutarto, hope the stepped-up cooperation will finally bring closure and speed the resumption of normal defense ties.

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~~(S)~~ Believing the single video would be insufficient to convict, the military currently is pursuing further covert efforts to develop an "airtight" case.

(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(b);Sec. 1.4(c)

(U) Cooperation Likely, but Verification Needed

~~(S)~~ Irrespective of earlier frustrations over a perceived U.S. failure to acknowledge their efforts, cooperation with the FBI is likely to continue when the team returns early next month. Military officials will be looking for FBI reinforcement of its findings as the only way to clear its name.

~~(C)~~ Still, direct access to the named witnesses and resolution of remaining discrepancies will likely remain necessary, particularly due to the military's serious credibility problems. Improved police-military cooperation likewise will be needed, but translation requirements from the original Papuan dialect also could take additional processing time.

~~(S)~~ The investigation appears at a particularly sensitive stage. The military's careful approach reflects concern to avoid further setbacks, although delays and further problems can be expected in the coming months due to the continued political sensitivities and Indonesia's weak legal and security institutions.

— *Prepared by:* (b)(3):10 USC 424

Derived from: Multiple Sources

Declassify on: ~~X1~~

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