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BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH

INDONESIA

Lieutenant General Leonardus Benyamin MOERDANI
June 1982

(U) NAME: Lieutenant General Leonardus Benyamin ("Benny") Moerdani, Indonesian Army. Variant: Benjamin Murdani. (Pronounced MOOR-DAN-EE)

(U) POSITION: Assistant for Intelligence (J-1/Intel), Department of Defense and Security (Hankam), since August 1974; concurrently, Assistant for Intelligence, Operational Command for the Restoration of Security and Order (KOPKAMTIB), Head, Strategic Intelligence Center (PUSINTELSTRAT), and Deputy Chief, State Coordinating Body for Intelligence (BAKIN).



(U)

1977

(b)(1),1.4 (c)

~~(C/NOFORN)~~ POLITICS: Moerdani is pro-US and is cordial with representatives of the US. Moerdani received

(b)(1),(b)(6),1.4 (c)

He has had diplomatic service in both Malaysia and South Korea. In previous discussions, General Moerdani has stressed Indonesia's need to stand on its own two feet,

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economically as well as militarily, and to achieve national resilience as a deterrent to instability. Moerdani has complained about previous "abrupt changes" in the US security and assistance policy, but he also stated that he and his colleagues in the Ministry of Defense "privately" support the retention of US bases in the Philippines. He has sometimes stressed the inbred Indonesian suspicion and resentment of the Indonesian Chinese minority both in terms of economic disparity with indigenous peoples and alleged attempts by some elements of the Chinese community to destabilize the country through economic subversion. Regarding Indochina and the major powers, Moerdani has commented that whereas previous US involvement in Vietnam had posed difficulties for Indonesia, in 1975-76 Vietnam itself became a problem. This included the subsequent SRV incursion into Cambodia and the problem of refugees. Moerdani, however, is a leading proponent of a more accommodating stance toward Hanoi. His views run counter to the established ASEAN position and has been actively opposed by Foreign Minister Mochtar, his principal rival in the foreign policy arena. Like Mochtar however, Moerdani occasionally emphasized, that with American efforts to counter the Soviet Union, the US has gone too far in its support of the PRC.

(b)(1), 1.4 (c)

With his increasing powers and responsibilities, however, Moerdani has become somewhat more vocal

(b)(1), 1.4 (c)

Nevertheless, Moerdani has also privately decried the corruption of some elder military leaders and advocated delegating increased responsibility to younger, more qualified officers and civilians. Apparently to the concern of some officers, he has been active in promoting his young supporters in the military, using his position on promotion and reassignment boards and his influence with fellow senior officers. A major opponent was Army Chief of Staff General Widodo, but Moerdani won most of the bureaucratic battles and Widodo now has been retired. Moerdani has established an effective working relationship with Defense Minister General Jusuf, becoming one of his most relied-on staff officers. Disagreements exist between the two, however, and Moerdani apparently has sought to under cut Jusuf on various occasions.

(C/NOFORN) PERSONAL DATA: General Moerdani was born (b)(6) in (b)(6). One of Indonesia's youngest senior general officers, Moerdani is airborne qualified, special forces trained, and enjoys discussions relating to these subjects. He has acquired broad responsibilities because of his demonstrated intelligence, decisiveness, and ability to get things done.

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INDONESIA

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However, because of his numerous duties and refusal to adequately delegate authority, Moerdani is extremely overworked and spends much of his time away from home. He generally eats and sleeps at his Department of Defense and Security (HANKAM) office, where he has a bedroom and other facilities. He also has an office at BAKIN which he visits for about an hour every day. In the evening hours, Moerdani devotes his time to receiving calls from Indonesian military attaches around the world who call him during those hours to advise him of problems, or of other matters with which they might need his help or want to keep him informed on. Moerdani takes no real breaks from this routine during the week. His only concession is that he takes "cat-naps" of 10 or 20 minutes during the day in his office. When he is away, important decisions are delayed and on one occasion last year, he had to be hospitalized from exhaustion. As a result of his predominant influence in East Timor, since 1975, Moerdani has reportedly gained financial control of that provinces principal coffee export trade. Moerdani

(b)(1),(b)(6),1.4
(c)

Moerdani and his wife,

They have one daughter, who is approximately 13 years old.

(U) CAREER:

- 1945-1949 - Joined army at age 13 as a munitions carrier during the revolution.
- 1951-1952 - Attended Reserve Officers School and Instructor School.
- 1951-1954 - Instructor, Inf Cadre School.
- 1954-1956 - Attended Commando School; later serving as Instructor because chief instructor 1955.
- 1957-1958 - CO, para-commando unit (RPKAD) in Sulawesi.
- 1959-1960 - Student, jump school; student, company officer course.
- 1960-1961 (b)(6)
- 1962-1963 - CO, RPKAD Bn in West Irian.
- 1963-1964 - CO, RPKAD Bn, Operations Officer RPKAD Regt.
- 1965-1966 - Assigned to Operations Section, Army Strategic Command (KOSTRAD).

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INDONESIA

Lieutenant General Leonardus Benyamin MOERDANI
June 1982

- 1966-1971 - DCM, Embassy, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- 1971-1974 - Indonesian Charge d'Affaires, Seoul, South Korea.
- 1974-Present - Deputy Asst for Intelligence/J-1, HANKAM, 1 Jan 74; became Asst for Intelligence/J-1, and promoted to Maj Gen, Aug 74; concurrently, Chief of Intelligence, KOPKAMTIB; on 11 Aug 77 assumed additional title as Head, Strategic Intelligence Center (FUSINTELSTRAT); and Deputy Chief, State Coordinating Body for Intelligence (BAKIN) in May 1978. Promoted to Lt Gen Apr 1980.

Prepared by:

(b)(3):10 USC 424

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