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SERIAL: (U) (b)(3) 10 U.S.C 424

COUNTRY: (U) BURMA (BM).

SUBJECT: (b)(3) 10 U.S.C 424 / VIEWS CONCERNING MUSLIMS
(U).WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINAL-
LY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED
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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 910605.

REQS: (U) (b)(3) 10 U.S.C 424

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SUMMARY: ~~(S)~~ THE BURMESE GOVERNMENT IS SUSPICIOUS OF
MUSLIMS' INTENTIONS IN THE REGION. BURMESE PERCEIVE A
MUSLIM CONSPIRACY TO CREATE A LAND ROUTE FROM THE
MIDDLE EAST TO INDONESIA.TEXT: 1. ~~(S)~~ BURMESE AUTHORITIES SUBSCRIBE TO A
MUSLIM PLOT TO DOMINATE THE REGION FROM THE MIDDLE EAST
TO INDONESIA. THIS PROPOSED MUSLIM-CONTROLLED LAND
ROUTE IS PARTIALLY COMPLETE, ENCOMPASSING THE MIDDLE
EAST, AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN, BANGLADESH, MALAYSIA, AND
INDONESIA. IT IS AN OLD PLAN WHICH MOTIVATED THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOGUL EMPIRE OF INDIA, THE ARAKAN
STATE, AND THE MUSLIM REGIONS OF SOUTHERN THAILAND AND~~CONFIDENTIAL~~(b)(3) 10 U.S.C
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MALAYSIA.

2. ~~(S)~~ SINCE BURMA IS FREE OF MUSLIM DOMINANCE, IT MUST FORESTALL MUSLIM ADVANCES. ACCORDING TO THIS VIEW, BANGLADESH IS SEEN AS THE GREATEST THREAT DUE TO ITS POPULATION AND DUE TO THE FACT THAT TO GAIN A BETTER LIFE, BANGLADESHIES ARE SEEKING REFUGE IN BURMA. BESIDES BANGLADESH, THE BURMESE WORRY ABOUT MUSLIMS FROM THAILAND AND MALAYSIA AND SEE THE KASHMIR CRISIS AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF MUSLIM EXPANSION. MUCH OF BURMESE REGIONAL STRATEGY IS BASED ON THE PERCEIVED NEED TO THWART ISLAMIC DOMINATION.

3. ~~(S)~~ THE BURMESE AUTHORITIES VIEW THEIR ETHNIC MUSLIM POPULATION AS PLAYERS IN THIS CONSPIRACY. TO ILLUSTRATE THE THREAT, AUTHORITIES DESCRIBE A WARD IN TENASSERIM WHICH HOUSED 100 MUSLIM FAMILIES. THE BURMESE DO NOT REST THEIR LOGIC ON NUMBERS OF FAMILIES, BUT EXPAND THE ARGUMENT TO THE COMPOSITION OF A MUSLIM FAMILY, WHICH THEY VIEW AS CONSISTING OF A HUSBAND WITH FOUR WIVES, WITH EACH WIFE HAVING TWO CHILDREN, CAUSING AN AGGREGATE INCREASE OF 13. IF THIS IMMIGRATION CONTINUES UNCHECKED, THE MUSLIMS WOULD SOON DOMINATE BURMA. OVERPOPULATION IS ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE BURMESE AS A MEANS TO AN END. SUCH A MIND SET REQUIRES THE GOVERNMENT TO MANAGE TIGHT CONTROLS OVER LOCAL MUSLIMS TO INSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE NATIONAL OBJECTIVE AGAINST FOREIGN DOMINATION.

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

2. ~~(S)~~ AMERICAN REGIONAL ACTIVITIES HAVE ALSO AFFECTED THE BURMESE VIEW OF REGIONAL POLITICS. DURING THE BANGLADESH RELIEF OPERATIONS, BURMESE AUTHORITIES INQUIRED ABOUT AMERICAN "OVERFLIGHTS" AS WELL AS AMERI-

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CAN INTENTIONS IN BANGLADESH. IN RESPONSE TO AN AMERICAN PRESENCE, BURMA REPOSITIONED ARMY AND NAVAL UNITS TO THE RAKHINE STATE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION. NAVAL UNITS WERE POSITIONED AT THE MOUTHS OF MOST RIVERS NEAR THE BORDER AS A PRECAUTION AGAINST INFILTRATION OF INSURGENT FORCES. REAR ADMIRAL ((THAN NYUNT)), CHIEF OF THE BURMESE NAVAL STAFF, WAS DISPATCHED TO THE RAKHINE STATE TO ADVISE MILITARY COMMANDERS TO REFRAIN FROM HARASSING REFUGEES UNTIL THE AMERICANS HAD LEFT. THE BURMESE WANTED TO PREVENT ANY INCIDENT THAT COULD LEAD TO BAD PRESS.

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