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ACTION EAP-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	AID-00	AIT-03	AMAD-01	ACQ-01
	CA-02	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EB-00	ED-01	EUR-01	FBIE-00	FRB-00	HHS-01
	H-01	SSA-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-01
	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01
	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	CIO-00	SCT-00	SP-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00
	PRM-01	DRL-04	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/035W	

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P 131258Z MAY 98
 FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1510
 DEPTTREAS WASHDC
 INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING
 ASEAN COLLECTIVE
 AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY SEOUL
 AIT TAIPEI 0681
 AMEMBASSY TOKYO
 USDOC WASHDC
 AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 JAKARTA 002672

DEPARTMENT FOR MGID01
 S/S-O OPERATIONS CENTER FOR FINANCIAL CRISIS WORKING GROUP

STATE FOR EAP/PIMBS, EB/OMA/ AND INR/IL
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 5/08/2008
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, SOCI, SCUL, CASC, PINR, ID
SUBJECT: MGID01: INDONESIA SITUATION REPORT (5/13)

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY POLCOUNS ED MCWILLIAMS, REASON: 1.5(D).
2. (C) SUMMARY: NEW VIOLENCE ERUPTED IN JAKARTA DURING THE DAY MAY 13, IN THE WAKE OF VIOLENCE WHICH TOOK THE LIVES OF AT LEAST SIX STUDENTS, SHOT BY SECURITY FORCES ON THE TRISAKTI UNIVERSITY CAMPUS. THE NEW VIOLENCE BEGAN IN THE SAME LOCATION, WHERE ONE MORE DEATH HAS BEEN REPORTED. PROTESTERS, NOT NECESSARILY STUDENTS, BURNED A GASOLINE STATION AND VEHICLES. VIOLENT CLASHES WERE REPORTED ELSEWHERE IN THE CITY AS OF COB AS STUDENTS SOUGHT TO BLOCK ROADS. NEW VIOLENCE WAS ALSO REPORTED IN JOGJAKARTA. MEDAN IS QUIET BUT TENSE WHILE IN PADANG THERE WAS A PEACEFUL STUDENT DEMONSTRATION. SURABAYA SAW A PEACEFUL STUDENT MARCH TO THE LOCAL PARLIAMENT. PRESIDENT SOEHARTO HAS CUT SHORT HIS VISIT TO CAIRO, AND WILL RETURN TO JAKARTA MAY 14. END SUMMARY

JAKARTA SEES NEW VIOLENCE

TRISAKTI UNIVERSITY (JAKARTA):

3. (U) VIOLENT CONFRONTATIONS DEVELOPED ON THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 13 BETWEEN SECURITY FORCES AND A MIXTURE OF LOCAL PEOPLE AND STUDENTS AT JAKARTA'S TRISAKTI UNIVERSITY. EARLIER IN THE DAY, POLOFF HAD WITNESSED A PEACEFUL RALLY OF THOUSANDS AT THE TRISAKTI CAMPUS IN HONOR OF THE SIX STUDENTS KILLED THE NIGHT
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BEFORE. OPPOSITION LEADERS MEGAWATI AND AMIEN RAIS WERE AMONG THE SPEAKERS.

4. (U) FIGHTING DEVELOPED HOURS LATER AS LOCAL PEOPLE AND STUDENTS FROM OTHER UNIVERSITIES BEGAN TO CONGREGATE IN THE TRISAKTI CAMPUS AREA. SECURITY FORCES FIRED TEAR GAS AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AT THE CROWD OUTSIDE THE CAMPUS WHICH COUNTERED WITH STONES. THE CROWD ALSO SET FIRE TO A NUMBER OF VEHICLES IN THE AREA AND AT LEAST ONE GAS STATION. A SMALL POLICE OFFICE WAS

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BESIEGED FOR A TIME.

5. (U) AS OF COB, THREE HELICOPTERS HAD DELIVERED SPECIAL FIGHTER TEAMS WHICH DESCENDED INTO THE AREA BY ROPE. A REPUTABLE WIRE SERVICE REPORTER HAS TOLD US THAT ONE DEAD YOUTH HAD BEEN DISCOVERED ON THE SCENE, THOUGH CAUSE OF DEATH WAS UNCERTAIN. TWO EXPAT JOURNALISTS WERE ALSO HIT BY RUBBER BULLETS AND A THIRD NARROWLY ESCAPED A LIVE ROUND HE SAID STRUCK A WALL BEHIND HIM. CASUALTY FIGURES ARE NOT AVAILABLE.

6. (U) STUDENTS AND ORDINARY PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED IN STREET DEMONSTRATIONS, SOME INVOLVING CLASHES WITH POLICE, THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

ATMA JAYA UNIVERSITY (JAKARTA):

7. (U) AS OF LATE AFTERNOON THE CENTER OF JAKARTA'S JALAN SUDIRMAN BUSINESS DISTRICT WAS PARALYZED BY CLASHES BETWEEN POLICE AND MASSES OF PEOPLE WHO HAD EMERGED FROM OFFICE BUILDINGS AND ADJOINING NEIGHBORHOODS. POLICE WERE SPRAYING TEARGAS AND AN EMBASSY SPOUSE ON THE SCENE REPORTED SHOOTING BEGINNING AROUND 5 P.M. EARLIER IN THE DAY A LARGE DEMONSTRATION/REQUIEM WAS HELD

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AT ATMA JAYA UNIVERSITY WHICH IS LOCATED NEARBY ON THIS MAIN JAKARTA THOROUGHFARE. AT ONE POINT, STUDENTS WERE BLOCKING THE SLOW LANE OF SUDIRMAN, LINKED ARM IN ARM. AS OF 3:00 PM, THE DEMONSTRATION (WITNESSED BY POLOFF) WAS PEACEFUL, THOUGH TRAFFIC WAS SIGNIFICANTLY SLOWED. A SIGN DISPLAYED OVER THE UNIVERSITY SIGN SAID "PLEASE, DON'T SHOOT US." THERE WAS MINIMAL POLICE PRESENCE. A SOURCE ON THE SCENE REPORTED AT 3:15 PM THAT TRAFFIC HAD COME TO A HALT AND MANY PEOPLE WERE COMING OUT OF OFFICE BUILDINGS TO WATCH/JOIN THE DEMONSTRATION, SOME MOTIONING WITH A THUMBS UP SIGN IN SUPPORT OF THE STUDENTS.

8. (U) AT 4:00 P.M., AN EMBASSY SPOUSE REPORTED THAT HER CONTACT IN THE DANAMON BANK BUILDING, ADJACENT TO ATMA JAYA, WAS REPORTING CLASHES IN THE STREET AND IN THE NEARBY BENHIL MARKET. TEAR GAS WAS BEING SPRAYED BY THE SECURITY FORCES. THE CONTACT EMPHASIZED THAT THOSE BATTLING POLICE WERE NOT STUDENTS, WHO HAD LEFT THE SCENE, BUT LOCAL RESIDENTS. TRAFFIC ON SUDIRMAN HAD COME TO A COMPLETE STANDSTILL.

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9. (U) A SEPARATE SOURCE REPORTED THAT DEMONSTRATORS WERE BURNING VEHICLES IN THE PONDOK INDAH AREA OF SOUTHERN JAKARTA. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHO THESE DEMONSTRATORS ARE BUT AN EARLIER REPORT CLAIMED THAT STUDENTS FROM MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY WERE ATTEMPTING TO MARCH TO TRISAKTI UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, AND THEIR

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MARCH WOULD HAVE LED THROUGH THIS AREA.

JOGJAKARTA:

9. (U) ACCORDING TO A RESPECTED WESTERN JOURNALIST, CLASHES ERUPTED BETWEEN STUDENTS AND SECURITY FORCES IN JOGJAKARTA MAY 13 AND WERE CONTINUING AS OF COB.

WEST SUMATRA:

10. (C) STUDENTS IN PADANG, WEST SUMATRA HELD A LARGE DEMONSTRATION ON MAY 13, ACCORDING TO TWO NGO SOURCES THERE WHO ARE WELL CONNECTED TO STUDENTS. ONE SAID THAT ABOUT 2000 STUDENTS MARCHED TO THE LOCAL PARLIAMENT WITHOUT INCIDENT. THE DEMONSTRATION HAD NOT BEEN SPECIFICALLY FOCUSED ON THE DEATHS OF STUDENTS IN JAKARTA. PLANS IN PADANG WERE FOR A MAJOR DEMONSTRATION ON MAY 20. HE SAID THAT AFTER THE MAY 7 DEMONSTRATION IN PADANG, SEVEN STUDENTS WERE DETAINED, AND SIX HAD BEEN RELEASED. ONE WAS STILL BEING HELD IN POLICE CUSTODY AS OF MAY 13. A STUDENT DEMONSTRATION ALSO WAS HELD IN BUKITTINGGI ON MAY 13.

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11. (U) EMBASSY FSN IN MEDAN REPORTS THAT THE CITY IS QUIET BUT STILL TENSE. THE INDONESIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IS ON THE SCENE AND INVESTIGATING LAST WEEK'S VIOLENCE. LOCAL REPORTS, AS YET UNCONFIRMED, NOW CLAIM 13 KILLED, FOUR OF WHOM WERE SHOT.

SURABAYA:

12. (U) AMCONSUL SURABAYA REPORTS THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL DEMONSTRATIONS BY STUDENTS IN THE CITY ON MAY 13. IN ONE, STUDENTS PEACEFULLY MARCHED FROM AIRLANGGA UNIVERSITY TO THE LOCAL PARLIAMENT WITHOUT INCIDENT. AMCONSOFF WAS ON THE SCENE TO MONITOR PART OF THE MARCH.

INVESTIGATORY TEAM SET UP:

13. (U) COMMANDER IN CHIEF AND DEFENSE MINISTER GENERAL WIRANTO HAS APPOINTED A FACT-FINDING TEAM WHICH WILL INVESTIGATE THE RECENT DISAPPEARANCE AND TORTURE OF ACTIVISTS. THE TEAM IS LED BY MILITARY POLICE CHIEF MAJOR GENERAL SYAMSU.

PRESIDENT SOEHARTO TO RETURN MAY 14

PRESIDENT SOEHARTO HAS CUT SHORT HIS VISIT TO CAIRO, AND WILL RETURN TO JAKARTA MAY 14. ROY

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