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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Army Military Police Corps Assuming Role as Thought Police?

The reporting officer has heard from sources in two Ministries that the Army's Military Police Corps (CPM) has been assigned the main role in the screening out of individuals in GOI Ministries for subversive opinions related to the 30th of September Affair. The CPM's authority in this specific function derives directly from General Suharto under his March 11 Order powers, and is superior to that of all individuals of the rank of Deputy Minister or below except in the Armed Forces.

The CPM has worked up a questionnaire which it is in the process of administering to all officials of all Ministries, including Deputy Ministers. The questionnaire is broken down into several sections. The individual is first required to write a short biography of himself with a detailed explanation of his political associations, if any. He is then asked to explain any "mistakes" he believes he made during the "prologue" to the 30th September Affair, and to point out in what way he made clear his opposition to the "Movement" after it occurred. Finally, he is asked a series of questions on his position on current events, such as, for instance, his opinion of the President's recent MPRS speech. CPM monitors patrol the rooms during the testing.

COMMENT: The logistical problems of administering such a test to the Indonesian Government's multi-million member civil service spread throughout a 3,000 mile wide archipelago are obvious, and it seems likely it will only be enforced in any meaningful way in the capital. More interesting than the test itself is the assignment of the Military Police to a role of ensuring ideological purity.

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The Military Police have replaced the former Presidential Guard "Tjakrabirawa" Regiment as the responsible unit for the security of the President and his family. The former Tjakrabirawa Commanding Officer, Major General Mohamed Sabur, once issued a statement that his Regiment had authority not only to guard the President, but also to "safeguard the ideology of the state." This viewpoint was the rationale for the Tjakrabirawa to assume anti-subversion functions as a type of thought-police responsive only to Sukarno, a role it was just beginning to assume in September, 1965.

It now appears possible that the Military Police are moving toward a similar role coincidentally with their responsibility for guarding the security of the Chief of State. In this case, however, they are responsive only to Suharto, not Sukarno, and will endeavor to weed out communists rather than anti-communists.

It is not clear, of course, whether the CPN's activities in this field will be limited in time or scope. After the passage of Sukarno and the withering away of the importance of the 30th September Affair, the CPN may well return to their normal duties. On the other hand, the CPN's assumption of thought control powers may presage the renascence of some of the thought control devices of the pre-September 30 period, such as the "Supreme Command for the Retooling of the Apparatus of the Revolution," ("KOTRAN"), the Central Intelligence Body, and others.

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