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Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1999JAKART02532

Channel: n/a

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)

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INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	AMAD-01	A-00	ACQ-01	CA-02	CCO-00
	CG-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	COME-00	CTME-00	DINT-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	WHA-01	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-01
	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-00
	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	MMP-00	M-00	AC-01	NRCE-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00
	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00
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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7913
INFO ASEAN COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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ROME FOR THE VATICAN
USCINCPAC FOR FPA AMB TWINING

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/23/06
TAGS: PHUM, PREF, MOPS, PTER, PINR, PGOV, PREL, ID
SUBJECT: EAST TIMOR: MILITIA FACTIONALISM; REPORTED
CLANDESTINE MILITARY ACTIVITY; FALINTIL CONTROL PROBLEMS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: CHARLES E LAHIGUERA
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 23 MAY 2024
DATE/CASE ID: 15 JUL 2004 200300722

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1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY POLCOUNS EDMUND MCWILLIAMS, REASON:
1.5 (D).

2. (C) SUMMARY: THERE IS ADDITIONAL ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE OF DIVISIONS AMONG MAJOR MILITARY-BACKED MILITIA GROUPS OPERATING IN EAST TIMOR. MEANWHILE, MILITARY SPECIAL FORCES (KOPASSUS), ACCORDING TO TWO REPORTS, ARE DONNING POLICE UNIFORMS. THE FLIGHT OF YOUNG MALES TO THE HILLS TO ESCAPE MILITIA ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS REPORTEDLY IS POSING SUPPLY AND DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS FOR THE ARMED EAST TIMORESE RESISTANCE. END SUMMARY

3. (U) OBSERVERS IN DILI, EAST TIMOR SEE SIGNS OF GROWING CONTENTION AMONG THE VARIOUS MILITIAS WHO HAVE BEEN ATTACKING PRO-INDEPENDENCE CIVILIANS IN RECENT MONTHS. THE MILITARY-BACKED GROUPS APPEAR TO HAVE ESTABLISHED CONTROL OVER SPECIFIC TERRITORIES AND, AS REPORTED REFTEL, HAVE VARYING PERSPECTIVES ON THE SUBJECT OF COOPERATION WITH PRO-INDEPENDENCE GROUPS.

4. (U) ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE SUGGESTS SIGNIFICANT STRAINS
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BETWEEN THE "AITARAK" GROUP, WHICH LARGELY CONTROLS DILI AND ITS ENVIRONS, AND THE "TEAM SAKA" WHICH IS BASED IN THE BAUCAU AREA AND CONTROLS TERRITORY TO THE EAST OF A POINT ON THE DILI-MANATUTO ROAD. ACCORDING TO ACCOUNTS BY NGOS, WESTERN JOURNALISTS AND THE ICRC, TEAM SAKA, UNDER THE COMMAND OF "JOHNIQUO," EARLIER THIS MONTH MOVED TO DEFEND "LAHANAI" (PHONETIC) EAST OF DILI AFTER RESIDENTS SOUGHT PROTECTION FROM AN EXPECTED AITARAK ATTACK. AITARAK ARRIVED AND WAS CONFRONTED BY SAKA. AFTER A FACE-TO-FACE MEETING WITH JOHNIQUO, AITARAK LEADER EURICO GUTEREZ RETURNED TO DILI. SINCE THAT TIME, A CHECK POINT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BY SAKA TO PREVENT ANY AITARAK ATTACKS EAST OF A POINT BETWEEN HERA AND MANATUTO.

5. (SBU) IN A SEPARATE, WIDELY RECOUNTED INCIDENT, AITARAK MILITIA REPORTEDLY THREATENED STUDENTS NATIVE TO BAUCAU IN MAY 10 VIOLENCE IN DILI. THE STUDENTS SOUGHT AND RECEIVED POLICE PROTECTION. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE POLICE TURNED THE STUDENTS OVER TO A COLUMN OF SAKA MILITIA WHICH ENTERED DILI FROM BAUCAU. THE SAKA COLUMN CARRIED THE STUDENTS SAFELY BACK TO BAUCAU. AITARAK REPORTEDLY STRONGLY PROTESTED TO THE POLICE OVER THE TURNOVER.

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6. (SBU) THERE ALSO ARE LESS-DETAILED REPORTS OF THE KILLING OF A SAKA MILITIA COMMANDER'S BROTHER BY COMBINED AITARAK AND BESI MERAH PUTI FORCES IN SUAI DISTRICT IN LATE APRIL OR EARLY MAY. A SAKA UNIT REPORTEDLY WENT TO SUAI TO CAPTURE THOSE RESPONSIBLE BUT LEFT EMPTY-HANDED.

7. (SBU) TO THE SOUTH OF THE CAPITAL, THE LAST AITARAK
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CHECK POINT IS AT THE PROVINCIAL GUEST HOUSE AT THE SOUTHERN FRINGE OF THE CITY. IT APPEARS THAT BOTH AITARAK AND BESI MERAH PUTIH OPERATE FURTHER SOUTH AS THEY HAVE PERIODICALLY INSIDE DILI (E.G., DURING THE APRIL 17-18 VIOLENCE IN THE CAPITAL BOTH UNITS WERE OPERATING). LOCAL PEOPLE ON THE MOUNTAINOUS ROAD TO ALIEU OUTSIDE DARE TOLD EMBOFF THAT BOTH BESI MERAH PUTIH AND AITARAK HAD TRIED (UNSUCCESSFULLY) TO INTIMIDATE YOUNG MEN AMONG DISPLACED STAYING WITH A LOCAL PRIEST TO JOIN THEIR UNITS RECENTLY.

8. (SBU) WEST OF DILI, BESI MERAH PUTIH MILITIA CONTROL AN AREA BEGINNING APPROXIMATELY FIVE KMS WEST OF THE CAPITAL, JUST INSIDE THE LIQUISA PROVINCE LINE. THERE WAS NO APPARENT HOSTILITY DETECTED BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS DURING A DRIVE ACROSS THE AITARAK/BESI MERAH PUTH BOUNDARY ON MAY 21, WITH THE ONLY DIFFERENCE OBSERVED BEING THE NATIONAL PARTY FLAGS DISPLAYED: MEGAWATI'S PDI-P FLAGS PREDOMINATED IN THE AITARAK AREA, AND AT AITARAK CHECKPOINTS. IN BESI MERAH PUTIH AREAS, GOLKAR AND PDI FLAGS WERE MOST COMMON.

9. (SBU) OBSERVERS, INCLUDING A WEST TIMOR JOURNALIST AND AN EXPAT JOURNALIST, BOTH OF WHOM TRAVELED IN WEST TIMOR NEAR THE WEST TIMOR-EAST TIMOR BORDER, TOLD EMBOFF SEPARATELY THAT MANY OF THE BESI MERAH PUTIH MILITIA (THE

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KUPANG-BASED JOURNALIST SAID 60 PERCENT) WERE RECRUITED
FROM AMONG WEST TIMORESE LIVING IN THE ATAMBUA AREA.
SOME OF THESE INCLUDED YOUTHS BORN TO AN EARLIER
GENERATION OF EAST TIMORESE WHO, IN 1975, FLED FROM
CONFLICT IN THE WESTERN DISTRICTS OF EAST TIMOR IN WHICH
JAKARTA TROOPS FOUGHT WITH EAST TIMORESE FRETILIN. THE
KUPANG-BASED JOURNALIST SAID THAT IN RECENT MONTHS THE
MILITARY (HE SPECIFIED THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE
DIRECTORATE "BIA") HAD GONE "DOOR-TO-DOOR" RECRUITING
YOUNG MALES FOR THE BESI MERAH PUTIH AND THAT TRAINING OF
THESE RECRUITS HAD TAKEN PLACE OUTSIDE ATAMBUA (BUT
INSIDE WEST TIMOR).

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ALLEGED CLANDESTINE INDONESIAN MILITARY ACTIVITY

10. (C) [REDACTED] SAID THEY HAD RECEIVED SIMILAR REPORTS OF INDONESIAN MILITARY CROSS-BORDER ACTIVITY. [REDACTED] CLAIMED INDONESIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL DRESSED IN BLACK AND WITHOUT IDENTIFYING INSIGNIA WERE "WALKING IN" TO EAST
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TIMOR FROM THE WEST, POSSIBLY IN ACTIONS WHICH PARALLELED ABRI ACTIONS IN 1975 WHEN "OPERATION KOMODO" UNITS INFILTRATED INTO EAST TIMOR PRIOR TO THE INDONESIAN INVASION. [REDACTED] AS WELL AS LOCAL AND EXPAT JOURNALISTS, CLAIMED TO HAVE SIMILAR ACCOUNTS.

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11. (C) A SENIOR NGO FIGURE AND A LOCAL JOURNALIST SAID THAT THEY HAD HEARD REPORTS CLAIMING THAT SPECIAL FORCES (KOPASSUS) PERSONNEL WERE DONNING POLICE UNIFORMS AND THAT POLICE IN TURN WERE CHANGING TO THE UNIFORMS OF THE POLICE AUXILIARY (KAMRA). (NOTE: WE SHARED THIS UNCONFIRMED REPORT WITH UNAMET WHICH PLANS TO EMPLOY INTERNATIONAL POLICE AS ADVISORS TO THE EAST TIMORESE POLICE.)

ROY
PROBLEMS OF FALINTIL CONTROL

12. (C) OBSERVERS COMMENTING ON THE IMPACT OF RECENT MILITIA-GENERATED POPULATION DISPLACEMENT SAID THAT THE FLIGHT OF MANY MALES TO THE HILLS (TO AVOID CAPTURE BY THE MILITIAS) HAD PLACED A MULTIPLE BURDEN ON THE FALINTIL. THE ARMED EAST TIMORESE RESISTANCE HAD RELIED ON NETWORKS IN THE TOWNS AND VILLAGES FOR SUPPLY WHICH WERE NOW DISRUPTED. MOREOVER, THE ARRIVAL OF THE FLEEING CIVILIANS PUT PRESSURE ON EXISTING SUPPLIES. FINALLY, THE NEWLY ARRIVED, UNTRAINED PERSONNEL, OFTEN SEEKING REVENGE FOR ATTACKS ON THEIR FAMILIES, WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CONTROL AND DISCIPLINE -- CHAFING AT CURRENT CNRT PRESIDENT XANANA GUSMAO'S STANDDOWN POSTURE FOR THE ARMED RESISTANCE.

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