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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6963

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EXDIS DECAPTIONED

EO 12065: XDS-4 6/25/00 (MASTERS, EDWARD E.) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, ID
SUBJECT: [REDACTED] IMPRESSIONS AFTER JUNE 10 ATTACK
IN EAST TIMOR

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REF: A) JAKARTA 9872, B) JAKARTA 9817

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: DIFFERING REPORTS OF LOCAL SECURITY MEASURES IN THE DILI AREA ARE REACHING JAKARTA IN THE WAKE OF THE JUNE 10 REBEL ATTACK ON THE LOCAL TV RELAY STATION. A STAFF MEMBER HAS WRITTEN TO CRS JAKARTA THAT ROADS ARE CLOSED NEAR DILI AND PEOPLE ARE REMAINING IN THEIR HOUSES BECAUSE OF STEPS TO TIGHTEN SECURITY IN THE AREA. [REDACTED] WHO JUST RETURNED FROM DILI, SAID [REDACTED] EXPERIENCED NO OPERATIONAL RESTRICTIONS, AND HE WAS FREE TO MOVE AROUND AS HE PLEASED DURING HIS TEN-DAY STAY. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SECURITY SITUATION IN EAST TIMOR AND REPORT ANY EFFECT THAT INCREASED SECURITY MEASURES MAY HAVE [REDACTED] END SUMMARY

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3. [REDACTED] HAVE REPORTED SLIGHTLY DIFFERING IMPRESSIONS OF THE SITUATION IN DILI
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IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE JUNE 10 REBEL ATTACK ON THE TV RELAY STATION. [REDACTED]

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, M. GRAFELD, DAS, A/RPS, ACTING
REVIEW AUTHORITY: THEODORE J. HEAVNER
DATE/CASE ID: 18 MAR 2003 200203795
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 25X6
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 25 JUN 2030

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[REDACTED] DESCRIBED THE SECURITY SITUATION IN DILI AS VERY TIGHT. HE SAID THAT ROADS TO THE SOUTH WERE CLOSED, AND THE MAJOR ROAD TO THE EAST, TOWARD BACAU AND LOSPALOS, HAD JUST OPENED AGAIN, BUT ONLY DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS. OUTSIDE OF DILI, HE SAID, A 6 PM CURFEW WAS IN EFFECT. IN DILI, FEW PEOPLE WERE VENTURING OUT OF THE HOUSES AT NIGHT BECAUSE OF POLICE CHECKS FOR GOVERNMENT IDENTIFICATION CARDS, WHICH ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION HELD. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] REPORTED THAT DILI WAS FILLED WITH RUMORS OF A LARGE MILITARY SWEEP IN THE FUTURE, DURING WHICH PRESUMABLY AREAS OF THE PROVINCE WOULD BE OFF LIMITS [REDACTED]

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4. IN CONTRAST TO THE ABOVE REPORT, [REDACTED] JUST RETURNED FROM A TEN-DAY VISIT TO THE PROVINCE AND TOLD EMBASSY THAT DURING THAT PERIOD [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] EXPERIENCED NO RESTRICTION [REDACTED] HE SAID THAT THE SITUATION IN DILI WAS SOMEWHAT "TIGHTER" THAN HE HAD EXPERIENCED IN EARLIER VISITS BUT NOT AS TENSE AS RUMORS IN JAKARTA MIGHT SUGGEST. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] HAD HEARD NOTHING OF ROADS BEING CLOSED IN THE DILI VICINITY, ALTHOUGH CHECKPOINTS WERE SET UP AT NIGHTFALL ON THE EDGES OF THE TOWN. HE SAID THAT HE WAS FREE TO SHOP AT THE CHINESE SHOPS IN TOWN AND TO MOVE AROUND AT NIGHT JUST AS HE DID DURING EARLIER VISITS. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD HEARD OF A WAVE OF ARRESTS IN THE WAKE OF THE ATTACK BUT HE HAD ALSO HEARD THAT THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY RELEASES OF DETAINEES A FEW DAYS FOLLOWING. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] SAID HE FELT RUMORS OF MILITARY SWEEPS AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS WERE LITTLE MORE THAN RUMORS AT THE PRESENT

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TIME, AS ALL ELEMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH EAST TIMOR SEEM TO BE OVERLY SENSITIVE AFTER THE JUNE 10 ATTACK.

5. COMMENT: THIS REBEL STRIKE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL HAS CAUSED DISTRESS AND EMBARRASSMENT FOR SECURITY OFFICIALS, AND THEY CAN BE EXPECTED TO TAKE STEPS TO AVOID A REPETITION OF THE ATTACK. THE EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR CLOSELY [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] ANY INDICATION THAT SUPPLIES ARE NOT REACHING REMOTE LOCATIONS. AT PRESENT, STEPPED UP SECURITY MEASURES MAY BE LIMITED TO THE DILI AREA, WHICH

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[REDACTED]

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6. THIS MESSAGE IS CAPTIONED EXDIS TO PROTECT OUR
SOURCES [REDACTED]
MASTERS

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