

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~
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Case Number: 200203839

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.5(B), 1.5(D)

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ACTION SS-25

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EO 12065: RDS-1 11/17/01 (MONJO, JOHN C.) OR-M
TAGS: MILI, SHUM, ID
SUBJECT: BRIEFING ON THE MILITARY SITUATION IN EAST
TIMOR

1. ~~SECRET~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: [REDACTED] BRIEFED
CHARGE [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] THE INFORMATION PROVIDED
WAS BASED LARGELY ON A SPECIAL BRIEFING [REDACTED]

B1
B1
B1

[REDACTED] OUTLINED
THE STRATEGY AND RESULTS OF THE RECENT OPERATION
TO ELIMINATE FRETILIN REMNANTS. MOVING IN AN EAST
TO WEST SWEEP WHICH COVERED THE EASTERN HALF OF THE
PROVINCE, GOI FORCES KILLED 450 OF AN ESTIMATED 900
FRETILIN GUERRILLAS AND CAPTURED 4500 CIVILIAN
SYMPATHIZERS. REMAINING FRETILIN UNITS ARE BELIEVED
TO HAVE RETURNED TO BASE AREAS WEST OF LOS PALOS
WHERE SMALL SCALE OPERATIONS ARE CONTINUING PENDING
ANOTHER PLANNED SWEEP NEXT YEAR. IT IS CLEAR FROM
THIS REPORT THAT SIGNIFICANT DISRUPTION OF AGRICUL-
TURAL ACTIVITY TOOK PLACE IN THE OPERATION AREA BUT
THE REMAINING HALF OF THE PROVINCE WAS APPARENTLY
LARGELY UNTOUCHED. END SUMMARY.

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3. [REDACTED]

B1

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EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: MURRAY D. ZINOMAN
DATE/CASE ID: 10 MAR 2003 200203839
CLASSIFICATION: SECRET REASON: 25X1, 25X6

UNCLASSIFIED

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] BRIEFED CHARGE AND
EMBOFFS [REDACTED] THE BULK OF [REDACTED]
INFORMATION RELATED TO THE MILITARY SITUATION AND [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED]

4. IN HIS BRIEFING ON THE MILITARY SITUATION [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED] THAT IT WAS DECIDED IN JUNE TO SWEEP THE AREAS WHERE FRETILIN GROUPS WERE BELIEVED TO REMAIN. FRETILIN STRENGTH WAS ESTIMATED AT THE TIME TO BE 900 GUERRILLAS, ARMED WITH 300 WEAPONS, PLUS 4500 CIVILIAN SUPPORT PERSONNEL. THE GOI OPERATION, WHICH BEGAN IN JULY, UTILIZED 15 BATALLIONS; 8 WERE REGULAR ARMY BATTALIONS AND 7 WERE HANSIP OR CIVILIAN DEFENSE UNITS. IN ADDITION AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF CIVILIANS PARTICIPATED IN THE OPERATION.

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5. MOVEMENT OF THE OPERATION WAS FROM EAST TO WEST

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IN THREE SEPARATE STAGES. DURING THE FIRST STAGE, IN THE LOS PALOS AREA, MIXED GROUPS OF TROOPS AND CIVILIANS ADVANCED ON PARALLEL LINES. WHEN THIS PROVED INEFFECTIVE, THE LAST TWO STAGES WERE ACCOMPLISHED BY SETTING UP A LINE OF BLOCKING FORCES ALONG A NORTH-SOUTH AXIS AND THEN SWEEPING THE INTERVENING AREA. NO RESISTANCE WAS ENCOUNTERED UNTIL THE THIRD STAGE, COVERING THE AREA FROM LAGA-UATOLARI TO A LINE RUNNING SOUTH FROM LALEIA. AT THIS POINT, AS A RESULT OF COMBAT IN THE MONTE BIBILEU AND MONT MUNDO PERDIDO AREAS, 450 FRETILIN

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WERE KILLED AND 150 WEAPONS CAPTURED. IN ADDITION 4500 FRETILIN SYMPATHIZERS WERE DETAINED, 3000 OF WHOM WERE SENT TO ATAURO ISLAND AND 1500 RETURNED TO LOCAL AREAS IF THESE HAD A STRONG HANSIP UNIT. ABRI CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AS LIGHT IN A RATIO OF ABOUT 1 TO 20 FRETILIN. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF CASUALTIES AMONG CIVILIAN RECRUITS.

6. [] BELIEVES THAT THE REMAINING FRETILIN HAVE NOW RETURNED TO THREE BASE AREAS IN THE MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN JUST WEST OF LOS PALOS. WITH THE CONCLUSION OF THE SWEEP SOME OF THE ABRI REGULAR UNITS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM TIMOR LEAVING A TOTAL OF FIVE BATALLIONS, TWO OF WHICH CONSIST LARGELY OF TIMORESE BUT WITH SOME MIXTURE OF TROOPS FROM OTHER AREAS. THE THREE-NON TIMORESE UNITS ARE ON A ROTATIONAL SCHEDULE, REMAINING IN TIMOR FOR A 6-8 MONTH PERIOD. THE FIVE BATALLIONS ARE PRESENTLY DEPLOYED AGAINST THE FRETILIN BASE AREAS FROM WHICH ALL CIVILIANS HAVE BEEN CLEARED, MAKING IT A FREE-FIRE ZONE. [] HOPES TO WHITTLE THE NUMBER OF FRETILIN GUERRILLAS DOWN TO ABOUT 100

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BY MARCH, 1982, WHEN ANOTHER MAJOR SWEEP ACTION MAY BE UNDERTAKEN. HE TOLD [] THAT THESE CONTINUING OPERATIONS ARE A GOOD TRAINING DEVICE FOR ABRI FORCES.

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7. AMONG OTHER COMMENTS MADE BY [] WAS HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE 50,000 FRETILIN WHO HAVE

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ACCEPTED AMNESTY AND ARE LIVING IN GOI CONTROLLED AREAS. THEY MUST REPORT TO LOCAL SECURITY OFFICIALS ONCE A WEEK BUT ARE SEEN AS A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF PROBLEMS. [REDACTED] AND OTHER OFFICIALS TOLD [REDACTED] THAT THOSE SENT TO ATAURO ISLAND ARE BEING TREATED WELL AND "BRAINWASHED." HOUSING AREAS ARE BEING BUILT AND THEY ARE GETTING MEDICAL SUPPORT.

B1

8. COMMENT: THIS IS THE MOST DETAILED INFORMATION WE HAVE RECEIVED REGARDING THE RECENT MILITARY SWEEP IN EAST TIMOR. GOI CLAIMS REGARDING FRETILIN CASUALTIES MAY WELL BE INFLATED. NEVERTHELESS FROM THIS DESCRIPTION THERE SEEMS LITTLE DOUBT THAT NORMAL LIFE AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY IN THE EASTERN HALF OF THE PROVINCE WOULD HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY DISRUPTED BY AN OPERATION OF THIS SCALE AND NATURE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE WESTERN HALF OF THE PROVINCE WAS APPARENTLY LARGELY UNTOUCHED BY THE ACTION AND SHOULD, THEREFORE, HAVE NOT INCURRED ANY DIRECT ILL-EFFECTS APART FROM

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THE NUMBERS OF CIVILIANS WHO MAY HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THEIR NORMAL ACTIVITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OPERATION. MONJO

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