

CIA Indonesia

10/2/65 Indonesia

Pes Nasution Abdul H.  
Pes Subandrio

KNOXVILLE, TENN.  
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## The Charade in Indonesia

POOR COMMUNICATIONS and contradictory reports leave us in the dark about what really is happening in Indonesia.

If President Sukarno is out, or on the way out, or even has had his wings clipped, that would be welcome news. But the one worse thing than Sukarno which might happen to Indonesia would be a take-over by Communism with Red China calling the shots.

IT MAY BE several days before we get anything like an accurate rundown. But as we do, two men bear watching:

One is Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Subandrio. He leans a little more to the left—Peking variety—than Sukarno, which is saying a lot. One early report said Subandrio was among the top men in the “revolutionary council” formed after the first coup. That would seem to label the coup as Communist.

Second man to watch is Gen. Abdul Haris Nasution, a med forces commander who consistently has been anti-Communist. If, as later reports indicated, Nasution had successfully led a counter-coup, then the Communist revolution has not yet come to Indonesia.

This suggests Sukarno is likely to carry on, since Nasution has always deferred to the old play-boy “revolutionist” who led his country to independence from the Dutch. We can only hope that Sukarno doesn't quite make it back in view of what he has done with his country's independence.

MEANWHILE, TWO thoughts about direct American interest.

One is the good news that all U.S. nationals are safe in Jakarta and elsewhere. Indeed, they appear to be considerably safer than the American libraries which have been burned in recent months. Obviously those anti-American mob outbursts were triggered by Sukarno in line with his “go to hell with your aid” stance. The fact that Americans haven't been molested strongly hints that Sukarno lost the reins at least for a while.

Second thought is the absurdity of the Indonesian radio charge that our Central Intelligence Agency was instrumental in the first uprising by the “council of generals.”

The State Department's prompt denial of this was hardly necessary. With this country up to our ears in a war in Vietnam—which we aren't winning yet—would we be likely to involve ourselves in starting another one in Indonesia?