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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

● PRIORITY 1.5(c) 3.4(b)(1)

Intelligence Information Cable

COUNTRY INDONESIA TDCS-314/11666-65

DATE OF INFO. 26 AUGUST 1965
DISTR: 27 AUGUST 1965
SUBJECT

DECISION TO CANCEL, FOR HEALTH AND SECURITY REASONS,
PRESIDENT SUKARNO'S SCHEDULED VISIT TO SUMATRA

PLACE & DATE ACQ. [REDACTED] (26 AUGUST 1965) REF IN 40476

SOURCE AND APPRAISAL: FIELD REPORT NO. [REDACTED] 1.5(c) 3.4(b)(1)

A SENIOR INDONESIAN ARMY INTELLIGENCE OFFICER ATTACHED TO THE SUMATRAN ARMY - INTERREGIONAL COMMAND WHO HAS PROVIDED RELIABLE INFORMATION IN THE PAST.

1. ON 20 AUGUST 1965 A MEETING WAS HELD IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IN DJAKARTA TO DISCUSS SUKARNO'S PUBLICLY-ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO VISIT SUMATRA DURING THE LAST WEEK OF AUGUST 1965. AS A RESULT OF THIS MEETING IT WAS DECIDED THAT PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF HIS FAILING HEALTH AND ALSO FOR REASONS OF PERSONAL SAFETY PRESIDENT SUKARNO WOULD NOT VISIT SUMATRA AT THIS TIME BUT WOULD INSTEAD TRAVEL TO EUROPE TO SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION.

2. ACCORDING TO SOME OF THE PRESIDENTIAL AIDES ATTENDING THE MEETING, IN THE LAST DAYS OF JULY 1965 PRESIDENT SUKARNO BECAME QUITE ILL. THE EXACT NATURE OF HIS ILLNESS WAS NOT ANNOUNCED BUT IT IS

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BELIEVED TO THOSE CLOSE TO THE PRESIDENT THAT HIS BODY HAS NOW REACHED THE LIMIT OF ITS ENDURANCE IN COMBAT WITH A KIDNEY CONDITION AND THAT HIS GENERAL HEALTH IS NOW IN A STATE OF RAPID DETERIORATION.

SUKARNO HAS BEEN TOLD THAT HIS LIFE CAN BE PROLONGED ONLY IF HE BECOMES COMPLETELY INACTIVE. THIS HE HAS REFUSED TO DO AND THERE IS FEAR THAT HE MAY DIE IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

3. THE PRESIDENT WILL LEAVE FOR EUROPE POSSIBLY IN EARLY SEPTEMBER 1965 OSTENSIBLY ON VACATION. THE REAL PURPOSE OF THE TRIP, HOWEVER, WILL BE TO SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION THERE.

4. IN CONNECTION WITH HIS HEALTH, THE SECURITY CONDITIONS IN NORTH SUMATRA PLAYED THAT ROLE OF PROVIDING THE PRESIDENT WITH A GOOD EXCUSE TO CANCEL HIS TRIP TO MEDAN. THE NORTH SUMATRAN SECURITY FORCES HAD BY MID-AUGUST 1965 DETECTED SEVERAL PLOTS TO ASSASSINATE THE PRESIDENT ON HIS VISIT TO MEDAN.

5. THE POPULATION OF NORTH SUMATRA WILL NOT BE TOLD UNTIL EARLY SEPTEMBER THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS CANCELLED HIS TRIP THERE AND PREPARATIONS TO GREET HIM WILL CONTINUE IN ORDER "TO KEEP THEIR MINDS OFF OF REALITY, BOTH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL".

6. (FIELD COMMENT: AS OF 27 AUGUST 1965 ELABORATE ARCHES WELCOMING AND PRAISING SUKARNO CONTINUE TO BE BUILT IN THE CITY OF MEDAN. GARBAGE CONTINUES TO BE REMOVED AND SECURITY FORCES ARE DEPLOYED IN STRENGTH IN KEY SECTORS OF THE TOWN.)

7. (FIELD COMMENT: ACCORDING TO AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT TWO CASES OF HAND GRENADES AND A QUANTITY OF SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION WERE ON 25

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AUGUST DISCOVERED ON A TRAIN LEAVING RANTAUPRAPAT FOR MEDAN.)

8. FIELD DISSEM: STATE ARMY NAVY AIR CINPCAC ARPAC PACAF PACFLT.
(ALSO SENT KUALA LUMPUR SINGAPORE MELBOURNE).

END OF MESSAGE

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