

The overall exemptions are b1, b3.

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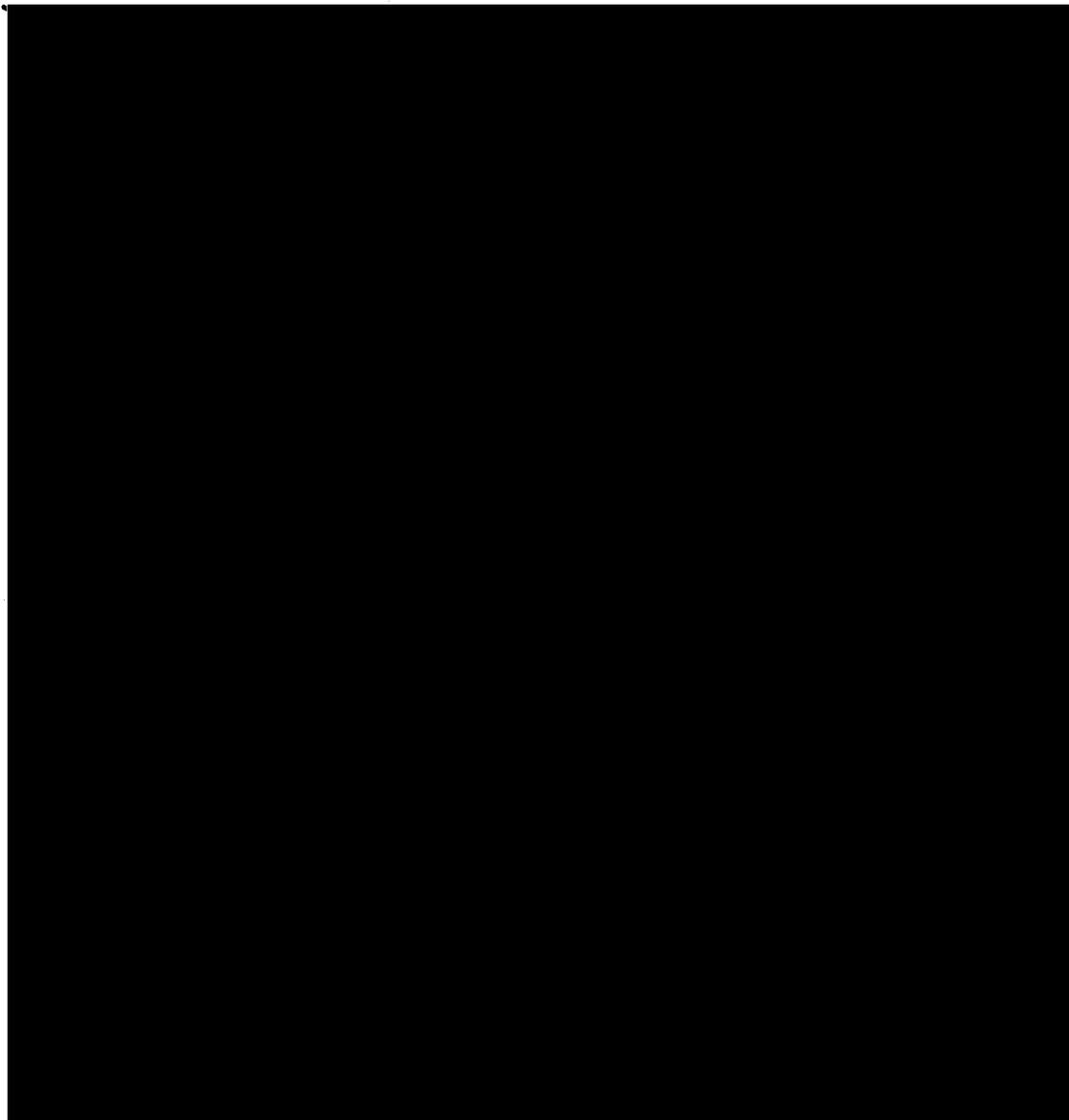
Military Developments

STAFF NOTES

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SR SNMD 76-05C
SC No. 03037/76
December 18, 1976

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INDONESIA-EAST TIMOR: Situation Report

Indonesian troops on Portuguese Timor are [REDACTED] preparing to launch a new military operation next week.

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The purpose of the operation, which will last for approximately three weeks and will be the largest since early September, is to capture some of the areas still held by the Fretilin and to destroy guerrilla units operating behind the lines.

In the past four months, the military situation in Timor has not changed significantly. Indonesian troops have continued to patrol vigorously to protect supply and communications lines and military installations, and the air force has increased its attacks against Fretilin bases. The air force also moved additional combat aircraft to Timor, including the BO-105 helicopter gunship and the OV-10 anti-insurgency aircraft.

Indonesian troops have captured a number of experienced Fretilin military commanders and large quantities of military hardware, as well as an important Fretilin radio transmitter, Radio Maubre, that had been used for propaganda broadcasts. Last month, the Indonesians lost only about 20 men, and equipment losses also dropped significantly.

Meanwhile the conflict continues to wear down the Fretilin, who have been driven farther into the countryside. The guerrillas now operate in small, disorganized bands and can carry out only small-scale attacks. In addition Fretilin leaders abroad have failed to acquire badly needed arms and supplies.

Indonesian psychological warfare tactics have also contributed to a high desertion rate among guerrillas. Recently some Fretilin junior officers who had surrendered have been released to return to the hills to induce further surrenders. Last month the guerrillas had about 300 casualties, leaving them with approximately 700 hardcore troops.

When Indonesia invaded East Timor in December 1975, Jakarta hoped for a quick military victory. Fretilin

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resistance, a weak logistics system, and poor command and control, however, contributed to Jakarta's inability to quickly wrap up the war.

Although Indonesia controls only about half of the former Portuguese colony, the Indonesian task force is still pushing ahead with plans to reduce the number of its 35,000 troops. Last month 3,000 were sent home, and by the end of the year Indonesia expects to have no more than 28,000 troops on the island. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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