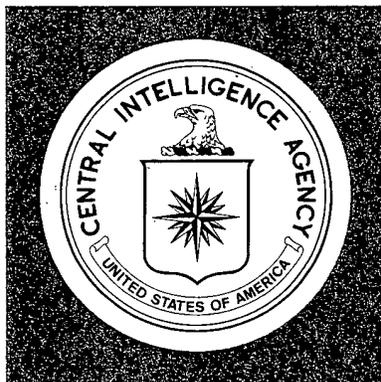


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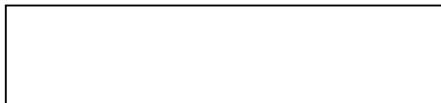
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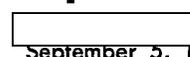
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Weekly Review



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September 5, 1975

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CONTENTS (September 5, 1975)



The WEEKLY REVIEW, issued every Friday morning by the Office of Current Intelligence, reports and analyzes significant developments of the week through noon on Thursday. It frequently includes material coordinated with or prepared by the Office of Economic Research, the Office of Strategic Research, the Office of Geographic and Cartographic Research, and the Directorate of Science and Technology. Topics requiring more comprehensive treatment and therefore published separately as Special Reports are listed in the contents.

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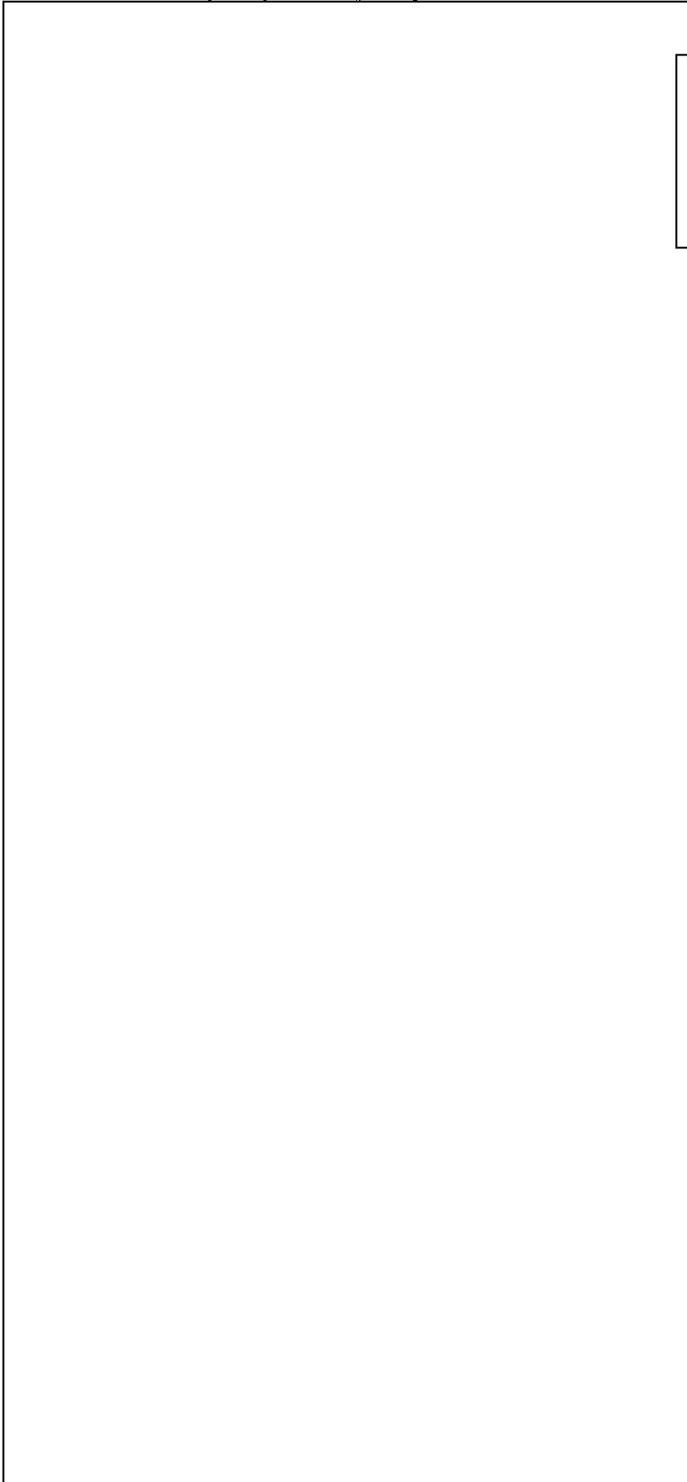
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16 Timor: Dynamic Inaction

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TIMOR: DYNAMIC INACTION

Indonesian military forces are poised to intervene in Portuguese Timor, but President Suharto has not authorized an invasion. He is awaiting the outcome of negotiations by Portuguese special envoy Almeida Santos to organize a multinational effort—including Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Portugal—to restore order in Timor. For domestic political reasons, Lisbon does not believe it can publicly sanction unilateral Indonesian intervention. Portuguese President Costa Gomes evidently fears that Jakarta will be too heavy-handed in dealing with Timorese dissidents and increase rather than end the bloodshed.

During discussions in Jakarta last week, Santos and the Indonesians worked out a proposal for a four-party peacekeeping effort. Indonesia under the general guidance of the others would send in forces to restore order. The four powers would then jointly supervise the peace and guide the decolonization process in accord with the arrangements worked out in Macao last June. Lisbon's initial reaction to the proposal was negative; President Costa Gomes probably wants firmer guarantees that Jakarta will not deal too roughly with the Timorese.

Over the weekend, Santos visited Canberra to sound out Prime Minister Whitlam on Australian participation in the proposed joint effort. Whitlam is unlikely to agree to direct Australian participation in a military intervention but government spokesmen left open the possibility that Canberra might participate in a

multilateral supervisory body. Whitlam has been criticized recently by members of his own party and by the opposition for his allegedly indifferent attitude about the fate of the Timorese. From Canberra, Santos flew to Timor for consultations with the governor, currently headquartered on a small island off the Timor coast. At the end of the week he is scheduled to return to Jakarta.

The possibility that some sort of multinational peacekeeping effort may be forthcoming has strengthened Suharto's hand against his top military advisers, who believe that immediate unilateral action is necessary. Suharto is further encouraged to go slow by evidence that Indonesia's clandestine political activities inside Timor may be bearing fruit. Leaders of the largest Timorese political faction, the Democratic Union Party, have been meeting with Indonesian intelligence officials. They are negotiating for Indonesian support against the leftist political party, Fretilin, which has been making significant gains during the recent armed clashes and now reportedly controls most of Dili, Timor's capital. Democratic Union people say that they would consider integration with Indonesia in return for Indonesian assistance now.

Indonesian military preparations for intervention in Timor are virtually complete. By last weekend, a naval task force, including three

destroyer-escorts, an amphibious assault ship, and possibly a submarine, was off the Timor coast. This week Jakarta augmented the invasion force, which now includes some 6,000 infantry troops and marines. Major ground and airborne units in Java have been placed on alert, and supplies, ammunition, and aviation fuel are being stockpiled at nearby airfields.

According to present plans, an invasion would include a three-pronged attack on the island:

- The bulk of the invading force would land on Indonesian Timor and drive north into the Portuguese half of the island.
- Another battalion is to land on the coastal strip between Dili and Tutuala on the eastern tip of the island.
- Two other battalions are to launch a combined assault against Dili itself.

Although the Indonesian military expect some resistance, they are confident of success. Once they have established control, most of the regular forces would be withdrawn leaving commando units and ethnic Timorese to contend with any guerrilla units that may still be operating [redacted]

Fretilin guerrillas during recent action in DM [redacted]

