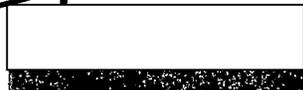
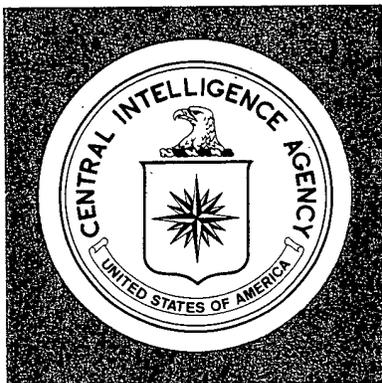


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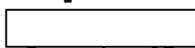


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Weekly Review



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September 19, 1975

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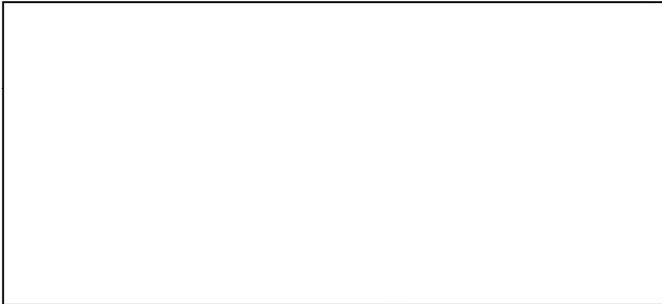


The WEEKLY REVIEW, issued every Friday morning by the Office of Current Intelligence, reports and analyzes significant developments of the week through noon on Thursday. It frequently includes material coordinated with or prepared by the Office of Economic Research, the Office of Strategic Research, 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.

EAST ASIA
PACIFIC

19 Timor: Keeping the Pressure On





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TIMOR: KEEPING THE PRESSURE ON

President Suharto this week continued to hold off a full-scale invasion of Portuguese Timor, despite the collapse of Lisbon's peace efforts. Portuguese special envoy Almeida Santos returned home last weekend after apparently failing to arrange talks with the feuding Timorese factions. Santos also was unable to organize a multinational effort to restore order in Timor.

Santos received Indonesian support for a proposal to hold further peace talks in Macao beginning this weekend, but the radical Fretilin party, which controls much of Portuguese Timor, apparently refused to participate. The Portuguese may still try to arrange talks at some other locale.

Last week, Suharto reasserted Indonesian support for a policy of restraint, calling for an orderly decolonization process in Timor. Nevertheless, Jakarta has expressed strong displeasure with Portugal's futile peace efforts, and President Suharto is interested in developing a legal justification for military action in Timor. In this regard, Jakarta is indicating that it is studying the legal aspects of a possible union between Portuguese Timor and Indonesia in response to the "growing demand for union" from the people of Portuguese Timor.

Indonesian military forces remain ready for intervention [redacted] the military command, at least for the [redacted]

present, will merely increase the number of special forces troops that it is sending across the border. Although special forces units have been carrying out reconnaissance missions on Timor since last year, Jakarta is now sending guerrilla units into the Portuguese half of the island in order to engage Fretilin forces, encourage pro Indonesian elements, and provoke incidents that would provide the Indonesians an excuse to invade should they decide to do so.

Early in September a combined force of some 200 special forces troops and Indonesian-trained native guerrilla troops crossed the border. After entering into the Portuguese half of the island, the unit was divided into a number of teams, one of which reportedly overran Fatu Besi, some 25 miles inside the border. Other teams are meeting stiff resistance from Fretilin troops, however. The commander of the special forces teams reportedly is now regrouping all his units, and falling back to a position near the border.

The 7,000 airborne and infantry troops that had been alerted nearly two weeks ago remain on alert status on Java. One company of infantry troops on nearby Bali has been alerted for possible movement to the Portuguese Timor border area. Also, the air force continues to carry supplies to airfields and support facilities closer to Portuguese Timor. In addition, several ships of the naval task force assembled off the coast of Timor—possibly including several destroyer escorts and six merchant marine ships—now are patrolling the northern and southern coasts of the island. [redacted]

