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COUNTRY Indonesia

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SUBJECT Activities of Chinese Communists in Borneo

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

1. Kalimantan (Borneo) is the springboard for Communist activity and communications in Indonesia.
2. Singkawang, in the northwest corner of West Borneo, has a population of 130,000, of which 50,000 are Chinese. One of the foreign residents, who has been here for 30 years, estimates that 70 to 90 percent of the Chinese are Communists. There is constant heavy traffic in and out of Singkawang, 90 percent of which is Chinese and the balance Indonesian. The traffic is supposed to be to and from Malaya, but there is reason to believe that many ships ply between Singkawang and China ports. Large quantities of goods of Chinese manufacture are smuggled into Indonesia here and large quantities of rubber, etc., go out. There has been an attempt to halt this traffic, but someone was bought off. There are about 30 white residents in Singkawang who live in fear; some of them have been warned to get out and are leaving.
3. Pontianak has a population of 115,000, about 60 percent being Chinese. It has been conservatively estimated that 10 percent of the Chinese are actively Communists. The Communists control the entire Chinese community. The Dyaks hate all of the Chinese, but they are comparatively powerless. The Chinese have been augmenting their power, by increasing their control of commerce and by bribing Indonesian officials. In some instances incorruptible officials, of which there are few, have been eliminated.
4. The Chinese Communists have a powerful youth movement in Kalimantan and they have entire control of the Chinese schools. The Indonesian language is no longer a part of the curriculum. The older, conservative teachers have been ousted through bribes and threats. The present teachers are all Communists and were imported from Communist China. All students are being given intensive Communist indoctrination. Speakers at the schools openly declare that Kalimantan is to secede from Indonesia and join Communist China.
5. The older Chinese are in despair at the change the Communist doctrine has wrought in their children, who have cast aside parental authority and now obey the Communist Party. If the Indonesians felt that their family life was doomed by this new political movement they would take action. Communism is gaining ground among the Indonesians in Kalimantan largely because no measures to counteract it are being taken.

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