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NSC BRIEFING

6 April 1960

INDONESIA

- I. President Sukarno created a new parliament on 27 March, just four days prior to his departure on another around-the-world trip; this has been followed by numerous reports that various non-Communist political and army elements, including Gen. Nasution, are plotting to move against Sukarno during his absence.
- A. The reaction to the new parliament has been strongly critical in army and non-Communist political circles, particularly over the fact that at least one fourth of the new deputies are Communists.
- B. This reaction will aggravate the already existing dissatisfaction over Sukarno's long-standing apparent lack of concern over domestic Communism, the economic deterioration in Indonesia, and the unsettled conditions resulting from the continuing rebellion in various parts of the country.
- II. We are inclined to doubt that Nasution will bring himself to the point of moving to oust Sukarno during his eight-week absence.
- A. Nasution is known to be unhappy with some of Sukarno's policies, and it is quite probable that he has ambitions to replace Sukarno as the country's number-one man.
- B. But Nasution fears--and with cause--that he would not be able to hold together sufficient strength to maintain power.
- III. There is still an outside possibility that Nasution or others may decide to move at this time.

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- A. The more likely possibility, however, seems to be further incidents by right-wing dissidents assisted by military elements, similar to the small-scale attack on 19 March on an army school in Bandung.
 1. Such incidents would further complicate an already confused situation, but in themselves would probably not precipitate a military takeover of the government.

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