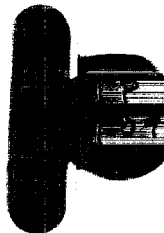


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Project: **PR-109**

OFFICE OF REPORTS AND ESTIMATES

Project Initiation Memorandum

Date: **27 April 1950**

To: **D/TE**

From: Publications Division, Projects Planning

Subject: **Indonesian Newspaper**

Statement of Project:

Origin: **Internal (K-1641)**

Problem: **To furnish specified information on Sin Po and Kang Po, Jakarta dailies.**

Scope: **Requester's specifications (a) circulation, (b) ownership, (c) assets, liabilities, physical plant, (d) management, (e) political orientation.**

Graphics (if any):

Form: **Memorandum (orig & 2)**

Draft due in D/Pub: **earliest convenience**

Responsible Division: **D/TE**

Dissemination deadline
(if any)

Internal Coordination:

Departmental Responsibilities: **None**

Classification to be no higher than: **SECRET**

Recommended Dissemination: **Requester only**

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Secret

Copies:

D/FE
25/1A
file

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Project: IP-109

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND ESTIMATION

Project: Indonesian Memorandum

Date: 27 April 1950

To: D/FE

From: Publications Division, Projects Planning

Subject: Indonesian newspaper

Statement of Purpose:

Origin: Internal (K-164)

Purpose: To furnish specified information on Sin Po and Keng Po, Jakarta dailies.

Scope: Requester's specification: (a) circulation, (b) ownership, (c) assets, liabilities, physical plant, (d) management, (e) political orientation.

Graphic Material:

Form: Memorandum (orig + 2)

Draft: due in D/FE: earliest convenience

Responsible Division: D/FE

Dissemination Guidelines

Internal Coordination: —

Departmental Responsibilities: None

Classification to be no higher than: Secret

Recommended Dissemination: Requester only

1. Sin Po (Newspaper, Jakarta)
2. Kompas Po (Newspaper, Jakarta)
3. Indonesia - Raf. & gant

Note: The classification of this memorandum must be raised to conform to the classification of the draft it covers.

Date 28 April 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF, PUBLICATIONS DIVISION

SUBJECT: Transmission of Draft Report

ENCLOSURE: IP - 109 "Indonesian newspapers - Sin Po & Keng Po"

(3 copies)

1. Enclosure is forwarded herewith for review and, if required, for formal coordination with the departmental intelligence organizations.

2. This draft report has been coordinated informally with the organizations checked below: None

Within CIA:

D/GI	<input type="checkbox"/>	D/NO	<input type="checkbox"/>
D/In	<input type="checkbox"/>	D/LA	<input type="checkbox"/>
D/Tr	<input type="checkbox"/>	D/WE	<input type="checkbox"/>
D/EE	<input type="checkbox"/>	D/Ma	<input type="checkbox"/>
D/FE	<input type="checkbox"/>	D/EC	<input type="checkbox"/>
D/NE	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outside CIA:

State (OIR)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Army (ID/GSUSA)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Navy (ONI)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air (AID)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Maps and/or Graphics to be included in this report and arrangements completed for their production by the Map Division or the Presentation Staff are as follows:

None

4. Comments:

25X1A

Chief,

D/FE
Division

28 April 1950

Subject: Sin Po and Keng Po newspapers in Djakarta

1. Circulation and influence: The oldest, largest, most prosperous, best edited and most highly esteemed Chinese publication in Indonesia is the Sin Po. In early 1949, total circulation for the Chinese edition and the Malay edition amounted to 30,523 daily. The Chinese language edition, with a current circulation of over 15,000 daily, is the most widely-read Chinese language journal in Djakarta and has considerable influence in Chinese circles. The paper is read by a substantial number of Singapore Chinese also. The Indonesian language issue of the paper is read by Indonesians and by locally-born Chinese who do not read the Chinese language. The Keng Po, a Malay language paper, represents the point of view of the Indies-oriented Chinese community and consequently devotes much more space to local affairs than to developments in China. This publication is generally regarded as representing the younger generation in the Chinese community. In early 1949 circulation was reported to be 12,500 daily.
2. Ownership and management: Both the Sin Po and the Keng Po are largely owned by local Chinese. Thung Siang Keng, an extremely wealthy individual (about whom little is known), is reported to own controlling interest in the Sin Po. Ang Jan Goan, managing director of the paper, has been considered conservative and now occupies positions in several of the more influential and affluent local Chinese organizations. In spite of this fact, however, his paper strongly urged recognition of the Peking regime and inveighs against alleged American imperialistic machinations. It has been reported, but not substantiated, that Tan Kah Kee, wealthy pro-Communist Singapore Chinese who finances Chinese Communist movements in Indonesia, has friends connected with this and several other Chinese papers in Indonesia. Injo Beng Goat, managing director of the Keng Po, is a highly intelligent intellectual and something of an idealist. His sympathies as expressed in his paper and as revealed in private conversations are often leftist. The political influence of Ang Jan Goan and Injo Beng Goat on their respective papers, however, are probably tempered by the fact that the Chinese in Indonesia are motivated by considerations of profit rather than of ideology.
3. Assets and physical plant: By 1948 the Sin Po was considered to be one of the most spectacularly profitable enterprises of post-war Batavia. Originally capitalized at f. 80,000 (about \$30,400), Sin Po stock in 1948 was valued at f. 800,000 (304,000) and its earnings were well over f. 500,000 per year (\$190,000). The paper itself was valued at about one million guilders (\$380,000 in 1948). The Sin Po, like other Chinese papers, operates its own printing establishment. Of the two rotary and eight flat bed presses it owned before the war, one each was in good running condition in the summer of 1948. The Keng Po was much less prosperous than the Sin Po, until about two years ago when the Sin Po bought into the company and began to convert it from opposition to support.
4. Political orientations: The Sin Po has been published in a Malay edition since 1910 and in a Chinese edition since 1920; it pioneered in the local vernacular field and, according to the not unsupported claims of its

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editors, it played a rather important part in the pre-war Indonesian nationalistic movement, whose leaders received moral support from its influential Chinese editors and sponsors. The Sin Po, in fact, has been accused in the past of being pro-Indonesian nationalism, pro-Chinese nationalism, pro-Communism, pro-Republic and pro-Dutch. The paper was a staunch supporter of Chiang and of the Kuomintang in the earlier days before the Kuomintang rose to power; it supported Indonesian nationalist leaders in their aspirations both before and after the war. The Sin Po had already turned extremely critical of Kuomintang China before World War II, and for several years following the war it adopted a policy of cautious neutrality regarding the Kuomintang-Communist conflict. Many Chinese regarded this attitude as unbecomingly timorous. At the same time, it abandoned any advocacy of the local nationalist cause and merely mouthed virtuous principles of human conduct. By mid-1949, however, the Sin Po like other Chinese papers in Indonesia displayed an increased pro-Communist attitude. Moreover, recent editorials and news articles have expressed strong anti-American sentiment.

The Keng Po in its consideration of local problems takes a clearer and firmer stand than does the Sin Po. In the past the Keng Po has been critical of the Republic for incompetent leadership and ill-considered policy but at the same time it favored Indonesian aspirations for self-rule and self-determination. The quality of its coverage of Indonesian political events has been excellent. Although the Keng Po has often been characterized as tending to favor Communist China on many occasions, a recent editorial stated that the impending diplomatic relations between Communist China and Indonesia will bring difficulties rather than benefit to the Chinese population in Southeast Asia and in Indonesia.

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