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NSC BRIEFING

11 August 1953

INDONESIA

Last week Mr. Dulles spoke briefly about Indonesia and the formation of a Communist-influenced government there. In the internal political picture this situation is sharpening the differences between left and right. In foreign relations, already a strong drift from neutralism toward the Soviet Orbit is clearly indicated.

The new foreign minister has already stated some of his policies. He wants to strengthen relations with the Soviet bloc. He says the government will send an ambassador to Moscow; this is a step which former governments have refused to take. Both he and the prime minister have announced that Indonesia will support Communist China's claim to a place in the UN and they have also mentioned their intention to export rubber to Communist China. Regarding American aid, the foreign minister has said he intends to study the problem before reaching a decision as to whether ^{TECHNICAL COOPERATION ADMINISTRATION} TCA should be continued. He also has promised early abrogation of the Netherlands-Indonesian union.

Undoubtedly, the new cabinet plans quietly to purge anti-Communist personnel on the various ministerial staffs and in the army. But the most important army leaders are pro-West and may resist by attempting a coup to take over the government. In such case, they would be assisted by the National Police Force, which is largely American-armed and which has been the backbone of anti-Communist security activity in Indonesia.

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A possible date for a coup is 17 August, which is Indonesian independence day. A number of additional army and police units are already in Djakarta for the independence day parade, and so will be available if rightist leaders want to use them.

Even if there is no military coup, some observers feel the cabinet will fall after three or four months as a result of growing political opposition in parliament. It is quite possible, though, that the new government will last much longer since it seems to have the blessing of President Sukarno, whose influence has often been decisive in Indonesian politics.

We have obtained a report of Communist strategy, as outlined to a Party meeting in Djakarta in June. It calls for the establishment of a national front government to bring order out of a purposely-created political impasse. The inevitable "people's democracy" is scheduled to succeed this national front after non-Communist groups are eliminated piecemeal. This Communist program for Indonesia seems well under way.

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