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CENTRAL MEL

REPORT NO.

## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Netherlands East IndCONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 26 August 1948

Tentara Nasional Indonesia Strength in Atjeh,

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- The Tentara Nasional Indonesia (TNI) in Atjeh, Northern Sumatra, is under the direct command of Lieutenant General Scehardjo, whose headquarters is at Koetaradja, the principal town of the area. Two prominent members of Scehardjo's staff are Lieutenant Colonel Simbolon and Ismail Lengah.
- Some 350 Ambonese and Menadonese mercenaries, who served with the Dutch in 1941 and 1942, are now serving in the auxiliary Laskar Rakjat and in the coastal artillery. The Laskar Rakjat consists mostly of Ambonese and Menadonese.
- Large quantities of arms and ammunition were smuggled into Atjeh from foreign-owned estates. The present strength of the Atjeh TNI is estimated at 25,000 men, of whom 10,000 are armed with infantry and light artillery equipment.

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