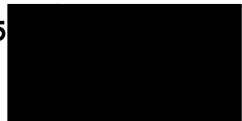


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COUNTRY Indonesia

DATE DISTR. 12 February 1949

SUBJECT General Situation in Southern Sumatra

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



1. Benkulen is under the jurisdiction of a Tentara Nasional Indonesia (TNI) brigade commanded by Lt. Col. Berlian. Berlian is twenty-three years old and a native of Mana, in the Benkulen Residency. The town is occupied by a battalion from this brigade, which is commanded by Hewawi, a twenty-two year old major in the TNI.
2. The Regent of Benkulen, Marusman, is a graduate of the Dutch Middlebare Opleidings School Voor Inlandsche Ambtenaren ("Native Civil Officers' School") and is said to be anti-Republic; however, he was forced to remain in office. Marusman did a great deal for the safety of the Chinese community at Benkulen.
3. The airfield at Benkulen is about eight kilometers south of the city at Pekan Saptu. It was built by the Japanese in 1943-1944.
4. The Pasindo has a branch at Benkulen and an estimated 1,000 members. They are taught the principles of Communism by Raden Hanifah, the local president, who was formerly a teacher in the local Taman Siswa school. His assistant is Raden Abdullah, who was formerly sub-prosecutor in the pre-war Dutch court of justice there. The organization is reported to be well-armed.
5. The Angkatan Lait Republik Indonesia has a detachment of about 60 men at Benkulen armed with rifles and two light machine guns. Their present assignment is to guard the coast.
6. The gold mine at Rebong-Tandai, near Lubuklinggau, is producing gold at the rate of about eight kilograms a year. The Redjang-Lebong mines have been closed.

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 NO CHANGE in Class.   
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 DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77  
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