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RUMJDN/AMCONSUL MEDA 9729
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NSC FORKELLY AND CHILDRESS

DOD/ISA FOR AS ARMITAGE
DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR P-ARMACOST, T-DERWINSKI, INM-
WROBLESKI

CINCPAC FOR FPA

E.O. 12956:DEC:OADR
TAGS: DVIP (SUHUD, KHARIS), PREL, ID, US
SUBJECT: SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT KHARIS SUHUD VISIT

REF: STATE 282627 (NOTAL)

1. (LOU) SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUEST. INDONESIA'S SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT WILL BE VISITING WASHINGTON SEPT 17-22 AT THE HEAD OF AN EIGHT-MEMBER DELEGATION IN COMPARISON WITH HIS PREDECESSORS, SPEAKER KHARIS SUHUD HAS SHOWN HIMSELF TO BE AN ACTIVIST EADER INTERESTED IN IMPROVING BOTH THE IMAGE AND THE INSTITUTIONAL ROLE OF THE PARLIAMENT. HIS PCOMING VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, AT THE INVATION OF HOUSE SPEAKER JIM WRIGHT AND UNDER ASI FOUNDATION AUSPICES, IS ALREADY BEING COMMENTE ON AS A FURTHER EXAMPLE OF THE NEW STATURE HE I BRINGING TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH. HIS DELEGATION INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL FOUR FACTIONS IN PARLIAMENT, AMONG THEM, CHAIRMAN OF THE ARMED SERVICES AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, H. IMRON ROSYADI, AND THE HEAD OF THE INDONESIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDI) PARLIAMENTARY FACTION, MRS. FATIMAH ACHMAD.

2. (LOU) KHARIS SUHUD'S VISIT, AND THE MEDIA ATTENTION IT WILL INEVITABLY ATTRACT HERE, GIVES US A CONVENIENT OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A SMALL CONTRIBUTION TO PLURALISTIC INSTITUTION-BUILDING IN INDONESIA. PLANNING FOR THE SPEAKER'S VISIT IS ALREADY QUITE ADVANCED, AND THE ASIA FOUNDATION APPEARS TO HAVE ARRANGEMENTS WELL IN HAND. MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL WILL BE A MEETING WITH HOUSE SPEAKER WRIGHT, AND OTHER CALLS ON THE HILL, SUCH AS

Rep Wright
HFAC
SFRC
HFAC
SASC
Rep Solary
Rep Bonker
Rep Frenzel
Rep Rangel
Rep McHugh
Sen Holling
Sen Stennis
Sen Pell

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THE PLANNED MEETING WITH REP. SOLARZ. IN A CALL ON KHARIS SUHUD LAST WEEK, SENATOR HOLLINGS ALSO INVITED HIM TO VISIT THE SENATE. WE ARE PLEASED TO HEAR OF THE CALLS AND ACTIVITIES ALREADY PLANNED FOR THE SPEAKER AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND DOD. THE AMBASSADOR BELIEVES THAT ANY MEETINGS WITH SEVENTH FLOOR OFFICIALS IN STATE (PERHAPS UNDER SECRETARY ARMACOST AND/OR DERWINSKI), HOWEVER BRIEF, WILL BE WELL WORTH THE INVESTMENT. THIS WOULD ALSO BE TRUE OF A MEETING WITH DOD/ISA AS-ARMITAGE BY THE SPEAKER AND HIS DELEGATION. LASTLY, A CALL AT THE NSC WOULD LEND CONSIDERABLE PRESTIGE TO THE VISIT. END SUMMARY.

BACKGROUND ON THE VISIT

3. (LOU) SPEAKER KHARIS SUHUD WILL LEAD AN EIGHT-MEMBER DELEGATION FROM INDONESIA'S PARLIAMENT (DPR) TO THE UNITED STATES SEPT 10-28. THE DPR SPEAKER HAS BEEN INVITED TO THE UNITED STATES BY THE ASIA FOUNDATION, WHICH IS BEARING THE EXPENSES OF THE TRIP. THE ASIA FOUNDATION HAS BEEN TALKING WITH KHARIS SUHUD SINCE LAST SPRING ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT, YET, OWING TO UNCERTAINTIES OVER TIMING AND APPROVAL FROM PRESIDENT SOEHARTO, DETAILS ONLY RECENTLY STARTED TO FIRM UP.

4. (LOU) WE UNDERSTAND A PERSONAL INVITATION FROM HOUSE SPEAKER JIM WRIGHT WAS IMPORTANT IN WINNING PALACE APPROVAL; INDONESIA REGARDS VISITS SUCH AS THIS AS IMPORTANT POLITICAL GESTURES, IF NOT STATEMENTS. IN ADDITION TO WASHINGTON, KHARIS SUHUD'S ITINERARY WILL TAKE HIM TO SAN FRANCISCO, SACRAMENTO, FT. LEAVENWORTH (KANSAS), AND NEW YORK. ENROUTE, THE DPR SPEAKER PLANS TO TAKE HIS GROUP TO BANGKOK, WHERE HE WAS AMBASSADOR 1975-78, IN RESPONSE TO A LONG-STANDING INVITATION FROM THE THAI PARLIAMENT.

BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON KHARIS SUHUD

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NSC FOR K LLY AND CHILRESS

DOD/ISA FOR AS ARMITAGE

DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR P-ARMACOST, T-DERWINSKI, INM-WROBLESKI

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5. (U) MOHAMAD KHARIS SUHUD, 63, WAS ELECTED SPEAKER OF INDONESIA'S 500-MEMBER PARLIAMENT (DPR) IN OCTOBER 1987. HE WAS VICE SPEAKER OF THE DPR FOR FIVE YEARS PRIOR TO THAT. A RETIRED ARMY LIEUTENANT GENERAL, KHARIS SUHUD ENTERED THE DPR IN 1980 AS A MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES FACTION (ABRI); HE LED THE ARMED FORCES FACTION IN PARLIAMENT 1982-87.

6. (U) KHARIS SUHUD WAS BORN IN MADIUN (EAST JAVA) ON APRIL 10, 1925. HE FOUGHT IN THE REVOLUTIONARY INDONESIAN ARMY DURING THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE.

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HE IS VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE UNITED STATES FROM HIS MILITARY TRAINING THERE (U.S. ARMY LIAISON SCHOOL, HAWAII, 1959; U.S. ARMY COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE, FT. LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, 1962; U.S. ARMY INTELLIGENCE SCHOOL, FT. HOLABIRD, MARYLAND, 1962) AND FROM HIS ASSIGNMENT AS DEFENSE ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON 1966-70. HE WAS LAST IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1973. HE SERVED AS COMMANDER OF THE INDONESIAN COMPONENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SUPERVISION AND CONTROL (ICCS) IN VIETNAM. HE WAS INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND 1975-78. THE SPEAKER HAS AN EXCELLENT COMMAND OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

7. (C) WITHOUT PRESIDENT SOEHARTO'S BLESSING, KHARIS SUHUD WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ELECTED SPEAKER LAST YEAR. WE HAVE HEARD FROM SOME SOURCES THAT SOEHARTO GAVE KHARIS SUHUD A MANDATE AT THE TIME OF HIS SELECTION TO IMPROVE THE IMAGE OF THE DPR BY INVIGORATING ITS INSTITUTIONAL ROLE. DESPITE THE PREDOMINANT INFLUENCE OF THE PRESIDENCY OVER THE DPR, IT IS WRONG TO CHARACTERIZE IT AS A "RUBBER STAMP" FOR THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. ALREADY TWICE THIS YEAR THE DPR HAS CHALLENGED IMPORTANT DRAFT LAWS SUBMITTED TO IT BY THE EXECUTIVE (TWO MILITARY BILLS IN FEBRUARY AND A NEW DRAFT LAW ON EDUCATION). IT IS UNLIKELY KHARIS SUHUD HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE GENESIS OF THESE SPECIFIC CHALLENGES, BUT HE IS PART OF THE PROCESS. INDONESIAN POLITICAL OBSERVERS FROM THE MEDIA, THINK TANKS, AS WELL AS DPR MEMBERS, ARE UNUSUALLY UNIFORM IN THEIR COMMENTS ABOUT THE GOOD JOB KHARIS SUHUD IS DOING AT THE DPR. AS BACKGROUND FOR HIS POSSIBLE WASHINGTON MEETINGS, HOWEVER, WE WISH TO MAKE CLEAR THAT WHILE KHARIS SUHUD IS AN ABLE AND INTELLIGENT MAN, HE IS NO INTELLECTUAL. THOSE WHO MEET WITH HIM FOR THE FIRST TIME MAY FIND HIM CIRCUMSPECT AND SOMEWHAT RELUCTANT TO BE DRAWN OUT.

OTHER DELEGATION MEMBERS

8. (U) IN ADDITION TO THE SPEAKER, THE EIGHT-MEMBER DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE MRS. KHARIS SUHUD, SRI SUKARISH; REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH OF THE FOUR PARLIAMENTARY FACTIONS; AND TWO STAFF MEMBERS OF THE DPR. THE FACTIONAL REPRESENTATIVES INCLUDE: H. IMRON ROSYADI OF THE UNITED DEVELOPMENT PARTY (PPP); TADJUDDIN NOER SAID OF THE GOVERNMENT POLITICAL ORGANIZATION (GOLKAR); MRS. FATIMAH ACHMAD OF THE INDONESIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDI); AND AIR VICE MARSHAL MOHAMAD DIRAN OF THE ARMED FORCES FACTION (ABRI). IMRON ROSYADI ALSO HAPPENS TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARLIAMENT'S ARMED SERVICES AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (KOMISI I), WHILE MRS. FATIMAH ACHMAD IS THE HEAD OF THE PDI FACTION IN PARLIAMENT. THE TWO STAFF MEMBERS ARE THE DPR'S ARCHITECT, HILMI SYATRIA, AND THE HEAD OF THE DPR'S LIBRARY AND RESEARCH SERVICE, MRS. AURORA C. SIMANDJUNTAK.

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NSC FOR KELLY AND CHILDRESS

DOD/ISA FOR AS ARMITAGE

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WASHINGTON PROGRAM & SUGGESTIONS

9. (LOU) WE ARE PLEASED WITH THE WASHINGTON ARRANGEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE TO DATE BY THE ASIA FOUNDATION AND THE ASSISTANCE WHICH THE DEPARTMENT HAS THUS FAR PROVIDED. REFTEL, WHICH PROVIDES THE LATEST DETAILS ON THE SCHEDULE, ARRIVED IN TIME FOR THE AMBASSADOR'S AUGUST 30 MEETING WITH THE SPEAKER. OUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS BELOW GROW IN PART OUT OF THAT MEETING AND ARE MEANT TO ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT AND THE ASIA FOUNDATION IN FINALIZING THE WASHINGTON PROGRAM.

- A. CONGRESSIONAL VISITS. WE UNDERSTAND THE ASIA FOUNDATION HAS FIRM COMMITMENTS FOR CALLS ON HOUSE SPEAKER WRIGHT AND ON REP. SOLARZ, ALTHOUGH THE TIMES ARE UNCONFIRMED. MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL WILL BE THE MEETING WITH SPEAKER WRIGHT; IT WAS AFTER ALL HIS PERSONAL INVITATION TO KHARIS SUHOD WHICH HELPED PRESIDENT SOEHARTO DECIDE IN FAVOR OF THE TRIP. A MEETING WITH REP. SOLARZ IS IDEAL. GIVEN THE UNCERTAINTIES OF CONGRESSIONAL WORK SCHEDULES, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BEST TO LINE UP SEVERAL OTHER HILL APPOINTMENTS, IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE THE INEVITABLE CANCELLATIONS. WE RECOMMEND IN PARTICULAR:
 - O REP. DON BONKER (D-WA), WHO WAS HERE IN JAN. 1987 AT THE HEAD OF A TRADE MISSION;
 - O REP. BILL FRENZEL (R-MN), WHO WAS HERE IN BOTH JAN. 1987 AND JAN. 1988;
 - O REP. CHARLES B. RANGEL (D-NY), WHO WAS HERE IN JAN. 1988 AT THE HEAD OF A NARCOTICS FACT-FINDING DELEGATION; AND/OR
 - O REP. MATTHEW MCHUGH (D-NY), A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS FOREIGN OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE, WHO HAS PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN INDONESIA TO THE AMBASSADOR.
- IN ADDITION, DURING AN AUGUST 25 CALL ON KHARIS SUHOD, SENATOR HOLLINGS PROMISED TO FOLLOW UP WITH SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEM STENNIS AND FOREIGN RELATIONS CHAIRMAN PELL TO ARRANGE FOR SENATE-SIDE MEETINGS.
- B. DEPARTMENT CALLS. THE ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION PROPOSED BY AS SIGUR (REFTEL) IS AN EXCELLENT IDEA. IN VIEW OF THE FACT DEPUTY SECRETARY WHITEHEAD WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RECEIVE KHARIS SUHOD, THE AMBASSADOR BELIEVES UNDER SECRETARY ARMACOST OR UNDER SECRETARY DERWINSKI MIGHT BE GOOD ALTERNATIVES. TYING INTO THE CODEL RANGEL VISIT LAST JANUARY, A CALL ON INM AS WRABLESKI OR DAS DION IS AN ADDITIONAL POSSIBILITY.
- C. DOD CALLS. THE SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT WITH

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- DASD/ISA KARL JACKSON ON SEPT 22 IS EXCELLENT.
- THE AMBASSADOR BELIEVES AS ARMITAGE MIGHT
- ALSO BE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING THEM.

- D. NSC. IN THE AMBASSADOR'S VIEW, A CALL AT THE
- NSC, WHILE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE, WOULD LEND
- CONSIDERABLE PRESTIGE TO THE VISIT. THIS
- CABLE HAS BEEN SLUGGED FOR JIM KELLY AND
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NSC FOR KELLY AND CHILDRESS

DOD/ISA FOR AS ARMITAGE

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- DICK CHILDRESS FOR THEIR ATTENTION.

COMMENT

10. (LOU) GIVEN KHARIS SUHUD'S BACKGROUND AND GROWING STATURE, WE BELIEVE HIS VISIT PROVIDES US WITH A CONVENIENT OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A SMALL CONTRIBUTION TO PLURALISTIC INSTITUTION-BUILDING IN INDONESIA. OUR RECOMMENDATIONS IN PARA 9 ABOVE ARE GIVEN WITH THIS IN MIND. ALTHOUGH ARRANGED (AND FUNDED) BY THE ASIA FOUNDATION, WE THINK IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE SPEAKER AT NO TIME FEEL THAT HE IS ON ANYTHING OTHER THAN AN "OFFICIAL VISIT." FOR THIS REASON, WE PARTICULARLY WANT THE MEETING WITH HOUSE SPEAKER WRIGHT TO MATERIALIZE AND ENCOURAGE THE DEPARTMENT TO LEND THE ASIA FOUNDATION WHATEVER ASSISTANCE IT CAN TO ARRANGE IT.

11. (LOU) FOR EAP/IMBS. AS FAR AS WE UNDERSTAND, THE FOUR PARLIAMENTARY FACTION MEMBERS PLAN TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON ON SEPT 15, DIRECT FROM SAN FRANCISCO. WITHOUT INTERFERING WITH THE ASIA FOUNDATION'S SCHEDULE, YOU MAY WISH TO PROPOSE SOME DEPARTMENT VISITS (PERHAPS TO INCLUDE A CALL ON DAS LAMBERTSON) ON FRIDAY, SEPT 16. IMRON ROSYADI AND MRS. FATIMAH ACHMAD ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTING MEMBERS OF THE GROUP. IF IT CAN BE ARRANGED, WE KNOW ROSYADI WOULD ENJOY AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS ON THE IRAN-IRAQ SITUATION AND PROSPECTS FOR A SETTLEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN.

WOLFOWITZ
END OF MESSAGE

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