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Z- 15933/83

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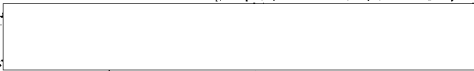
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**DISSEMINATION CONTROL ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>NOFORN-</b>	Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals
<b>NOCONTRACT-</b>	Not Releasable to Contractors or Contractor/Consultants
<b>PROPIN-</b>	Caution-Proprietary Information Involved
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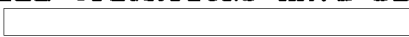
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Attachment to Z-15933/83  
NPIC/PEG (12/83)


CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY  
SWALLOW REEF, SPRATLY ISLANDS



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1. SIGNIFICANCE: THIS ACTIVITY COULD BE RELATED TO CONSTRUCTION OF A PERMANENT MALAYSIAN MILITARY FACILITY. (SWN)
2. REMARKS: LANDFILL OPERATIONS HAVE BEGUN IN THE EAST PORTION OF THE REEF LAGOON  ONE DREDGE AND THREE BARGES ARE PRESENT. ONE OF THE BARGES IS BEACHED IN A SHALLOW WATER SECTION OF THE LAGOON THAT HAS BEEN PARTIALLY ENCLOSED BY CAISSON SECTIONS. THIS BARGE HAS TWO LARGE QUONSET-TYPE BUILDINGS/HANGARS AND A LATTICE TOWER (POSSIBLY FOR SHIP AND/OR AIRCRAFT TRAFFIC CONTROL). SMALL PROBABLE ANTENNAS ARE MOUNTED ON THE TOP OF THE TOWER. EIGHTEEN FOOTINGS/PILINGS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED IN THE CAISSON ENCLOSURE, AND TWO BULLDOZERS ARE GRADING THE AREA. THE OTHER TWO BARGES ARE MOORED OUTSIDE THE LAGOON NEXT TO A NARROW STRIP OF DREDGED SPOIL. A LARGE MOBILE CRANE, A TRUCK, ADDITIONAL FOOTINGS/PILINGS, AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS ARE ON THE DREDGE STRIP. TWO TUGS AND A SMALL DREDGE BARGE ARE IN THE LAGOON. (SWN)

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MALAYSIAN OCCUPANCY OF SWALLOW REEF WAS CONFIRMED  WHEN A MALAYSIAN FLAG/EMBLEM WAS SEEN ON THE ROOF OF A SMALL BUILDING AT THE EAST END OF THE REEF. THE DREDGING, FIRST SEEN IN JUNE 1983, APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. THE PURPOSE OF THIS CONSTRUCTION IS UNDETERMINED AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, THE MALAYSIAN CLAIM TO THE SPRATLY ISLANDS IS DISPUTED BY SEVERAL OTHER NATIONS IN THE AREA, AND THE INSTALLATION OF A MILITARY BASE, POSSIBLY WITH HELICOPTER SUPPORT FACILITIES, ON SWALLOW REEF WOULD ENHANCE MALAYSIA'S ABILITY TO MONITOR ACTIVITY IN THE SPRATLYS. (SWN)

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THE SPRATLY ISLANDS ARE APPROXIMATELY 200 NM NORTHWEST OF MALAYSIA IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA. IN ADDITION TO MALAYSIA; CHINA, VIETNAM, THE PHILIPPINES, AND TAIWAN HAVE LAID CLAIMS TO ONE OR MORE ISLANDS/REEFS IN THE SPRATLY CHAIN. (SWN)

3.  COORDINATES 07-22-20N 113-49-30E

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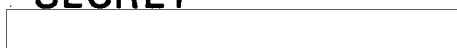
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