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ACTION ARA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARAMARIBO 08848

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y ADD EO, TAGS, & SUBJ

E.O. 12356: DECL 12/08/92
TAGS: PINT, NS
SUBJ: GOS MILITARY ACTIONS: SITREP DEC. 8

1. (CONFIDENTIAL-ENTIRE TEXT).
2. THIS TELEGRAM CONSTITUTES FIRST REPORT OF GOS MILITARY ACTIONS WHICH COMMENCED IN PARAMARIBO SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT, IN EARLY MORNING HOURS OF WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS
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AS FOLLOWS:

- 0100 AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE FIRST HEARD
- CITY.,
- RECURRED SPORADICALLY THROUGHOUT HOURS OF
- DARKNESS.
- 0200 ONE, PERHAPS TWO LARGE EXPLOSIONS OR
- DETONATIONS.
- 0400 TWO LARGE EXPLOSIONS OR DETONATIONS

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Leonard Kusnitz, Senior Reviewer

-- 0600 ARMY COMMANDER BOUTERSE SPOKE BRIEFLY ON
 -- GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED RADIO (NO OTHER
 -- STATIONS BROADCASTING, CONTRARY TO NORMAL
 -- PRACTICE). BOUTERSE EXPLAINED MILITARY LEADERSHIP
 -- HAD TAKEN ACTIONS TO PROTECT THE REVOLUTION ,
 -- AND WAS INTACT AND IN CONTROL OF SITUATION. HE
 -- ASKED PEOPLE TO STAY AT HOME, AND NOT SEND
 -- CHILDREN TO SCHOOL. THIS BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT
 -- WAS FOLLOWED BY MARTIAL MUSIC.

3. RESULTS OF NIGHT S ACTIVITIES AS FOLLOWS:

-- A. ARMY AND OR ITS AGENTS ATTACKED AND LARGELY
 DESTROYED, BY COMBINATION OF EXPLOSIVES AND
 BURNING, PREMISES OF RADIO A B C,
 RADIO RADIKA, NEWSPAPER VRIJE STEM AND TRADE UNION
 MOEDERBOND. THESE TWO RADIO STATIONS AND NEWSPAPER
 HAVE BEEN NOTEWORTHY AS COURAGEOUSLY INDEPENDENT,
 WILLING TO CRITICIZE MILITARY AND DISSEMINATE NEWS
 AND INFORMATION DETRIMENTAL TO ARMY INTERESTS.

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-- B. ARMY HAS REPORTEDLY TAKEN INTO CUSTODY TRADE
 UNION LEADERS FRED DERBY AND CYRIL DAAL, AND
 LAWYERS HOOST, GONCALVES AND RIEDEWALD. HOOST
 WAS DEFENSE FOR RAMBOCUS IN HIS COURT MARTIAL FOR
 ATTEMPTED COUP OF MARCH 1982.,
 GONCALVES AND RIEDEWALD HEAD BAR ASSOCIATION
 AND HAVE BEEN PROMINENT AMONG LEADERS OF FUNCTIONAL
 GROUPS PRESSING GOVERNMENT TO RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC
 PRACTICES. FATHER/SON OWNERS OF RADIO A B C (KAMPERVEENS)
 WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BUT WE UNDERSTAND FATHER HAS BEEN
 RELEASED. FATHER S HOUSE WAS BADLY SHOT UP DURING
 PROCESS. TWO OF RADIKISHUN FAMILY, OWNERS OF RADIO
 RADIKA, ALSO TAKEN INTO CUSTODY. FINALLY, TWO MILITARY
 IMPLICATED IN RAMBOCUS COUP ATTEMPT HAVE ALSO BEEN
 TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.

-- C. AS OF 1600 DECEMBER 8, CITY IS QUIET, TRAFFIC
 MOVING WITHOUT IMPEDIMENT, BUT MOST PEOPLE
 ARE STAYING HOME. MOST SHOPS ARE CLOSED, HARBOR
 IS CLOSED, FERRY RESUMED SERVICE AFTER MID-DAY.

-- D. AMERICAN STAFF REPORTED TO OFFICE AT OPENING
 OF BUSINESS, AND ALL ARE SAFE AND ACCOUNTED FOR.
 SOME LOCAL STAFF ELECTED TO STAY AT HOME. THERE
 DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY THREAT AGAINST AMERICAN
 COMMUNITY AS SUCH.

-- E. ARMY HAS POSTED FOUR GUARDS AT EMBASSY CHANCERY.
 THEY SAY THEIR ORDERS ARE TO PROTECT EMBASSY AND
 MONITOR SURINAMERS WHO MAY SEEK ACCESS. SO FAR,
 THEY HAVE NOT PREVENTED ANYONE FROM ENTERING. ACCORDING
 TO INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR, GUARDS PLACED AT HIS CHANCERY.

HAVE PREVENTED HIS SURINAME EMPLOYEES FROM ENTERING.
DUTCH AMBASSADOR REPORTS GUARDS AT HIS RESIDENCE BUT
NOT AT HIS CHANCERY.

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-- F. ALOCA SUBSIDIARY SURALCO REPORTS VIRTUALLY
100 PERCENT ATTENDANCE AMONG LABOR FORCE.
HOWEVER, WITH TRADE UNION LEADERS DAAL AND DERBY
IN CUSTODY, THERE IS LIKELIHOOD OF EARLY UNION MEETING
TO DECIDE WHAT ACTION RANK AND FILE SHOULD TAKE.

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