

DOS REVIEWED 31-Mar-2008: DECLASSIFIED FOR RELEASE IN FULL

2. PARLIAMENT AND POLITICAL PARTY RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS

A. POLITICAL ACTIVITY STAYED AT LOW LEVEL DURING LONG HOLIDAY PERIOD, BUT SEVERAL GERMINATING TRENDS NOTED IN REGARD

TO PARLIAMENT AND POLITICAL PARTIES WHICH MIGHT ULTIMATELY HAVE IMPORTANT EFFECT ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS.

B. SJARIF THAJEB TOLD POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT IDEA OF ADDING SIZABLE NUMBER OF NEW ORDER SUPPORTERS TO PRESENT MEMBERSHIP OF PARLIAMENT TO FORM RELIABLE PRO-GOVERNMENT MAJORITY HAS DEFINITELY BEEN DROPPED. INSTEAD, PRESSURE IS BEING APPLIED TO POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS TO EXERCISE "RIGHT TO RECALL" OVER UNCOOPERATIVE MEMBERS OF THEIR DELEGATIONS, AND REPLACE THEM WITH NEW ORDER ELEMENTS. A FEW DAYS LATER, PNI FIRST CHAIRMAN HARDI TOLD CATHOLIC YOUTH VISITORS THAT PNI WAS PLANNING TO REPLACE ITS "POLITICIANS AND SPEECH-MAKERS" IN PARLIAMENT WITH "TECHNICIANS" IN NEAR FUTURE, SUGGESTING PRESSURE IS BEARING FRUIT.

C. ON POLITICAL PARTY FRONT, PROJECT TO WELD TOGETHER "NATIONALIST CONFEDERATION" INCLUDING PNI, IP-KI, PARKINDO AND

CATHOLIC PARTIES IN PREPARATION FOR MARCH MPRS SESSION, THOUGH STILL RUDIMENTARY, IS GAINING SOME MOMENTUM. NUMEROUS INTRA- AND INTER-PARTY CONSULTATIONS ARE UNDERWAY, AND SEEM TO INVOLVE SOME PARTICIPATION BY ELEMENTS FROM HITHERTO SEPARATE PROJECTS FOR "INDEPENDENT GROUP MOVEMENT" AS NEW ORDER POLITICAL VEHICLE. SEVERAL PROMINENT ARMY GENERALS CLOSE TO SUHARTO SEEM TO BE TAKING PART BEHIND SCENES IN BOTH PROJECTS.

D. COMMENT: BOTH "NATIONALIST CONFEDERATION" PLANNERS AND THOSE BEHIND "INDEPENDENT GROUP MOVEMENT" HAVE INDICATED PRIVATELY THEY SUPPORT IDEA OF MPRS POSTPONING ELECTIONS UNTIL 1973, AND APPOINTING SUHARTO TO FULL FIVE YEAR TERM AS PRESIDENT. ALL THESE MOVES ARE STILL INCHOATE, HOWEVER, AND LIKELIHOOD THAT DISPARATE GROUPS INVOLVED WILL BE ABLE TO CO-OPERATE FOR MORE THAN SHORT-RUN GOALS IS QUESTIONABLE. NEVERTHELESS, BOTH DEVELOPMENTS INDICATE SOME PROGRESS BEING MADE BEHIND SCENES ON PROBLEM OF CONSTRUCTING NEW SECULAR GROUPING TO SUPPORT SUHARTO GOVERNMENT.

