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ACTION EA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 17202

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, PINS, ID
SUBJECT: EAST TIMOR

REF: STATE 303047

1. OV-10S ARE USED IN INDONESIAN MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST FRETILIN. ARMAMENT EMPLOYED HAS THUS FAR BEEN LIMITED TO MACHINE GUNS, ROCKETS AND PERHAPS BOMBS.

2. WE HAVE NO REPEAT NO REPORTS THAT INDONESIANS HAVE USED CHEMICAL SPRAYS ON CROPS IN AREAS UNDER FRETILIN CONTROL. IN ANY EVENT, IT APPEARS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT OV-10 WOULD BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE. ACCORDING TO MISSION PERSONNEL WITH EXPERIENCE IN AERIAL SPRAYING, OV-10 WOULD, FOR THIS MISSION, REQUIRE EXTENSIVE MODIFICATION, WHICH COULD NOT ESCAPE NOTICE OF U.S. TECHREPS HERE. EVEN AFTER SUCH MODIFICATION, IT WOULD REMAIN BASICALLY UNSUITABLE FOR SPRAYING. (DEPARTMENT MAY WISH CONFIRM THESE TECHNICAL ASPECTS FURTHER WITH WASHINGTON EXPERTS.) U.S. TECHREPS AND AIR FORCE OFFICER ASSIGNED TO OV-10 HOME BASE IN CENTRAL JAVA, WHO SEE AIRCRAFT DURING PERIODIC INSPECTIONS, HAVE NOTED NO EVIDENCE OF THEIR BEING USED FOR SPRAYING. AMBASSADOR IS SEEKING APPOINTMENT WITH DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT FOR INTELLIGENCE MAJOR GENERAL MURDANI TO DISCUSS TIMOR SITUATION AND WILL RE-
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: CHARLES E LAHIGUERA
DATE/CASE ID: 22 JUN 2004 200302005

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PORT ANY COMMENTS BEARING ON THIS SUBJECT.
MASTERS

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