

UNCLASSIFIED

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RELEASED IN PART
B6PAGE 01 SYDNEY 00826 01 OF 02 030839Z
ACTION SSO-00

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-00	NP-00	AGRE-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00
	ACQ-00	CA-01	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00
	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOFE-00	PERC-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	EAP-00	EB-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VC-00	OBO-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	LAB-01	L-00	CAC-00
	VCE-00	MFLO-03	MMP-00	M-00	AC-01	DGP-01	NRCE-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OES-01	OMB-01	OPIC-01	OPR-01
	PA-00	PC-01	PER-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00
	SCT-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SS-00	SVC-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00
	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	FMP-00	IIP-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00
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O 030600Z SEP 02
 FM AMCONSUL SYDNEY
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3930
 INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
 AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
 AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
 AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
 AMCONSUL PERTH

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 SYDNEY 000826

STATE FOR CA/OCS/ACS/EAP AND EAP/ANP

SENSITIVE

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PAGE 02 SYDNEY 00826 01 OF 02 030839Z
 E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: CASC, PTER, ASEC, KSAC, EMIN, PGOV, PINR, PINS
 SUBJECT: SITREP TOWNSVILLE, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA -
 AMERICAN VICTIMS OF INDONESIA ATTACK EXPECTED TO MAKE
 FULL RECOVERY.

REF: JAKARTA 3927

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY. THE SEVEN AMERICAN SURVIVORS OF THE ATTACK IN THE INDONESIAN PROVINCE OF WEST PAPUA ARE RECOVERING AT A HOSPITAL IN TOWNSVILLE, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA. REPRESENTATIVES OF THEIR MINING COMPANY EMPLOYER ARE ON

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THE SCENE AND PROVIDING CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT. THE INJURIES OF THE VICTIMS VARY, BUT DOCTORS EXPECT ALL THE VICTIMS TO MAKE A FULL RECOVERY. END SUMMARY.

3. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, ON AUGUST 31, AN AMBUSH IN THE INDONESIAN PROVINCE OF PAPUA RESULTED IN THE DEATHS OF THREE PEOPLE, INCLUDING TWO AMERICANS. SEVEN SURVIVORS WITH THE MOST SERIOUS INJURIES WERE FLOWN TO TOWNSVILLE IN NORTHERN AUSTRALIA IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF SEPTEMBER 1. ALL THE AMERICAN ADULT VICTIMS WERE TEACHERS EMPLOYED BY FREEPORT MCMORAN COPPER AND GOLD INC. THEIR JOB WAS TO TEACH THE CHILDREN OF THE EXPATS WORKING AT THE COMPANY'S MINING OPERATION NEAR THE TOWN OF TIMIKA.

4. CONOFF ARRIVED IN TOWNSVILLE ON THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 2. AT TOWNSVILLE HOSPITAL (TEL: 61-7-4796-

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1111), FAX 61-7-4796-2901) CONOFF SPOKE WITH GEOFFREY HOCKING, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FREEPORT COMPANY. MR. HOCKING STATED THAT THE VICTIMS' PASSPORTS WERE STILL WITH AUSTRALIAN IMMIRATION, BUT THAT ALL PASSPORTS WERE VALID AND WOULD BE RETURNED SOON. MR. HOCKING INDICATED THAT THE STATESIDE RELATIVES OF ALL THE VICTIMS HAD BEEN NOTIFIED.

5. THE PATIENTS ARE SPREAD AROUND IN DIFFERENT WARDS OF THE HOSPITAL. EACH WARD IS GUARDED BY OFFICERS OF THE TOWNSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT OR HOSPITAL SECURITY. CONOFF NOTICED OTHER POLICE IN THE HOSPITAL HALLWAYS. THE POLICE REPRESENTATIVE STATED THAT NO REPEAT NO THREATS HAD BEEN MADE AGAINST THE VICTIMS. HOWEVER, THEY WERE TAKING NO CHANCES. AS OF SEPTEMBER 3, HOSPITAL SECURITY OFFICERS HAVE TAKEN OVER RESPONSIBILITY FOR GUARDING THE PATIENTS FROM THE POLICE.

6. THE POLICE REPORTED THAT MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA HAD BEEN CALLING THE HOSPITAL PRETENDING TO BE RELATIVES OF THE VICTIMS, TRYING TO INTERVIEW THEM. THEY HAD FOUND A FEW TRYING TO GET TO THE WARDS. MR. HOCKING AND THE FREEPORT REPRESENTATIVES ALSO COMPLAINED ABOUT THIS. CONOFF WITNESSED MR. HOCKING'S PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 2 AND COUNTED 22 MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA. IN THEIR DESIRE TO KEEP A LID ON INFORMATION THE HOSPITAL AND FREEPORT DID NOT ALLOW THE PATIENTS TO USE THE TELPEPHONE FOR THE FIRST DAY AND A HALF. THIS WAS THE GREATEST SOURCE OF COMPLAINT WHEN CONOFF FINALLY

Final

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SPOKE WITH THE VICTIMS, BUT THOSE RESTRICTIONS WERE
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REMOVED BY THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 2.

7. CONOFF WAS UNABLE TO FIND A DOCTOR TO DISCUSS EACH
PATIENT'S CONDITION. HOWEVER, THE NURSES AND THE
PATIENTS THEMSELVES WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

A. KENNETH MICHAEL BALK

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

B6

B. ANDRA HOPKINS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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NOTE: MISSING SBU PARAGRAPH MARKING.

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ACTION SSO-00

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DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/020W		

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