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Verzonden aan: de Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken.

Aan Zijne Excellentie Prof. Dr. J.E. de QUAY
Minister-President

Plein 1813 no. 4

'S-GRAVENHAGE.

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INDONESIA
POLITICAL

GEHEIM

The President' Tour Abroad and the Political
Scene in DJAKARTA

1. Shortly before making his speech in the Constituent Assembly on the 22nd of April, the President told some of his close attendants that he was well aware that, for the first time, the position of himself as President was in question. In the Assembly he would be speaking not as President, but as a representative of the Government reading a Government statement. He realised that the proposal to return to the 1945 Constitution would be the subject of fierce debate and that there would be many who would criticise not only the new proposals but also his own position as President. One of his main reasons in leaving the country was to ensure that no one could say that he was exerting any unfair pressure when his own position was being questioned.
2. The President was convinced that at present there was no one of his own stature amongst the present leaders in Indonesia. This did not altogether please him. He felt that he was getting old and it was essential that some one should be able to take his place if anything happened to him.
3. In his absence, the President said, the Political parties would have an opportunity of showing whether they were capable of solving the problems facing the countries. If they failed, as was likely, then there was little chance of their playing an active part in future in the affairs of Indonesia. He fully realised that there was mass discontent,

especially about the present economic difficulties. The President considered that this was a good sign. Such discontent, together with the accompanying possibilities of revolutionary activity, would force the present political and army leaders to work urgently and actively to change the existing conditions in Indonesia. He also hoped that such discontent would bring forth the new leaders that were so urgently needed.

4. The Government has been concerned about possible criticism of the President's trip abroad and the large expense involved.

Various intelligence departments had been asked by the Government to investigate the matter. According to reports received by the Government, there was very little criticism by the masses, who tended rather to be proud of the fact that their President had been invited to so many foreign countries. The Government had been convinced by such reports that, although intellectuals might complain about the wastage of foreign currency, the people as a whole welcomed the idea of the President's tour.

5. The main reason for the severe Government action against the former Attorney General, SUPRAPTO, in the SCHMIDT case was the firm intention of the Government that nothing should be allowed to aggravate the delicate atmosphere in DJAKARTA which might thereby upset the Government plans for the introduction of the 1945 Constitution. It was not the release of SCHMIDT that enraged the Government so much as the action taken by SUPRAPTO to obtain support from various power groups after criticism had started to mount when SCHMIDT's release became generally known. SUPRAPTO had contracted and had received promises of support from friends in the Military Police, the Army, the P.S.I. and the MASJUMI. The Government construed this as intolerable political activity on the part of an Attorney General, especially in the present circumstances. The decision of the Cabinet to dismiss SUPRAPTO was a unanimous one.