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AUGUST 2002

Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs  
Border Protection Branch  
Intelligence Analysis Section

**Intelligence Note**

**83/2001**

Internal:

Minister

Secretary

Deputy Secretary

FAS Border Control and Compliance

FAS Refugee and Humanitarian

FAS Detention Strategy and Facilities

FAS Detention Taskforce

AS Border Protection

AS Detention Strategy

AS Detention Infrastructure

AS Indonesia Task Force

Director Unauthorised Arrivals

Director Onshore Compliance

Director Detention Operations

Director Indonesia Task Force

External:

[REDACTED]

**ASSESSMENT OF BOAT ACTIVITY AS AT 1400, 23 OCT 2001**

**SUMMARY**

(U) **Abu Qussay's** boat with 421 passengers on board sank last Friday (19 October) [REDACTED] with the loss of possibly 352 lives.

(U) [REDACTED] boat, carrying up to 300 plus passengers, is located off Christmas Island [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(U) To the east, possibly [REDACTED] boat remains off the Ashmore Islands, and [REDACTED] may have boats on the water heading for the Islands.

[REDACTED]

(U) Post reporting indicates the IOM may be involved in the relocation from Roti Island to Kupang of passengers probably from the boat [REDACTED]

### CURRENT SITUATION

(U) Media reporting has highlighted the sinking of **Abu Qussay's** boat with probably only 69 survivors from the **421 passengers** that boarded the boat [REDACTED] indicate the heavily overloaded 19.5 X 4m boat departed southern Sumatra at approximately 0130 hours on Thursday, 18 October. Qussay was said to be at the departure. The boat apparently took shelter in the lee of an island at about 0900 hours due to bad weather. 24 passengers are believed to have left the boat at that time.

(U) At about 1400 hours on Friday, when approximately 60NM south of the Sunda Strait, the boat began taking water and finally capsized and sank at about 1600 hours. The boat resurfaced and started breaking up and 120 passengers were known to be clinging to the debris. There were about 70 life jackets on board, but were of such poor quality that they were of no use.

(U) Between 1100 and 1200 hours the following day (Saturday), 44 survivors were rescued by an Indonesian fishing boat and the survivors were taken to a port near Jakarta. Another fishing boat picked up three bodies and a lone female survivor. The survivors are now being cared for by the IOM and UNHCR at a camp about one hour from Jakarta.

(U) [REDACTED] boat, carrying between **250 - 300 passengers**, remains off Christmas Island awaiting further Australian Government action.

(U) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IAS COMMENT: [REDACTED] may decide to move quickly to avoid any increased Indonesian Government action as a result of the sinking of Qussay's boat and the international attention it may attract.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(U) A boat, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with approximately 200 passengers remains off the Ashmore Islands awaiting further Australian government action.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

#### ASSESSMENT

(U) The consequences of the loss of Abu Qussay's boat and the heavy loss of life are unknown. As a relatively small player among the people smugglers, he probably does not have the degree of protection other, more prominent and powerful organisers have. To this end, he may attempt to flee the country. Given the wide international coverage the sinking has had, the Indonesian Government can be expected to act, at least against Qussay. At present, there is probably only one major player, [REDACTED] who would be significantly affected by increased Indonesian Government attention. With up to 500 passengers already in place in the Jakarta area, he may decide to move quickly to avoid being caught up in increased police activity.

#### ACTION

(U) Australian agencies in Jakarta are continuing to liaise with Indonesian authorities [REDACTED].

Tony Pollock  
Director  
Intelligence Analysis Section

23 October 2001

[REDACTED]