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CIRCULAR NOTE

SPECULATION ON AMBASSADOR IMRON COTAN'S FUTURE

The future of the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to the Commonwealth of Australia and to the Republic of Vanuatu has recently been subject to innuendoes arising from irresponsible and speculative reports filed by Mr. Matthew Moore from Jakarta as appeared in The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age in their editions of 15 June 2005.

The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Canberra attaches herewith a copy of the Presidential Spokesperson's letter addressed to the Editor of the Sydney Morning Herald on the issue.

The letter needs no explanation, for it is self-explanatory.

Canberra, 17 June 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'A' followed by a stylized flourish.



SEKRETARIAT KABINET
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

Jakarta, 15 June 2005

To the Editor
The Sydney Morning Herald
Fax No. +612 9282 3492
e-mail: letter@smh.com.au

Dear Sir,

Your news report titled 'Jakarta's man in Australia called home early' (15 June 2005) has created unfortunate misperceptions that need to be rectified.

Let me set the record straight : Ambassador Imron Cotan is an outstanding diplomat who has served in Australia as Deputy Chief of Mission and Ambassador for the last 3 years, and he has performed his duties with great dedication and competence.

President Yudhoyono is pleased with the performance of Ambassador Imron Cotan in representing Indonesia's interests in Australia, and in his role in strengthening Indonesia's bilateral relations with Australia.

Ambassador Cotan played a significant role in the success of President Yudhoyono's recent visit to Australia in April 2005, where our two leaders proclaimed a Comprehensive Partnership to mark our enhanced relations.

As result of his performance, Ambassador Imron Cotan will soon be promoted to a leadership position in the Department of Foreign Affairs in Jakarta.

I also need to stress that I have never used the word "abrasive" to describe Ambassador Imron Cotan--that is the term used by your reporter. I would describe Ambassador Imron Cotan as a very active, outgoing, passionate seasoned diplomat who is very fond of Australia and very conscious of the importance of Australia -Indonesia relations. You can quote me on that.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Dino Patti Djalal
Presidential Spokesperson
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