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BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON PROMINENT INDONESIANS

(SELECTED TRANSLATIONS)

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FOREWORD

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BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON PROMINENT INDONESIANS

(SELECTED TRANSLATIONS)

[Following are translations of articles on the above subject, selected from Mimbar Indonesia (Indonesian Rostrum), Djakarta. Source information accompanies each article]

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COLONEL DR. SOEMARNO SOSROATMODJO,
GOVERNOR OF GREATER DJAKARTA

Following is the translation of an article
in Mimbar Indonesia, Djakarta, Vol XIV, No
27, 2 July 1960, pages 26-27

Dr. Soemarno was born on April 24, 1911, in Rambipudji Village, 30 miles west of Djember. This village is known for its fine tobacco, which is exported to Hamburg. Before Dr. Soemarno was born, his father was a jail keeper in Kasian, Djember. By the time Dr. Soemarno began attending high school, his father was promoted to Police Commissioner of Djember, and three years later Municipal Judge outside of Djember.

His mother died when he was four years of age.

Because of the appointment of his father to a position away from Djember, Soemarno was left in the custody of his poor uncle in Djember. He had to work hard while boarding in his uncle's house. Although his father sent money to his uncle every month to pay for lodging and board, which also helped the uncle a great deal, he nevertheless had to do many chores, such as finding firewood for his aunt to cook with and taking care of his younger cousins. When he finished high school, his father wanted to send him to Osvia, but did not because Soemarno preferred to go to junior college in Malang, from where he graduated in 1929.

While going to school in Malang, he was active in the youths movement, Margo Upajo. Here he learned to respect the rights of others.

Upon graduating from junior college in 1929, he went to Nias, Surabaya, to continue his education to become a doctor. While in Nias he was active in youths movements such as Jong Java and Indonesia Muda. The Dutch Government threatened to expel him from school if he joined Indonesia Muda. Afraid that the school might flunk him and considering that he had already spent three years in Nias he withdrew from Indonesia Muda. While in Surabaya, he at first boarded and lodged with a Eurasian family which was a must for students at that time. Two years later, however, he moved away because of dissatisfaction.

He invited three of his friends to go along with him. They were Susman (now a doctor in Malang) Suparto (a doctor in Solo) and Suharsó (now Director of the General Rehabilitation Hospital in Solo). They kept house for themselves. These four students helped one another.

In the youth movement "Margo Upajo" in Malang he got acquainted with a girl named Arministiati. They soon learned to like each other, and on November 17, 1934, they were married before a chief. At that time Soemarno was still attending school in Nias, while Miss Arministiati had just graduated from Deventer School. Soemarno continued his education, and in 1938 he got his doctorate degree. By that time, Sidharta, their first child was 2 years old.

As a student getting a scholarship from the Government, Soemarno had to work where he was told to go. He was sent to Bulongan town in East Kalimantan after obtaining his doctorate degree. In his one year stay in Bulongan he became good friends of the Dayak of the Kenja family. Later he was transferred to Kuala Kapuas in South Kalimantan. Just why he was transferred to South Kalimantan was not quite clear.

There was a strong possibility that he was transferred because of his close ties with Indonesians who were members of KNIL (Army) while he shied away from the Dutch members of the Army. In Kuala Kapuas, Soemarno was made an aide of Dr. Zending, who owned a big hospital. Dr. Zending's facilities were not very elaborate. Here Soemarno got acquainted with the Ngadju family of Borneo. Later he was transferred to Hulu Sungai and assigned to the hospital in Amuntai. Later he was permanently assigned to Kandangan.

Not long after Soemarno arrived in Kandangan, the Japanese landed in Kalimantan. Because the Dutch at that time were experiencing difficulties, Soemarno, together with Surya Wirawan, formed an interim government. Soemarno was very helpful in many ways in government affairs, among other things, he opened schools, facilities for the delivery of children, and trained the youth of Kandangan.

Because of the great damage done to Kalimantan, Soemarno decided to leave Kalimantan. He first sent his wife and children away in a boat, and followed them later. On 1 September 1945, Soemarno arrived in Surabaya to join his family.

The Government ordered Soemarno to take ship to Kalimantan, but the order was cancelled because the British were attacking then. Soemarno enlisted in the Army as a doctor on 5 October with the rank of hospital head, a position he occupied for 8 years.

The fighting in Surabaya was really taxing to Soemarno. From Surabaya he had to move 1500 patients to Malang. Soemarno had to establish a temporary hospital. He received enthusiastic help from the people and, especially, from his wife in the hour of need. Meanwhile he was promoted to the rank of Major. Communications with the Center had to be continued. In Malang, health corps training had to be opened.

His greatest problem came when he had to move 300

patients out of Malang in two days because of Dutch attacks. Trains, trucks and other transportation could be used only at night. During the day air attacks were heavy. In February 1948 he was transferred to Solo to lead the Army. KMB agreement was signed and Soemarno was made head of the Department of Health of the Army.

During the Andi Azis attacks, the Government sent Soemarno to East Indonesia with the rank of Chief Doctor of Division. Here Soemarno witnessed the ferocity of the RMS, DI and DII [abbreviations unexplained in source], and at that time he had opportunity to confiscate medicines from the International Zone belonging to the Dutch.

At the end of 1953 Soemarno was called back to Djakarta.

As an official, Soemarno in 1952 attended the Red Cross conference in Canada, and in 1957 conferences in New Delhi and Red China.

Soemarno knew well the problems of the Red Cross.

In Djakarta, Soemarno was appointed Head of the Army Hospital.

In September 1958 he was appointed 3rd Assistant to the Army Head Quarters in charge of personell.

According to Soemarno, military conscription is instrumental in acquainting the people with democracy and patriotism.

In 1959 he was promoted Colonel, and the end of 1960 Governor/Chief of Greater Djakarta.

Do you know what the ambitions of Dr. Soemarno are now? His ambition is to teach, because by teaching you teach yourself.

If you should turn to the pages of the M.I. Mimbar Indonesia magazine of the past few months, you will find the biography of Mrs. Soemarno. She is head of the body known as "Take better care of children" in Kebajoran.

It is widely known that the Soemarno household is blessed. The two have harmonious relation and an identical outlook on life. Such blessings are also found in the Atmosudirdjo family.

According to Mrs. Soemarno, the harmonious relations come from mutual respect.

Helping this harmonious relationship are their seven children, Sidharta Mangharudin, Sri Susilorini, Harjanto Ardjonadi, Hadi Budyanto, Retna Hadiyati, Hestia Triwardhani, and Karmawidja.

According to Mrs. Soemarno, the qualities found in her husband are rare and outstanding. She said he respects women as mothers. His presence is greatly felt by his children, and his absence for even 15 minutes is missed. The children regard their parents as friends.

In addition to helping her husband, Mrs. Soemarno is

also active in J.P.A.T (Better Care for Children). In answer to a question whether her active participation in J.P.A.T. interferes with the care of her children, she said that it is good for the children to see their parents attend to the needs of humanity. This will teach them not to be self-centered.

PROFESSOR R. SUBEKTI, MEMBER OF THE
INDONESIAN SUPREME COURT

Following is the translation of an article in
Mimbar Indonesia, Djakarta, Vol XIV, No 30, 23
July 1960, pages 24,25/

About half a century ago Subekti, a nameless person with hate in his heart, enrolled in a private high school in Solo. The refusal by a Government-owned high school to admit him was the root of his hateful attitude. The refusal by the school was based on a conglomeration of things, such as the salary and rank of his father as a civil service employee, and, most important of all, the fact that he was non-white. Even in the private high school he was not permitted to forget his non-white skin. The Dutch children always got special treatment. With perservarance, he studied at both day and night schools until at last he brought happiness to his people when it was announced that Subekti had successfully had completed the entrance test to junior college.

Subekti was born 14 May 1914 to a civil service employee in Solo. Subekti's father's name was Nitipoestoko. Like all fathers, he was hopeful that Subekti would get a better position in the Government than he had. Subekti, because of his commendable entrance test to junior college and continued scholastic performance surpassing Dutch students, was given a scholarship by the Government.

While attending junior college in Semarang, he showed outstanding abilities. In addition to Subekti, there were four other Indonesian students in the college. He was the number one student. While still in college, Subekti became a member of the Indonesian National Path Finder organization.

In Semarang, he roomed with Mukarto Notowidigdo, who was recently the Indonesian Ambassador to the United States. During their spare time, they learned the Indonesian art of self-defense called the pentja and silat.

True to his ambition, after graduating from junior college in 1933, he continued his higher education in the University of R.H.S. in Jogjakarta together with Moh. Roem, Kasman Singodinedjo, Sjafruddin Prawinogara, Sutikno Slamet and many others.

In 1938 he finally graduated and got his degree in law. After having graduated from R.H.S. University, he taught in the private junior college of Dr. Satiman. A few months later, the government appointed him as an aide to President Raad Van Justitie in Semarang.

When the Japanese troops landed in Indonesia, the Japanese

Government appointed him a member of the court of justice in Semarang, headed by Mr. Kusumaatmadja. By the end of 1944, he was transferred to Purworedjo to head the court of justice there.

Mr. Kusumaatmadja, who had known Mr. Subekti for a long time, asked him to become a member of the Supreme Court. He held the judgeship from the year of the proclamation of independence to October 1952. When Supreme Court Judge Kusumaatmadja passed away, he was replaced by Wirjono Prodjodikoro, and Subekti was appointed judge of the High Court of Makasar.

His appointment to Makasar widened his scope of knowledge of law. He visited many small and large territories of East Indonesia. His specialty, of course, is civil law.

During his judgeship in Makasar he tried many kinds of cases....among which was the Westerling case, where many of Westerling's compatriots were sentenced to life imprisonment.

Many judges were afraid to try the case of Westerling because they were afraid that the compatriots of Westerling who were still unapprehended might harm them. But not Judge Subekti! After sentencing Westerling, he rode in a riksha leading a procession.

As a judge he believes in the death penalty. The death penalty, in his opinion, would tend to lessen crime.

The opinion of Judge Subekti differs from that of Judge C.A. Maengkom, who once said that he was opposed to taking life, as he felt this right belongs only to God.

During his judgeship he held the theory that man by nature is good and criminal behavior foreign to it.

It is regrettable that he did not long remain as judge in Makasar. After three years there (1955) he was called back to Djakarta to become a judge of the Supreme Court. By the end of 1957, he was elevated to Supreme Justice of Indonesia, while at the same time he served as professor at the University of Indonesia.

In his busy life he still found time to write books, among which already published are: "Basic Civil Law," published by Pembimbing (1953), "Basic Law and Appeal", published by Soeroengan (1955), and "Books on Civil Law" published by J. B. Wolters (1957).

"Subekti, do you know Miss Kusdarmilah, daughter of Patih Djojonagoro of Solo, who often comes here?" asked the aunt of Subekti. "In my opinion, it would be better if you take her for your wife".

"I have known her for a long time. She has fine character".

All the questions put by his aunt were answered by a nod of the head. Subekti from childhood was quiet by nature. Shortly thereafter Subekti became acquainted with Miss Kusdarmilah. When the Two youngsters learned more about each other,

they vowed to remain true and loyal to each other, and on 27 July 1945, the chief of the town married them.

Since then they have been blessed with five children, Irwan, Rachmanto, Sri Rahaju, Rachminah, and Rahardja.

In addition to taking care of her children and husband, Mrs. Kusdarmilah Subekti is active in Various women's organizations in Kebajoran Baru. She is also private secretary to her husband.

Krisnadwipajana University was established by Soenarto Djojodihardjo. Domine Harahap, who knew of Prof Subekti's interest in education, was responsible for the coming of Professor Subekti to the university.

At first he served as a common instructor, teaching law. At that time the chairman of the Law Division was Umar Senoadji. A year later Mr. Senoadji withdrew from the chairmanship and became a common instructor. Mr. Subekti was asked to take over the chairmanship of Law and Sociology, which he accepted. Later, the General Head of the school elevated Prof Subekti to President of Krisnadwipajana University, embracing three faculties: Law and Sociology, with Prof. Subekti serving as Dean; and Political Science, with Dr Prajudi Atmosudirdjo as dean; and the Division of Economy, with Dr Taylor Wiber serving as Dean.

According to Subekti, of the three subjects, the most advanced is law and sociology. This faculty has now graduated five students with degrees in law.

Of 400 students, 200 are studying law and sociology, 100 economy, and 100 political science.

To the Board of Education setting the standards of education for teachers of higher learning, Mr. Subekti once said: "Private School Teachers should not be required to take state examinations." The Board of Education replied that it is necessary that they do, as this is a means of setting a standard and to prevent any abuses.

Since most of the teachers who teach in Krisnadwipajana University are teachers from the University of Indonesia, there is no doubt that the government will accredit their students.

The students of Krisnadwipajana University are not as numerous as those of the University of Indonesia, and therefore conditions might be more suitable for study.

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