



Revitalization of the Role and Function of Intelligence in Indonesia

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Abstract. Intelligence is the knowledge, organization, and activities related to formulating policies, national strategies, and decision-making based on analyzing information and facts collected through work methods for early detection and warning to prevent, deter, and overcome threats to national security. Therefore, for accuracy in reading world political trends and other dimensions in the context of very rapid world change, the role of intelligence is crucial, especially in analyzing emerging threats (current threat trends) and formulating appropriate, contextual, and predictive strategies. These strategies are essential in responding to challenges in times that are changing and relatively uncertain (uncertain periods and conditions).

Keywords: Indonesian Intelligence, National Security, Intelligence Reform

Abstrak. Intelijen adalah pengetahuan, pengorganisasian, dan kegiatan yang berkaitan dengan perumusan kebijakan, strategi nasional, dan pengambilan keputusan berdasarkan analisis informasi dan fakta yang dikumpulkan melalui metode kerja deteksi dan peringatan dini untuk mencegah, menghalangi, dan mengatasi ancaman terhadap keamanan nasional. Oleh karena itu, agar dapat akurat dalam membaca tren politik dunia dan dimensi lain dalam konteks perubahan dunia yang sangat cepat, maka peran intelijen sangatlah penting, terutama dalam menganalisis ancaman yang muncul (tren ancaman saat ini) dan merumuskan strategi yang tepat, kontekstual, dan prediktif. Strategi-strategi tersebut sangat penting dalam menjawab tantangan di masa yang terus berubah dan relatif tidak pasti (periode dan kondisi yang tidak pasti).

Kata Kunci: Intelijen Indonesia, Keamanan Nasional, Reformasi Intelijen

1. INTRODUCTION

Every nation has a national ideal and goal as well as national interests. There will be positive and negative indications among these countries. Therefore, there are national interests that are eternal. Still, there are also national interests that are dynamic according to the development of the strategic environment at the national, regional, supraregional, and global levels (Dadi Susanto, 2007). This dynamic nature of national interests requires constant engagement and attention.

The Indonesian nation, which is a nation in the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution, also has national interests, both eternal national interests and dynamic national interests. The national interests of a country, whatever their form, consist of welfare and security interests. The ever-changing conditions in the flow of globalization that have implications for various dimensions, including politics, economics,

socio-culture, information, technology, and defense-security, have created many new things (emerging trends) in these dimensions that have touched the joints of life of the world community in general.

One of the trends undergoing metamorphosis is the trend in defense and security, which will directly or indirectly have implications for other dimensions. In fact, this trend creates a new definition and nature of threats to the defense and security of the country itself and national security in general. Therefore, for accuracy in reading world political trends and other dimensions in the context of very rapid world change, the role of intelligence is crucial, especially in analyzing emerging threats (current threat trends) and formulating appropriate, contextual, and predictive strategies. These strategies are essential in responding to challenges in times that are changing and relatively uncertain (uncertain periods and conditions). Starting from this background, this paper addresses the problem of revitalizing the role and function of Intelligence in Indonesia.

2. METHODS

This study uses qualitative methods to explore and describe the phenomena studied, by collecting secondary data from official documents, such as laws, books, including journal publications.

The qualitative writing method is based on literature study, where data is collected through analysis of reference sources such as books, journals, and previous research, to produce statements answering the formulation of the problems set (Zed, 2008). The results of the data analysis are interpreted descriptively and explanatory, explaining the causal relationship between two variables by referring to the theory of Revitalization of the Role and Function of Intelligence in Indonesia.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Perspective on the Role and Function of Intelligence in Indonesia

Intelligence is the knowledge, organization, and activities related to formulating policies, national strategies, and decision-making based on analyzing information and facts collected through work methods for early detection and warning to prevent, deter, and overcome threats to national security at Law Number 17 of 2011 concerning State Intelligence.

Perspective on the Role of Intelligence in Indonesia

State Intelligence plays a role in carrying out efforts, work, activities, and actions for early detection and early warning to prevent, deter, and overcome any nature of threats that may arise and threaten national interests and security. As part of the country's defense efforts and to achieve National Security stability, Intelligence must be able to identify the strategic environment at home and abroad. Thus, every problem and change can be identified quickly and provide enough time to take action. Consequently, Intelligence must play its role effectively and efficiently in the strategic decision-making process. For that, information or knowledge is needed to determine the possibilities of how to act, both from opponents/other parties and ourselves.

TNI (the Indonesian Armed Forces) Strategic Intelligence Function Perspective.

The functions of Strategic Intelligence include planning strategic defense intelligence activities and operations at home and abroad, organizing strategic intelligence activities and operations in the context of securing the TNI, VVIP, national vital objects, and counterintelligence, as well as formulating and implementing organizational development, personnel, unique materials, doctrine, coding and education and training in the field of strategic intelligence.

In a broader framework, Strategic Intelligence has a role in securing the goals and national interests of Indonesia as outlined in the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution, which states that internally to protect all Indonesian people and all Indonesian blood (Unitary State in the form of Republic) while externally it is called to participate in implementing world order based on independence, eternal peace, and social justice. It means that the national interests of the Republic of Indonesia are multi-complex because they include national interests aimed at protecting domestic interests related to international interests, Strategic Intelligence must be proactive in observing the development and implementation of foreign policy (Jono Hatmodjo, 2003).

It can also be stated that intelligence's function is universal, including investigation (intelligence), security, and preconditioning. All levels of intelligence have the three functions mentioned above. The difference lies in the scope of the intelligence activities. The scale (scope) difference is mainly in the target and its use.

As a comparison, the four best intelligence agencies in the world, according to Time magazine, are the CIA, the KGB, SIS and the Mossad. These intelligence agencies are given responsibilities that are looser in definition, more varied, and cover a very broad field. Their

main task is to collect and analyze information in all fields from within and outside the country. The agency must also act to ensure public support, cannot take the law into its own hands without thorough investigation and precautions, and is supported by human and financial resources (Dennis Eisenber, 2007). For example, the United States Intelligence prioritizes intelligence research over field intelligence in carrying out the function of investigative intelligence. The activities of the intelligence gathering function in the United States are very prominently carried out by a particular institution that coordinates the activities of the gathering function in the form of psywar or psyops, either through diplomatic channels, mass media (print and electronic), or through foreign aid or cooperation in the fields of eco-social, cultural and military. Psywar and Psyops can also be called political operations or can also be called "the war of mind" political warfare. Psywar and psyops in the United States are carried out under the particular institution of the National Security Council (NSC), which was formed in 1947. The members of this institution consist of the President, Vice President, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Defense, and Director of Emergency Planning. This institution is assisted by representatives from other government agencies or institutions who act as advisors to the President in areas that require integration and coordination to handle domestic and foreign policies and military affairs closely related to national security. Therefore, preconditioning activities in the form of psyops or psywar, or political operations are nationally coordinated by the NSC with foreign and domestic targets. US diplomatic representatives abroad, assisted by USIS (United States Information Service), are a means to carry out mobilization activities supported by activities carried out by the Center, such as the Radio Broadcast "Free Europe" (Cold War era) and other propaganda activities that support US political policies (The Voice of America).

The Existence and Condition of Intelligence in Indonesia

In line with the various changes that have become the journey of the history of the Indonesian nation both in the domestic and international environment, it has also influenced the shift in the pattern of approach to overcoming defense and security aspects, where the pattern of the approach to solving heavy military can no longer be used as a leading effort in line with the demands of the national democratic life pattern. This is due to the development of escalatory views that can threaten national integrity and interests. Intelligence in Indonesia is still struggling despite the developments that continue to change. It remains stagnant regarding thinking, including substance, organizational structure, changes and adjustments to

behavior that become culture, quality of human resources, and remarkable intelligence material equipment.

The Problem of Substance (Essence)

- 1) Dynamics of Threats and Developments in the Strategic Environment. Specifically, the dynamics of global threats can be classified into six groups. First, economic and social threats (poverty, infectious diseases, limited access to food, and environmental degradation). Second, inter-state conflict. Third, internal conflict (intra-state conflict). Fourth, the threat of the spread of weapons of mass destruction, such as nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. The fifth threat is terrorism, which, in terms of quantity and quality, continues to escalate. The sixth threat is the threat carried out by international criminal organizations (transnational crime) (Samuel P Huntington, 1996).
- 2) Intelligence regulations are not yet detailed and precise. The regulation of Intelligence in Law Number 17 of 2011 concerning Intelligence, at the macro and institutional levels, intelligence has been supported by a legal umbrella so that the perspective of public interest, society, and the state in the field of national security can be accommodated. With the certainty of law in the form of regulations in the field of intelligence, at least it can provide a reference for intelligence's space for maneuvering in aspects of procedures, authority, targets, tools, and methods. The balance of the five aspects and the professionalism in question is without damaging the law, human rights, and ethics and relying on the ability and quality of human resources, methods, and equipment to obtain data or information, making intelligence institutions and officers work in the gray and floating sector on the other hand intelligence is required to be responsible in terms of early warning (detection and early reporting) of all situations and conditions related to national security. The perception of intelligence that always acts outside the law may only be at the micro level or application in the field because it is adjusted to tactics to obtain information but remains in the corridor of balance and professionalism. However, the Law on Intelligence still broadly regulates the role and function of Intelligence, and there must be more detailed and firm regulations.
- 3) The scope of the task area is national and international. Still, in reality, it handles more areas/national levels or inward-looking, handling more domestic affairs that overlap with the duties of other institutions such as BIN (the Indonesia State Intelligence Agency), territorial apparatus, and so on. It includes monitoring regional election affairs and handling separatism. At the international level, it is outward-looking. It relies only on

open reports from Defense Attaches (DAs) and Assistants of DAs, and there are almost no intelligence activities and operations abroad.

Structural Problems

The role and function of Intelligence in Indonesia in handling strategic areas related to defense; however, the reality of the demands of the task to respond to the very rapid and dynamic development of the strategic environment is faced with the authority that is not comparable.

Cultural Issues and Human Resource Quality

- 1) Power. The old culture that prioritizes power for intelligence officers has led to the term "Malay Intelligence" because the performance or figure of the highlighted intelligence officer gives the impression of being feared by the community.
- 2) Authority. The nature of not being creative and not making innovations in carrying out the role and function of intelligence. This condition causes less attention to comprehensive analysis activities, intelligence research, and in-depth research.
- 3) Human resources. The reality of human resources' ability to master science and technology is lacking or even inadequate. This significantly impacts carrying out strategic intelligence functions and tasks quickly and accurately or on time.
- 4) Information Technology. The rapid development of information technology makes it easier for Intelligence to obtain and exchange information. Still, it also causes data to leak to the general public and other parties who are not interested or, worse, the subjects who are the operation's targets.

Revitalization of the Role and Function of Intelligence in Indonesia

The 21st-century world is also marked by globalization, driven by rapid technological, transportation, telecommunications, and computerization progress. In addition, conflicts of interest among major countries in planting influence and arranging their relations with developing countries also greatly color the direction of political, economic, cultural, and security developments in regional areas, including Indonesia (Samuel P Huntington, 1996). To anticipate all the possibilities mentioned above, it is necessary to perceive the revitalization of the role and function of intelligence in Indonesia, which helps formulate policies to face future tasks.

In addition, a country that wants to impose its will on another country by using and causing riots, massive strikes, rebellions, terrorism, or other forms of subversion or chaos that paralyze the life of its country. Even recently, the model has been used to accuse the targeted country of committing severe human rights violations. This humanitarian intervention is a form of military intervention disguised by using the flag of human rights. All countries are preparing to face this new style of war. Thus, it can be said that war or armed conflict cannot be prevented (GPH Haryomaram, 1998).

Future challenges that lead to future warfare must be addressed carefully and thoroughly, and changes, transformations, and renewal of strategic intelligence must be demanded in dealing with them. Just as nothing is eternal in this world, so too the nature and form of the threat spectrum also continue to change significantly following developments in various dimensions that occur in this world. In other words, the sources/actors of these threats will not stop racking their brains in formulating the role and function of intelligence and utilizing the weaknesses/lags of the role and function of a country's strategic intelligence in dealing with these conditions. For this reason, the scope of intelligence and the renewal of the architecture, structure, and strategy of intelligence organizations may be something that cannot be avoided anymore. Therefore, thinking and analysis need to be done by using comparisons to the strategic intelligence of other countries in responding to today's challenges. Furthermore, this analysis can be used as a comparison in redesigning and revitalizing the substance, structure, and improving the quality of human resources from the intelligence in carrying out its role and function (the need for designing a new intelligence strategic system).

In the context of organizing today's national defense, the existence and function of intelligence are becoming increasingly relevant and have a significant meaning because the intelligence function is also part of the process of a series of policy and decision-making in organizing tasks in the field of defense where the quality of decision-making and determination of defense strategy policies is greatly influenced by the availability of accurate, current and reliable information (intelligence). This is based on the idea that the ability to protect national defense and security must be supported by at least four elements of strength: political stability, economic strength, defense strength, and information strength (Kaluss Knorr, 1970). These four elements of strength can be combined into one set of capabilities: the ability to collect, process, and analyze defense information packaged in the intelligence function.

Adequate strategic intelligence capabilities are not only determined by the quality of human resources but are also influenced by a country's communication and information technology capabilities, operational aspects, and the technology used. The technology used will

greatly determine the level of accuracy of threat detection (early warning) against a country's interests.

The alternative of organizational reconstruction by the Ministry of Defense may be a more appropriate institution to handle strategic intelligence because the Ministry of Defense has authority in the defense sector regarding broader policies, including defense political issues.

Indonesia, in viewing itself and its environment, applies a balanced approach so that strategic intelligence must be able to look inward (inward-looking) and outward (outward-looking), especially handling strategic intelligence abroad needs attention because problems within the country can be delegated and managed by other intelligence units or intelligence below it such as intelligence forces, territorial units, the Police and the Department of Home Affairs and others.

4. CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND LIMITATIONS

In the current and future conditions, the role and function of intelligence are still and will continue to be needed by the Government and Ministries, Institutions or other institutions. However, the role and function of intelligence when faced with the reality of legal and normative task demands have not been accommodated. Intelligence activities are still carried out with patterns and work mechanisms that are no longer following the development of the current situation (the need for designing a new intelligence strategic system) and the lack of quality human resources for intelligence based on technology in carrying out the role and function of intelligence.

There is a need to revitalize the role and function of Intelligence by reconstructing the Intelligence organization to support the Government's duties through Ministries/Institutions, non-ministerial Departments, institutions, TNI/Polri (the Indonesian Armed Forces/Indonesian Police), by creating a regulation or revising Law Number 17 of 2011 concerning State Intelligence which regulates in more detail and firmly regarding the authority of the Intelligence function following the development of the current situation (the need of designing a new intelligence strategic system) as well as improving the quality of technology-based intelligence human resources in implementing and supporting the role and function of intelligence.

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