

Lessons learned from Ambalat case: intelligence perspective

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Abstrak

Case of Ambalat is studied in the context of intelligence perspective. The case is important to study for four reasons : (1) The Ambalat block is part of Indonesia's territory; (2) The case has drawn serious public attention; (3) There is a bitter experience of losing two islands of Sipadan and Ligitan; (4) and the economic value of the area. The case of Ambalat came to prominence as a result of the issuing of exploration licenses for oil concession blocks by Malaysia to international oil giant Royal Dutch/Shell Group on 16 February 2005. Indonesia considered this claim was a violation of the state sovereignty.

From national security point of views, the claim was a matter of failures of Indonesia which involved two communities : policymakers and intelligence producers. These failures lead to the formulation of two research questions: why these communities fail to prevent claim over Ambalat to occur and how their interactions to prevent such claim to occur. To examine how these two communities relate to the failures, hypotheses have been set up : (1) The policymakers ignored the available information and therefore did not transfer intelligence requirement to the intelligence producers; (2) The intelligence producers ignored the available information or alternatively ignored policymaker's intelligence requirement; (3) Both policymakers and intelligence producers ignored the available information.

Using open sources and limited unclassified intelligence materials, the thesis comes with a tool of intelligence cycle to analyze different levels of command of both policymakers and intelligence producers. The outcome of this study reveals that both communities contribute to the failures. Recommendation goes to the Policymakers and Intelligence Producers to use this thesis outcome as a basis of their own performance evaluation.