POST SEPTEMBER 11, 2001. AUSTRALIA'S SECURITY POSTURES TOWARDS MUSLIM SOUTHEAST ASIA. RHETORIC OR REALITY?

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work in this project paper is my own except for quotations and summary which have been duly acknowledged.

7 May 2004

Ahmad Amir Bin Abdullah

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ABSTRACT

Not long before the Cold War ended, there were skepticisms upon the outlook of how security should be interpreted, not in its traditional understanding but also to include non-traditional security threats. Terrorism as a new form of security threat means that it is no more limited to state actors, but non-state actors, such as terrorist groups may pose grave consequences to the meaning of security as well.

Will Australia embark on pre-emptive strike towards Muslims Southeast Asia will have an impact on the region’s stability. The statement on "pre-emptive strike", coalition of the willing and sovereignty as "not absolute" seems to threaten the security situation, in view of international terrorism especially towards countries with substantial Muslim population in Southeast Asia.

In the past it was a friendly state to the countries in Southeast Asia. Following the September 11 incident, Australia, in similar tone with the US, announced that it will carry out on pre-emptive strike and said that national sovereignty is not absolute. These statements cause some fear amongst the Southeast Asia states, especially those with Muslim population. This might harm the cordial relation between Australia and the countries in Southeast Asia.

Therefore, in this paper we intend to look at all the possible challenges and prospect that Australia may pose in her security postures, what action or orientation in Australia’s bearing will have an impact on the region. However, Australia will not antagonize its Southeast Asian neighbours since her interest is heavily vested in the region and the close cooperation she embraces with Southeast Asia, will diffuse the situation.