

REAR ADMIRAL COBB, REAR ADMIRAL HILDRETH, COMMODORE
SUKARDJO, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE USS TIDEWATER AND OFFICERS AND
MEN OF THE INDONESIAN NAVY. IT IS INDEED A GREAT PLEASURE
TO WELCOME YOU TO THE CEREMONY TODAY. A CEREMONY WHICH WILL FIRST
DECOMMISSION THE UNITED STATES SHIP TIDEWATER REMOVING THIS
DESTROYER TENDER FROM THE ACTIVE ROLES OF THE UNITED STATES
NAVY, SECONDLY TRANSFERRING THE SHIP TO THE GOVERNMENT OF
INDONESIA AND THIRDLY, THE COMMISSIONING OF THE SHIP IN THE
INDONESIAN NAVY. SUCH A CEREMONY RATES THE PRESENTS OF
DISTINGUISHED NAVAL FLAG OFFICERS WHO HAVE A DIRECT INTEREST
IN THIS EVENT. SHARING THE PLATFORM IS REAR ADMIRAL J.O. COBB,
UNITED STATES NAVY, COMMANDANT OF THE FIFTH NAVAL DISTRICT,
REPRESENTING THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS FOR THE TRANSFER
OF THE SHIP TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA; REAR ADMIRAL
J. B. HILDRETH, UNITED STATES NAVY, COMMANDER CRUISER-
DESTROYER FLOTILLA FOUR, THE COMMANDER OF THE FLOTILLA
IN WHICH TIDEWATER IS ASSIGNED; AND COMMODORE SUKARDJO,
INDONESIAN NAVAL ATTACHE' TO THE UNITED STATES WHO IS IN
NORFOLK TO REPRESENT THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT IN THE ACCEPTANCE
AND TRANSFER OF THE SHIP. OF COURSE, EVERY SHIP MUST HAVE A
COMMANDING OFFICER. COLONEL ARUF HAS THE HONOR TO BE THE
SHIP'S FIRST COMMANDING OFFICER ONCE IT IS TRANSFERRED TO
THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT.

THE DECOMMISSIONING OF A SHIP [✓] BEING TRANSFERRED TO A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT [✓] IS NOT AN EASY TASK. IT REQUIRES THE UPMOST OF PLANNING AND COORDINATION [✓] BETWEEN THE VARIOUS SHIP'S DEPARTMENTS [✓] AND BETWEEN THE SHIP AND OTHER COMMANDS [✓] RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VARIETY OF FUNCTIONS [✓] ASSOCIATED WITH THIS TYPE OF OPERATION. HOWEVER, [✓] THIS HUGE [✓], INAMIMATE [✓] STEEL STRUCTURE [✓] WHICH FLOATS [✓] CAN ONLY BE GIVEN RECOGNITION [✓] AFTER [✓] MANNED WITH OFFICER AND MEN WHO TAKE PRIDE IN THEIR WORK [✓] HUMAN ELEMENT IS ADDED. THE OFFICERS AND MEN WHO REMAIN [✓] AND WHO ARE MANNING THE SHIP'S RAIL [✓] AND STANDING THE WATCH [✓] ARE PERFECT EXAMPLES OF THE CALIBER OF UNITED STATES NAVY MEN [✓] WHO HAVE SERVED THIS FINE SHIP WITH HONOR [✓] DURING HER ACTIVE SERVICE LIFE [✓] OF 21 YEARS. OF COURSE, I AM MORE FAMILIAR [✓] WITH THOSE PERSONNEL WHO REMAIN [✓] AND WHO WERE INVOLVED [✓] WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF DECOMMISSIONING AND TRANSFERING [✓] THIS PARTICULAR SHIP. THEIR SUPPORT [✓] IN THE COMPLETION OF THIS TASK [✓] HAS BEEN OUTSTANDING. COMMENCING ON 4 JANUARY 1971, THE DATE THE INDONESIAN NAVY AGREED TO ACCEPT THE SHIP, THEY STARTED THIS TEDIOUS AND TREMENDOUS ASSIGNMENT [✓] WITH A SINCERE DEDICATION [✓] TO COMPLETE THE TASK IN A PROFESSIONAL MANNER, [✓] KNOWING THAT ONE DAY, [✓] *its decommissioning and share in the transfer of the ship* [✓] THEY WOULD WITNESS, THEIR SHIP BEING TRANSFERRED [✓] TO A FRIENDLY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT. WELL TODAY IS THAT DAY. [✓] *gentlemen* [✓] FOR YOUR EFFORTS AND DEVOTION, AS YOUR COMMANDING OFFICER, I EXTEND TO [✓] *each of the* [✓] THE OFFICERS AND MEN [✓] OF THE UNITED STATES SHIP TIDEWATER [✓] A "WELL DONE". YOU HAVE SERVED TIDEWATER FAITHFULLY [✓] DURING THESE CLOSING DAYS [✓] OF HER ACTIVE [✓] *U.S. NAVAL CAREER* [✓] SERVICE LIFE [✓] IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY. / COLONEL ARUF THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF TIDEWATER EXTEND TO YOU, TO YOUR OFFICERS AND MEN OUR SINCERE WISHES FOR

A REWARDING TOUR IN THIS SHIP AND MAY THE WINDS BE FAVORABLE
AND THE SEAS SMOOTH UPON YOUR SAILING ^{of this fine ship} FROM NORFOLK, VIRGINIA
TO YOUR HOMELAND OF INDONESIA. ADMIRAL HILDRETH, I
HEARLY REPORT THE USS TIDEWATER READY FOR
DECOMMISSIONING ^{UPON} ~~AT~~ YOUR ORDER, SIR (SALUTE)