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SOUTH KOREA: Student Demonstrations

The South Korean Government is moving forcibly against students who demonstrated Tuesday in the southern coastal city of Pusan, and is taking other measures to reduce the political repercussions. [Redacted]

The government closed the two universities in Pusan yesterday and imposed martial law on the city. It also has replaced the police chief in Pusan, ordered an investigation, and is permitting some coverage of developments by South Korean media. [Redacted]

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Students may have timed the demonstration to coincide with the seventh anniversary of the establishment of the authoritarian Yushin constitution, a symbol to dissident forces of the harsher aspects of the Pak Chong-hui government. Minor student demonstrations also were reported on Tuesday in Seoul and at least one other city, but local authorities were able to confine the protests to the campuses. [Redacted]

Events in Pusan, which is the political home base of opposition leader Kim Yong-sam, will complicate the government's efforts to resolve its confrontation with its chief opponent, the New Democratic Party. [Redacted]

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