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19 OCT 79

SOUTH KOREA: Curbs on Demonstrators

Pusan is calm following the stationing of regular military units in the city and at the two major campuses where demonstrations occurred on Tuesday and Wednesday.

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President Pak has in the past used regular troops to assist local security forces in blocking the spread of disturbances.

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The student demonstrators, whose primary target was the local police, seemed to be unusually well organized. They were joined by some other civilians, mainly younger service workers and youth who had failed to gain school admission.

School and police authorities in Seoul and in other cities have increased their control measures. The government's decision to address the issue in relatively candid terms in the domestic media and its emphasis on the potentially harmful effects of such actions on domestic stability may also be inhibiting the spread of demonstrations.

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Yesterday, the government party announced that it was deferring any action on the mass resignations submitted by opposition party assemblymen last weekend until after martial law has been lifted in Pusan.

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South Korea

Violent demonstrations pitting students against police yesterday spread to the provincial town of Masan, some 50 kilometers west of Pusan. According to UPI, about 1,000 students gathered at a university campus to protest suspension of classes and then marched downtown where they fought with riot police, threw rocks, and attacked several police stations. The demonstration ended when a midnight curfew fell. Masan has been politically sensitive since March 1960 when a high school student died during a demonstration against rigged elections. (See related article on page 2.)

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