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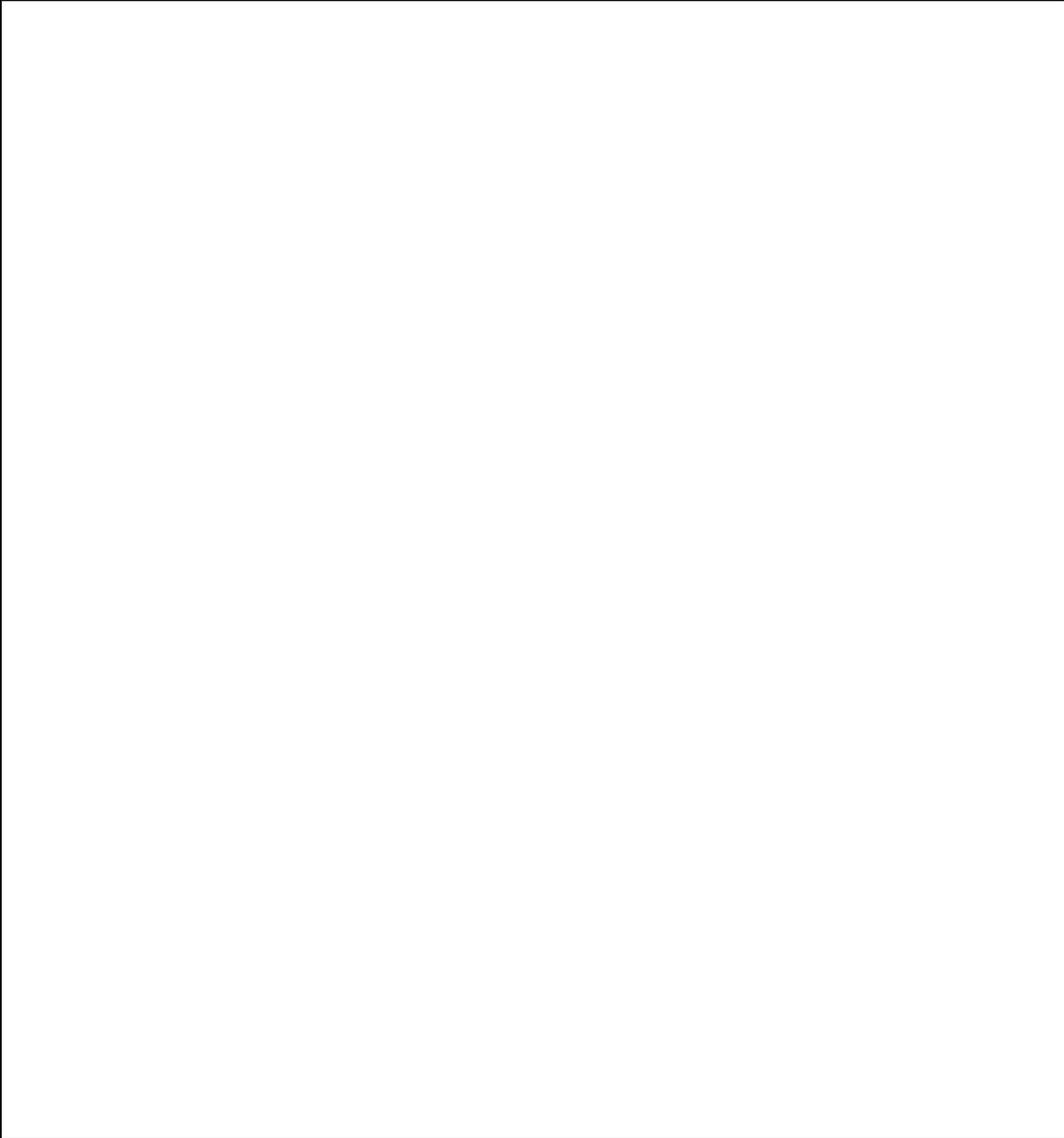
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INDONESIA: Few Challenges to Soeharto's Sixth Term

*President Soeharto begins his sixth five-year term this week in full control of Indonesia's political and economic machinery, but his reluctance to groom a successor is fueling behind-the-scenes maneuvering by Muslims and the military.* [Redacted]

Soeharto is the only nominee for presidential election this week in the People's Consultative Assembly, a 1,000-member body of which almost 300 are members of Soeharto's political party and 500 are presidential appointees. By tradition, the Assembly does not vote and only names a consensus choice for president and vice president.

[Redacted]

Nonetheless, dissatisfaction with Soeharto's monopoly on power is surfacing, and some groups are calling for checks on government spending and electoral reform, according to press reports.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**Comment:** Soeharto typically tolerates increased political activity during elections and is likely to make Cabinet appointments to appease key power groups. Nonetheless, he will not permit any serious challenge to his authority.

[Redacted]

The public, moreover, appears resigned to Soeharto's remaining in office. Dissatisfaction over the Soeharto family's business profiteering has been offset by the government's solid economic achievements. In addition, opposition elements, including some Muslim-based groups, are poorly organized or factionalized.

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