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Indonesia

[] The Indonesian Government's shutdown of six of Jakarta's major newspapers and the arrest of up to 100 student activists over the weekend was intended to preempt planned antigovernment demonstrations and blunt open dissent.

[] The decision to take these actions may have been reached last Thursday in an emergency meeting of top military officers concerned over the growing opposition to President Suharto and its impact on the election in March, which Suharto is expected to win. Closing the papers will also limit coverage of a potentially explosive political trial in which the alleged corruption of Suharto's wife has received considerable attention.

[] The government's moves may redound to its disadvantage. Although students and other dissidents may be intimidated for the moment by the sudden crackdown, they have been handed a cause celebre which could win them support from the much

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larger body of non-activist students. Restraints on the press
may incline the always-active Jakarta rumor mill toward more
sensational speculation damaging to the government. [redacted]

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