



National
Foreign
Assessment
Center

~~Secret~~

HR (b)(3)
(b)(1)

78-128 ?

78-020 ?

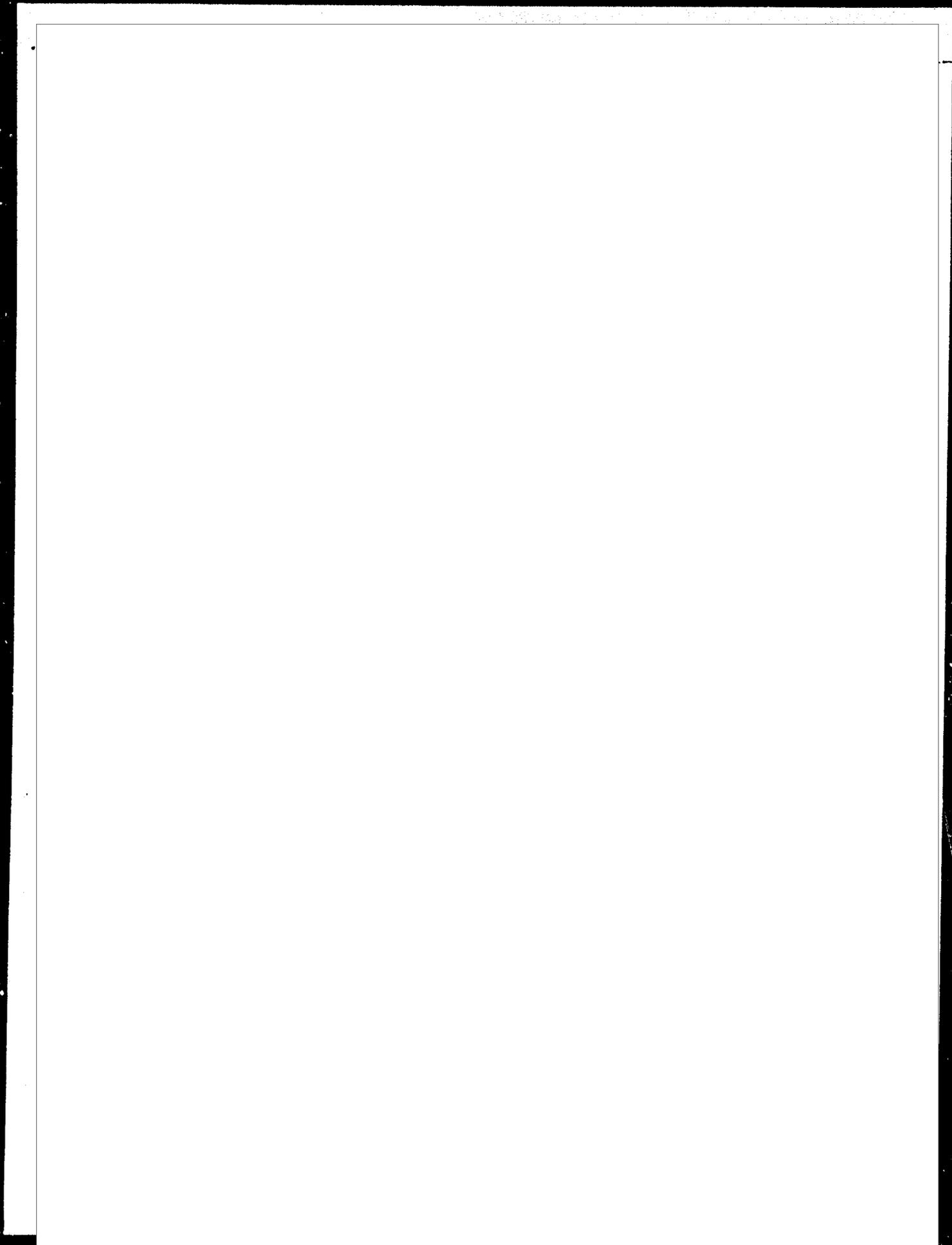
Area Briefs

APPROVED FOR
RELEASE DATE:
09-Oct-2009

CIAAP EAB 78-020

February 6. 1978

~~Secret~~



~~SECRET~~

4. INDONESIA: [] THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT HAS LIFTED THE BAN ON FOUR OF SEVEN NEWSPAPERS THAT WERE CLOSED TWO WEEKS AGO FOR PUBLICIZING THE ACTIVITIES OF DISSIDENT STUDENTS AND OTHERS OPPOSED TO PRESIDENT SUHARTO'S REELECTION NEXT MONTH. THE PAPERS WERE PERMITTED TO REOPEN ONLY AFTER THEIR EDITORS AGREED NOT TO PUBLISH ANY MATERIAL DENIGRATING THE GOVERNMENT, ITS LEADERS, OR THEIR FAMILIES--AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO THE PRESIDENT'S FAMILY, WHICH IS WIDELY ACCUSED OF CORRUPTION.4

[] THE DECISION TO REMOVE THE BAN PROBABLY STEMS FROM SUHARTO'S CONTINUING DESIRE TO SHOW FIRMNESS WITHOUT GIVING THE APPEARANCE OF RUNNING AN AUTHORITARIAN REGIME. THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER HAS REFUSED THUS FAR TO GO ALONG WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S GUIDELINES AND REMAINS CLOSED, REDUCING THE IMPACT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S GESTURE. []

