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425-477A
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APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE:
10-13-2009

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INDONESIA

[redacted]

Although Suharto's reelection to a third five-year term seems assured, the intensity of recent antigovernment statements, combined with food shortages and international criticism of Indonesia's human rights record, has [redacted] worried that opposition might grow.

Recent demonstrations at major universities where students are traditionally passive have been exceptionally critical of government corruption and incompetence—even attacking the President and his family directly for spending \$10 million on an elaborate mausoleum. The students are also challenging the role of the military in government, which is extensive at all levels.

The government's reluctance to react harshly to such demonstrations—as it did during riots in 1974—probably reflects Suharto's concern over the growing domestic and international perception of his regime as authoritarian. The moderation in turn has emboldened the students, and they will doubtless continue their strident opposition.

[redacted]

Sadikin has large grassroots support in Jakarta and has repeatedly criticized the government as ineffective. Students have rallied to his side and demanded that he be nominated for president or vice president next March. Sadikin's chances, however, are minimal; he has no support within the military.

Nasution, on the other hand, probably has some friends in the military. As the only survivor of the massacre of Indonesia's generals in the abortive Communist coup in 1965, he is something of a popular hero. He too is increasingly outspoken in

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his criticism of the government, and although in public he advocates only constitutional change, some officers charge that he has been actively supporting student demonstrations against the government.

The military seems uncertain about how to damp down the criticism. A recent meeting of top generals ended with the issuance of a public warning that "firm steps" will be taken against "illegal opposition"—but what that means is not clear.

[redacted]

The President, who has endorsed the warning to the public but also cautioned officials to refrain from overreacting to opposition, probably hopes these moderate and vague statements, combined with planned pro-government demonstrations, will help neutralize some of his more vocal critics.

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