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Reacting to increased activity by student critics in recent weeks, the government last weekend temporarily arrested a large number of students and moved to curb the press in Jakarta, the capital.

The students have generally heeded military warnings not to take to the streets, but their attacks on Suharto have become sharper and more personal and are receiving widespread publicity. Calls for his ouster are being made publicly for the first time. The President has been criticized for his inaccessibility, his refusal to share power with civilians, and his tolerance of corruption.

Last weekend, the government, in a move to preempt planned antigovernment demonstrations in Jakarta, shutdown major newspapers and detained for a time some 300 students. Closing the papers will limit coverage of student complaints as well as the publicity surrounding a current trial in the capital that has involved corruption charges against Suharto's wife.

A significant breakdown in public order might well undercut the President's already declining prestige and could erode TOP SECRET

his support within the military. It could even encourage military leaders to start considering a successor.

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