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4. MORE BPS PAPERS BANNED (WEEKA 9)

MININFO ACHMADI MARCH 23 ISSUED DECREE BANNING EIGHT ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS BECAUSE OF AFFILIATION WITH BPS. IN EXPLANATION ACCOMPANYING DECREE, HE SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY INDICATED THAT HE AGREES THAT LOCAL MILITARY COMMANDERS MAY PROTECT BPS PAPERS IN THEIR AREAS, IF THEY SO WISH. IN ADDITION, ACCORDING TO

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EXPLANATION, IT SEEMS THAT PUBLISHERS OF BANNED PUBLICATIONS MAY SOON BE PERMITTED TO START NEW PUBLICATIONS

PROVIDING THEY FOLLOW CERTAIN CONDITIONS AND HAVE BACKING OF "EITHER GROUPS, MASS ORGANIZATIONS OR POLITICAL PARTIES."

NEWLY BANNED PUBLICATIONS CONSIST OF ONE WEEKLY IN DJAKARTA: ONE DAILY AND FOUR WEEKLIES IN MEDAN; ONE DAILY IN PADANG; AND ONE WEEKLY IN SEMARANG. DJAKARTA WEEKLY IS POPULER MINGGUAN FILM, WHICH HAD SMALL CIRCULATION. PADANG DAILY IS AMAN MAMUR, WHICH WAS REPORTEDLY PADANG'S LARGEST CIRCULATION PAPER (ABOUT 10,000) AND WAS ANTI-COMMUNIST. SEMARANG WEEKLY IS POS MINGGU, WHICH WAS CONSIDERED STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST IN INDO CONTEXT AND WAS ONE OF USIS'S BEST CUSTOMERS.

TO BE NOTED IS THAT NO PAPER IS INCLUDED FROM EAST JAVA, WEST JAVA, SOUTH SULAWESI AND SOUTH KALIMANTAN WHERE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, PARTICULARLY MILITARY COMMANDERS HAVE STOOD UP AGAINST LEFTIST DEMANDS THAT BPS PAPERS IN THEIR AREAS BE BANNED. IN ADDITION, EXPLANATION ACCOMPANYING DECREE STATES THAT



"CERTAIN PARTIES AND MASS ORGANIZATIONS HAVE DEMANDED WITHDRAWING OF PUBLICATION LICENSE FROM PUBLICATIONS, WHICH THEY ACCUSE OF BEING BPS AGENTS. "BUT," IT CONTINUES, "ON BASIS JUDGMENT AND GUARANTEES OF REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF AREAS WHERE PAPERS ARE PUBLISHED, WHO DO NOT AGREE WITH THESE ACCUSATIONS, PUBLICATIONS PRIVILEGES HAVE NOT BEEN WITHDRAWN."

EXPLANATION ALSO CALLS UPON POLITICAL PARTIES, GROUPS AND MASS ORGANIZATIONS, WHO HAVE BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY RECENT PRESS CLOSURES, TO BE PATIENT. IN RATHER FUZZY TERMS IT STATES THAT IN SEVERAL DAYS MININFO WILL ISSUE DECREE CONCERNING NEW NORMS AND AT THAT TIME POLITICAL PARTIES, GROUPS AND MASS ORGANIZATIONS WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST PERMISSION FOR PUBLICATION NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES."

EARLIER IN WEEK LEFTISTS CLEARLY ANNOUNCED THEIR SENTIMENTS RE MILITARY PROTECTION EX-BPS PAPERS. INDO JOURNALIST ASSN CRYPTO-COMMUNIST CHAIRMAN KARIM, IN ADDRESS MARCH 20 TO PALEMBANG PWI BRANCH DECLARED THAT

WHOMSOEVER PROTECTS BPS PAPERS STANDS IN OPPOSITION TO PRESIDENT SUKARNO, BECAUSE, AS HE CAREFULLY EXPLAINED, SUKARNO HAD UNEQUIVOCALLY ORDERED DISSOLUTION BPS PRESS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT "THOSE WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO CHAMPION PAPERS, WHICH ARE SPLATTERED WITH MUD, WILL NOT ONLY BE SOILED WITH THIS SAME MUD BUT WILL ALSO DEFINITELY FACE THE MASSES WHO WILL SEEK TO WASH AWAY THIS FILTH SO THAT IT DOES NOT SPREAD EVERYWHERE." HE WARNED AGAINST FURTHER TAKE-OVERS OF FORMER BPS PAPERS BY OTHER GROUPS DECLARING, "FOR EXAMPLE PNI, PKI OR NU WISH TO OWN THEIR OWN PAPER, DON'T TAKE OVER OPERATIONS EX-BPS PAPERS, BECAUSE THEY ARE STAINED ... IT IS BETTER TO REQUEST LICENSE FOR NEW PUBLICATION WITH REPORTERS FREE FROM BPS THINKING."

COMMENT MININFO ACHMADI, WHO WAS FORMERLY CLOSE TO MURBA PARTY, IS EVIDENTLY RELUCTANT EXECUTOR OF SUKARNO'S COMMAND TO DISSOLVE EX-BPS PRESS. AS INDICATED IN EXPLANATION ACCOMPANYING DECREE, HE SEEMS TO HAVE GLADLY ACKNOWLEDGED CLAIMED RIGHTS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO PROTECT BPS PAPERS IN THEIR AREAS. AS FOR ALLOWING PUBLISHERS BANNED PAPERS TO START NEW

PUBLICATIONS PROVIDED THEY FOLLOW CERTAIN NORMS AND HAVE BACKING OF MASS ORGANIZATION, GROUP OR POLITICAL PARTY, HE HAS ALREADY DONE THIS IN CASES OF BERITA INDONESIA AND MERDEKA WHICH HAVE REAPPEARED IN NEW GUISE UNDER ARMY SPONSORSHIP. HOW MUCH FURTHER HE CAN GO IN FACE LEFTIST OPPOSITION IS OF COURSE UP TO SUKARNO.

