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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF [redacted]

[redacted] NR

2. CHILE: //OUR JUDGMENT THAT THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT RECENTLY HAS SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED ITS PRACTICES IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS SUPPORTED BY EVIDENCE COLLECTED BY SOME OF THE JUNTA'S MOST PERSISTENT CRITICS./[redacted]

1.5C

//THE VICARIATE OF SOLIDARITY, AN ORGANIZATION ASSOCIATED WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, HAS CONFIRMED [redacted] THAT RECENT GOVERNMENT ACTIONS HAVE GONE A LONG WAY TOWARD RESOLVING THE CONTROVERSY OVER POLITICAL PRISONERS. AS AN OUTSPOKEN OPPONENT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PRACTICES, THE VICARIATE HAS BEEN A FREQUENT TARGET OF OFFICIAL HOSTILITY, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF ITS ROLE IN PROBING FOR DATA ON POLITICAL PRISONERS AND OFFERING LEGAL ASSIST-

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ANCE TO THEM./[redacted]

[redacted] THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS HELD BY THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECLINED SHARPLY. VICARIATE FIGURES SHOW THAT MOST OF THOSE BEING TRIED OR SERVING SENTENCES ARE NOW OUT ON BAIL, ON PAROLE, OR UNDER HOUSE ARREST. THE GOVERNMENT IS [redacted] TAKING STEPS TO COMMUTE THE SENTENCES OF MANY PERSONS ALREADY CONVICTED; SOME 1,110 [redacted] HAVE BEEN GRANTED PERMISSION TO GO INTO EXILE AND ABOUT 800 OF THESE HAVE ALREADY LEFT THE COUNTRY./[redacted]

//DESPITE ALLEGATIONS BY LOCAL COMMUNISTS AND RADIO MOSCOW THAT MANY PERSONS RECENTLY FREED HAVE BEEN REARRESTED AND THAT UNIDENTIFIED BODIES HAVE APPEARED IN THE SANTIAGO MORGUE, VICARIATE SPOKESMEN ARE CONVINCED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEW INSTANCES OF ILLEGAL DETENTION OR KILLINGS. ALTHOUGH CASES OF UNSOLVED DISAPPEARANCES ARE STILL PENDING, SECURITY FORCES DO NOT APPEAR TO BE ENGAGED IN THE KINDS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS THAT EARLIER AROUSED INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATIONS./[redacted]

//ANOTHER SIGN OF A MORE HUMANE TREND IN GOVERNMENT POLICY

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IS A REPORT THAT LOCAL MILITARY OZNE COMMANDERS ARE USING THEIR 1.5c
DISCRETIONARY POWERS UNDER THE STATE OF SIEGE TO REDUCE SENTENCES.
[redacted] THE NUMBER
OF PERSONS DETAINED IN HIS PROVINCE HAD DIMINISHED FROM 165 TO 2
WITHIN THE PAST YEAR./[redacted]

//PRESIDENT PINOCHET MAY BE GETTING--AND HEEDING--ADVISE TO EASE THE TOUGH SECURITY RESTRICTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN IN FORCE SINCE THE COUP THREE YEARS AGO. THERE IS SOME INFORMATION TO SUGGEST THAT THE INFLUENCE OF HARD-LINERS IN THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECREASED AND THAT PINOCHET NOW THINKS A NEW APPROACH IS JUSTIFIED BY DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY AND THE HIGH COST OF CHILE'S INTERNATIONAL ISOLATION.

[redacted]

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WRITER'S NAME OR TITLE

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