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Latin American Trends

STAFF NOTES

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October 6, 1970

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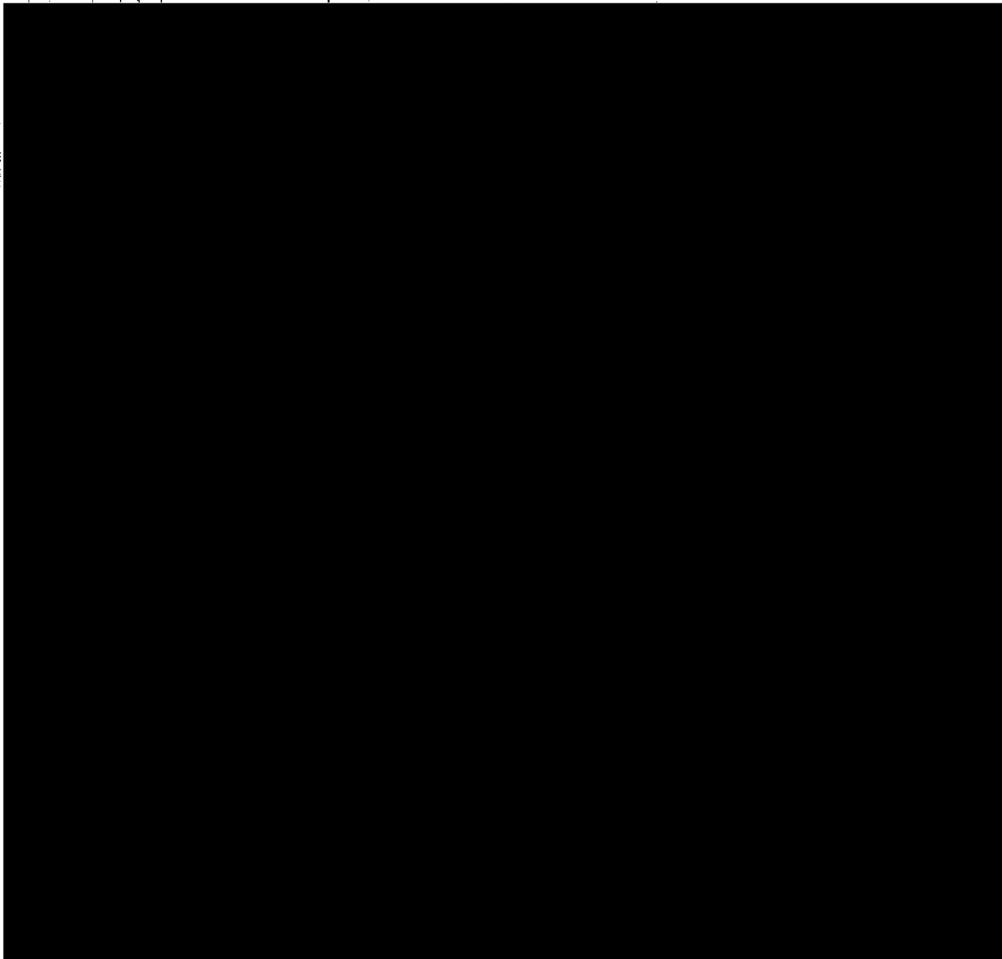


Chile: Inside Critique

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The Chilean secret police organization, the Directorate of National Intelligence (DINA), is taking an active hand in assessing the performance of the junta and counseling President Pinochet.

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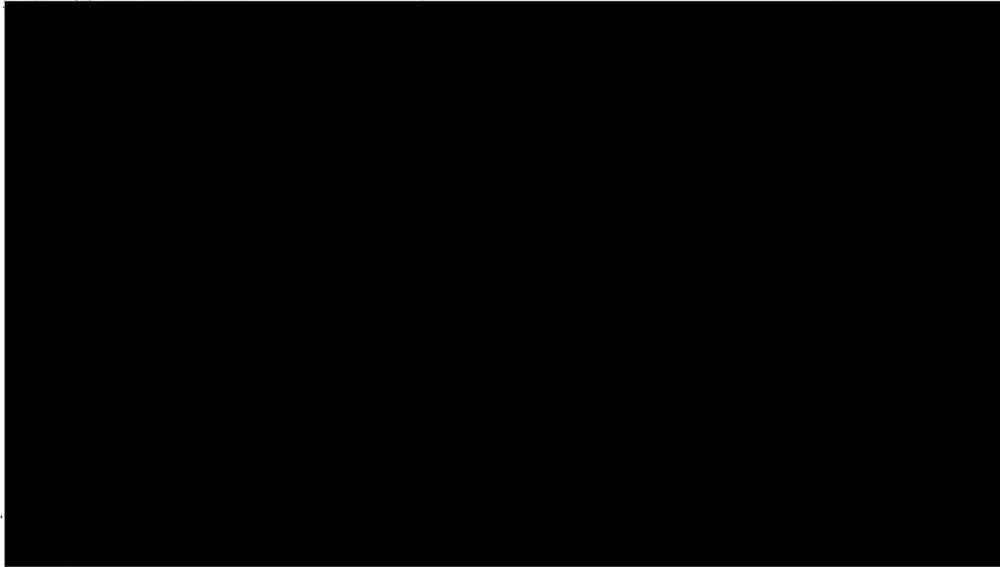


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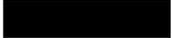
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Past experience suggests that Chile's military leadership is reluctant to spell out clearcut formulas for the future and that President Pinochet himself has only vague notions of the type of political infrastructure he would prefer to replace the now defunct democratic parliamentary system.

Unless economic or political exigencies reach serious levels--and there is little indication that they will over the next year or so--this government is unlikely to step up the pace of plans to settle into a more institutionalized pattern. Changes will proceed slowly, and will come only after the generals make a pragmatic determination that it is in their interests to make them.

The junta's base of support has slipped somewhat in the last year, but the military is under no real pressure to change its ways. As long as the armed forces can maintain internal unity, they will be able to ignore the existing ineffectual opposition in Chile and prolong their stay in power. 



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