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TO: PRIORITY LATIN AMERICA BRIEF.

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LATIN AMERICA^a BRIEF [REDACTED] FOR 10 NOVEMBER 1984.

FROM: DDI/O/CPAS.

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- 1. [REDACTED]
- 2. CHILE: REGIME MOVES FIRMLY
- 3. [REDACTED]
- 4. [REDACTED]

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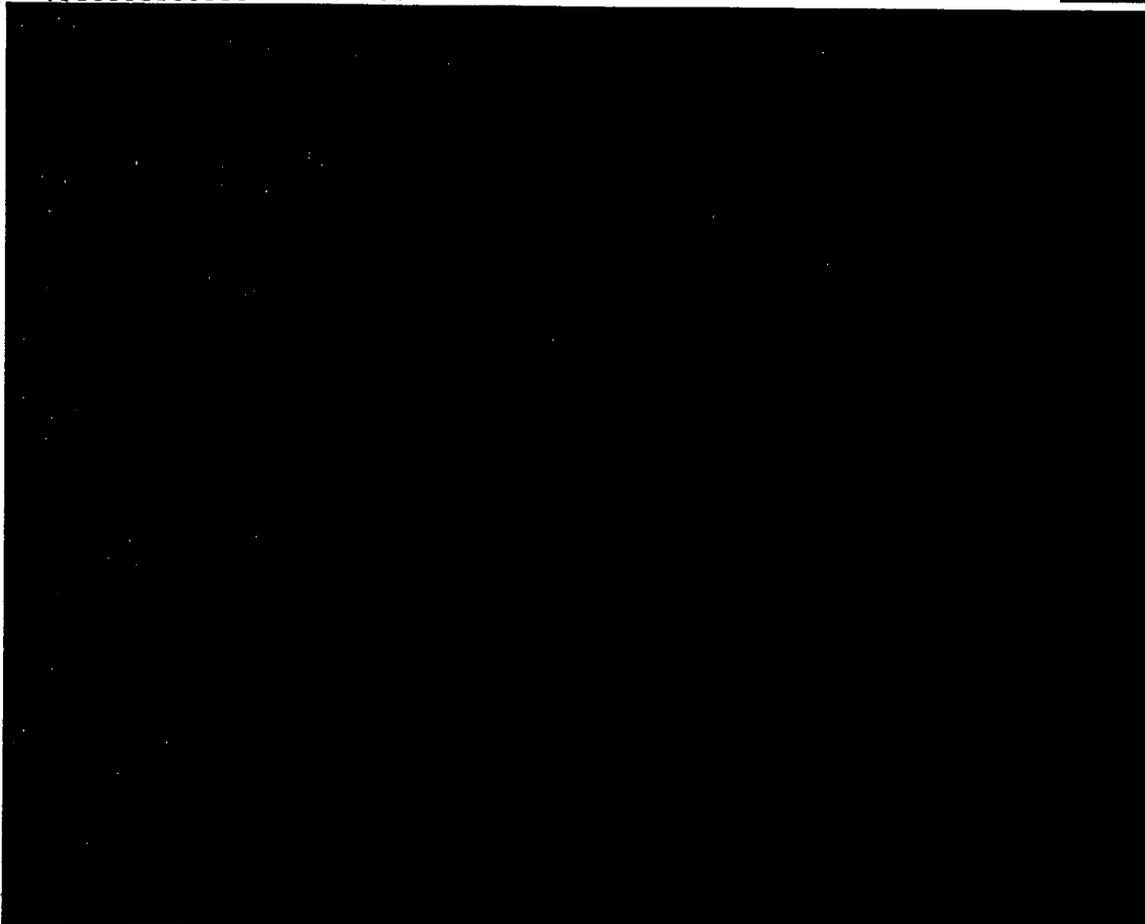
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OUTGOING MESSAGE

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2. CHILE: REGIME MOVES FIRMLY

THE GOVERNMENT'S FORCEFUL ACTIONS UNDER THE STATE OF SIEGE HAVE AT LEAST TEMPORARILY ABORTED THE TRANSITION TO DEMOCRATIC RULE, AND DEMONSTRATIONS BY OPPOSITION GROUPS AND TERRORIST ACTS ARE LIKELY IN THE COMING WEEKS.

PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S DECREE RESTRICTS THE RIGHT OF ASSEMBLY, SUSPENDS THE MAIN OPPOSITION NEWS ORGANS, AND SUBJECTS ALL OTHER MEDIA TO TIGHT CENSORSHIP. SECURITY FORCES ON THURSDAY RAIDED THE SANTIAGO HEADQUARTERS OF THE LEADING

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LEFTIST POLITICAL PARTIES AND ARRESTED NUMEROUS ACTIVITISTS. CATHOLIC CHURCH AND HUMAN RIGHTS SPOKESMEN SAY THE WHEREABOUTS OF THOSE ARRESTED REMAIN UNKNOWN.

MEANWHILE, A MEMBER OF THE JUNTA HAS TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT THE STATE OF SIEGE IS NECESSARY TO CURB TERRORISM BUT THAT IT DOES NOT SIGNIFY A HARDER GOVERNMENT LINE ON THE TRANSITION. NEVERTHELESS,

PINOCHET MAY APPLY POLITICAL SANCTIONS AGAINST THE HEAD OF THE MAIN OPPOSITION GROUP--THE MODERATE DEMOCRATIC ACTION SIX-PARTY COALITION--IN REACTION TO HIS CRITICISM OF THE SLAMPDOWN AND TO HIS CALL FOR PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS.

RELATIONS WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ARE POOR AS A RESULT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REFUSAL TO ALLOW A SPANISH-BORN PRIEST TO RETURN TO CHILE FROM A MEETING IN ROME WITH CHILEAN EXILES. THE PRIEST, WHO HEADS THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S HUMAN RIGHTS AGENCY, HAD MADE STATEMENTS AT THE MEETING CRITICAL OF THE REGIME.

COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS EVIDENTLY SURPRISED ALL POLITICAL SECTORS, INCLUDING THE NORMALLY PROREGIME POLITICAL RIGHT. MODERATE OPPOSITION LEADERS ARE LIKELY TO REACT QUICKLY BY REFUSING FURTHER DIALOGUE ON THE TRANSITION PROCESS AND BY PROMOTING FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS.

SPORADIC OUTBURSTS ARE LIKELY, ESPECIALLY IN THE LOW-INCOME NEIGHBORHOODS. SECURITY FORCES HOPE TO CONTAIN ANY ACTIVITIES UNTIL MID-DECEMBER, WHEN THE START OF CHILE'S THREE-MONTH SUMMER VACATION PERIOD SLOWS POLITICAL ACTIVITY. TERRORIST ACTIVITY BY COMMUNIST AND OTHER MILITANT GROUPS PROBABLY WILL CONTINUE UNABATED.

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