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Director of
Central
Intelligence

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National Intelligence
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Declassified and
Approved for Release
July 2000



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CHILE: Pinochet Tightens Control

The government has moved swiftly since imposing the state of siege on Sunday to arrest opposition figures, close six opposition magazines, restrict opposition radio stations, suspend a foreign wire service, and conduct sweeps in slum areas for terrorists and weapons. One of those arrested—a leftwing magazine editor—reportedly died yesterday. President Pinochet has announced that he has the situation in hand and that he will pursue a "war on extremism." [redacted] expects additional harsh measures against the opposition, including wider media censorship and prohibition of an antiregime rally planned by moderates on 25 September. [redacted]

Comment: Pinochet appears determined to use his additional emergency powers to silence most of the opposition media, which has become increasingly open in criticism of the government since the last state of siege was lifted in June 1985. He probably also expects to harass moderate opposition groups sufficiently to forestall any new protests or strikes by them. The President is giving free rein to hardliners in the security services to search out terrorists and underground Communist Party leaders, but he remains vulnerable to another assassination attempt. The editor was probably murdered by a police death squad. [redacted]

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