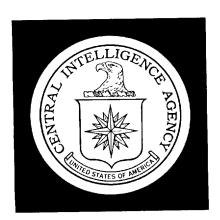
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Salvador Allende's growing assurance that nothing stands between him and the presidency is reflected in his adoption of a harder line.

Allende is sure that his defeated Christian Democratic (PDC) rival, Radomiro Tomic, will deliver sufficient PDC votes for Allende's victory in the congressional runoff on 24 October. He therefore reportedly will reject the "democratic guarantees" recently demanded by a PDC commission. This refusal will further divide the Christian Democrats over cooperation with an Allende government, and could seriously affect the outcome of the PDC congress to be held this weekend. Some formerly anti-Communist Christian Democrats now seem willing to work out an accommodation with Allende.

The Allende camp is concerned over multiplying evidence of economic slowdowns and is warning bankers and businessmen against any maneuvers that could weaken the economy. Other targets for the harder line by Allende backers are university professors and, increasingly, the US. The Communist Party press in particular is accusing the US of plotting with Chilean rightists against Allende.

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