

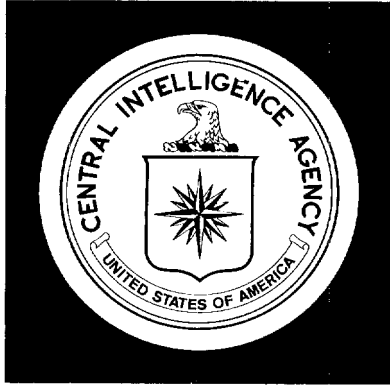
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CHILE: Violence ends but military leaders are discussing coup plans. (Page 3)

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CHILE: The violence Monday night has abated following a declaration of a "state of emergency" that put the army in control of security in the capital province. Retail merchants met with President Allende and agreed to end their strike.

Before the demonstrations on Monday, several senior military leaders reportedly were discussing the possibility of a coup some time in the future. [redacted] the service commanders agree that eventual military intervention is almost inevitable and that some troop commanders are seeking an appointment with the army chief to discuss what they consider to be a deteriorating political situation. Extreme rightists reportedly have decided to try to provoke a crisis because they believe that only a complete breakdown in public order or a blatantly unconstitutional act by Allende would bring on military intervention. The armed forces, however, expect such provocations and are unlikely to react to a contrived emergency.

Concern over accumulating economic and political problems probably prompted some military leaders to review their options. They may be close to agreement on the mechanics of intervention, but probably not on the circumstances that would warrant such action. Further discussions are likely as military officers re-evaluate their role, but cleavages within the armed forces will continue to inhibit any broad consensus. [redacted]

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