

CIA/OCI/BRIEF 142-75  
12 SEPTEMBER 1975

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EUROPEAN BRIEF 142-75.4

1. PORTUGAL: PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES AND THE NEXT PRIME MINISTER, ADMIRAL AZEVEDO, ARE TRYING TO OVERCOME THE LATEST OBSTACLE TO FORMING A NEW GOVERNMENT: THE COMMUNIST REFUSAL TO COOPERATE.4

THE MILITARY LEADERS, REPORTEDLY INCLUDING MAJOR MELO ANTUNES, HAVE CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOCIALIST, COMMUNIST, AND POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTIES TOWARD FORMING A "NATIONAL UNITY" GOVERNMENT. THEY WANT TO AVOID A FORMAL COALITION AGREEMENT BUT TO ATTRACT ENOUGH SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION FROM CIVILIANS TO GIVE THE NEW GOVERNMENT A CHANCE OF DEALING EFFECTIVELY WITH PORTUGAL'S GROWING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS. THEIR TASK HAS BEEN GREATLY COMPLICATED, HOWEVER, SINCE THE COMMUNISTS LAUNCHED A HARSH PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE CENTER-LEFT POPULAR DEMOCRATS. THE COMMUNISTS CAMPAIGN APPEARS TO BE A STALLING TACTIC DESIGNED TO GET THEM BETTER TERMS FOR JOINING THE GOVERNMENT.4

SOCIALIST LEADER MARIO SOARES HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN ASKED TO

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HELP OVERCOME THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE COMMUNISTS AND THE POPULAR DEMOCRATS.4

A POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY SAID ON THURSDAY THAT AZEVEDO, COSTA GOMES, AND THE ANTUNES FACTION HAD AGREED TO THE CONDITIONS OF HIS PARTY AND THE SOCIALISTS FOR JOINING THE GOVERNMENT. MILITARY LEADERS MET TWICE ON THURSDAY WITH THE COMMUNISTS AND THE SOCIALISTS; THE COMMUNISTS APPARENTLY WERE PUTTING UP STIFF RESISTANCE TO THE CONDITIONS OF THE OTHER TWO PARTIES. THE POPULAR DEMOCRATIC SOURCE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE THOUGHT THAT THE COMMUNISTS WOULD EVENTUALLY AGREE TO ENTER THE GOVERNMENT.4

COSTA GOMES ALSO PRESIDED OVER A MEETING OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL ON THURSDAY, PRESUMABLY TO DISCUSS THE NEW GOVERNMENT, EFFORTS BY PRO-COMMUNISTS TO STIR UP TROUBLE IN THE MILITARY, AND THE UNFAVORABLE REACTION TO THE DECREE LAW IT PASSED ON MONDAY RESTRICTING PUBLICATION OF THE MILITARY'S POLITICAL VIEWS.4

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THE DECREE LAW AS AN ABRIDGEMENT OF PRESS FREEDOM, BUT SOME IN THE MEDIA HAVE EVEN DISOBEYED IT. A MEETING CALLED BY JOURNALISTS TO FIGHT THE NEW LAW WAS HELD ON THURSDAY AT THE LEFTIST INDEPENDENT DAILY A CAPITAL.4

ON THE ISLAND OF MADEIRA, MEANWHILE, A SERIOUS THREAT TO LISBON'S AUTHORITY APPEARS TO BE GATHERING STEAM. ON WEDNESDAY, THE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT THERE THREATENED TO EXPEL FROM THE ISLAND ANYONE OPPOSED TO INDEPENDENCE UNLESS THEY DECLARED THEIR SUPPORT BY MIDNIGHT, SEPTEMBER 17. THE LIST OF EXPELLEES INCLUDES THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE PORTUGUESE FORCES IN MADEIRA, ALL CONTINENTAL OFFICERS STATIONED THERE, AND ALL COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERS. {CONFIDENTIAL}4

2. PORTUGAL-AZORES: GAINS BY THE ANTI-COMMUNIST FORCES IN PORTUGAL, COUPLED WITH IMPROVED PROSPECTS FOR LOCAL AUTONOMY, NOW SEEM TO HAVE LESSENED THE LIKELIHOOD OF AN ARMED REBELLION IN THE AZORES.4

THE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT HAS BEEN SPURRED ON PRINCIPALLY BY FEARS OF THE POLITICALLY CONSERVATIVE AZOREANS THAT A COMMUNIST

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TAKE-OVER IN LISBON WOULD LEAD TO COMMUNIST DOMINATION OF THE ISLANDS THEMSELVES. IN RECENT WEEKS, LOCAL COMMUNISTS HAVE BEEN PHYSICALLY ATTACKED AND THEIR PROPERTY HAS BEEN DESTROYED. SOME HAVE EVEN BEEN DEPORTED, OSTENSIBLY FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY.4

ASIDE FROM THE ANTI-COMMUNIST SENTIMENT, OTHER FACTORS FUELING THE INDEPENDENCE DRIVE HAVE BEEN THE AZOREANS' DESIRE FOR GREATER AUTONOMY, ECONOMIC INEQUITIES BETWEEN THE ISLANDS AND PORTUGAL, AND A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF AZOREAN PROBLEMS IN LISBON.4

SUCH TRADITIONAL DISCONTENT COULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY OVERCOME IF THE RECENTLY FORMED GOVERNING JUNTA, MADE UP OF PROMINENT AZOREANS, IS ALLOWED TO FUNCTION WITHOUT UNDUE INTERFERENCE FROM THE MAINLAND. THE JUNTA, WHICH IS HEADED BY THE LOCALLY POPULAR AND POLITICALLY SKILLFUL MILITARY GOVERNOR, GENERAL ALTINO DE MAGALHAIES, HAS BEEN ASKED TO SET UP A NEW PERMANENT GOVERNMENT FOR THE ARCHIPELAGO. IT HAS BEEN GIVEN A GENEROUS BUDGET, WHICH SHOULD EFFECTIVELY HELP TO COUNTERACT CHARGES OF ECONOMIC NEGLECT. [CONFIDENTIAL]4

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3. USSR-UN: MOSCOW HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ITS ANNUAL SHOWCASE DISARMAMENT PROPOSAL FOR THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIS YEAR WILL TAKE THE FORM OF A DRAFT TREATY BANNING ALL TESTING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. ONE KEY PURPOSE OF THE EXERCISE IS TO EMBARRASS THE CHINESE.4

AS WITH PREVIOUS SOVIET PROPOSALS, MOSCOW AVOIDS MAKING ANY SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS. ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS WOULD BE BANNED, AND VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WOULD BE BY "NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS" RATHER THAN BY AN INTERNATIONAL BODY. EXEMPTED FROM THE BAN WOULD BE "PEACEFUL" UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS. STATES WITHOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS COULD CONDUCT "PEACEFUL" EXPLOSIONS AS PROVIDED IN THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, WHILE NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES WOULD NEGOTIATE A NEW ACCORD TO COVER THEIR ACTIVITIES. THE TREATY WOULD NOT COME INTO EFFECT UNTIL ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES, INCLUDING CHINA AND FRANCE, HAD AGREED. FURTHERMORE, IT WOULD HAVE NO TIME LIMIT; ANY SIGNATORY WOULD BE ABLE TO WITHDRAW IF IT FELT THE TREATY CONFLICTED WITH ITS "HIGHER INTERESTS."4

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AND COULD THIS BE ANOTHER IN A SERIES OF MEASURES DESIGNED--AMONG OTHER THINGS--TO DISCOURAGE SOVIET CITIZENS FROM APPLYING FOR EMIGRATION. THOSE WHO DO APPLY ROUTINELY LOSE THEIR JOBS.4

THE NEW LAW, PUBLISHED ON AUGUST 14, ALTERS ARTICLE 209 OF THE RUSSIAN REPUBLIC'S CRIMINAL CODE BY ADDING A PROVISION THAT ANY PERSON "LEADING A PARASITICAL WAY OF LIFE FOR A PROLONGED PERIOD OF TIME" IS LIABLE TO A ONE YEAR SENTENCE IN JAIL OR LABOR CAMP. THE NET EFFECT OF THIS PROVISION, TOGETHER WITH SOME EARLIER CHANGES IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE RELEVANT ARTICLE, IS THAT PERSONS CHARGED WITH PARASITISM CAN NO LONGER TAKE REFUGE IN THE FAILURE OF THE PROSECUTION TO DEMONSTRATE WILLFUL REFUSAL OF AN ORDER TO ACCEPT WORK ASSIGNMENTS. MANY SUCH PERSONS OFTEN ACCEPTED ASSIGNED JOBS FOR A SHORT TIME AND THEN QUIT, THUS BUYING TIME BEFORE REPEATING THE CYCLE.4

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IF DISCOURAGEMENT OF EMIGRATION APPLICATIONS IS INDEED ONE OF THE NEW LAW'S GOALS, IT MAY GO HAND IN HAND WITH THE LEGISLATION PUBLISHED IN MAY THAT IMPOSED A HIGHER TAX ON CASH REMITTANCES FROM ABROAD {STAFF NOTES JULY 3}. THE LATTER LAW, EFFECTIVE NEXT JANUARY 1, APPEARS DESIGNED TO REDUCE THE NET AMOUNT OF EXTERNAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT RECEIVED BY DISSIDENTS, ACTIVISTS, AND OTHERS-- MOSTLY JEWS--WHOSE APPLICATIONS FOR EMIGRATION HAVE RESULTED IN LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT. THE RECENT AMENDMENT TO THE "PARASITE" LAW MAY THUS BE ANOTHER SEGMENT OF THE LEGAL CIRCLE BEING DRAWN AROUND THESE ELEMENTS OF SOVIET SOCIETY. {CONFIDENTIAL}4

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4. BULGARIA: BULGARIAN PREMIER STANKO TODOROV'S NATIONAL DAY SPEECH ON MONDAY REAFFIRMED SOFIA'S AUTHORITARIAN APPROACH TO DOMESTIC POLICY. IT ALSO PROVIDED THE FIRST PUBLIC INDICATION OF CONCERN OVER THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY.4

ADDRESSING A GROUP OF HIGH-LEVEL PARTY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, TODOROV BEGAN WITH THE USUAL OBEISANCE TO THE SOVIETS AND INDICATED SOFIA WOULD CONTINUE TO FOLLOW IN MOSCOW'S FOOTSTEPS.4

TODOROV NEVERTHELESS SHOWED SOME SENSITIVITY TO THE DISSATISFACTION OF BULGARIAN NATIONALISTS WITH THE REGIME'S SLAVISHLY PRO-SOVIET STANCE, STATING THAT CURRENT POLICIES ARE "NO NEGATION OF THE 13-CENTURY HISTORY OF THE BULGARIAN STATE." HE ALSO IMPLIED THAT THE BULGARIAN PARTY HAD SOLVED SOME OF ITS SPECIAL PROBLEMS WITHOUT SOVIET ASSISTANCE.4

TODOROV DEVOTED THE MAIN PART OF HIS ADDRESS,

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HOWEVER, TO A LESS-THAN-ROSY ECONOMIC FORECAST. HE PLACES AT LEAST PARTIAL BLAME ON WESTERN INFLATION, WHICH SOFIA HAS HERETOFORE MAINTAINED DID NOT AFFECT ITS DOMESTIC ECONOMY. TODOROV FAILED TO MENTION THE IMPACT OF HIGHER SOVIET PRICES FOR RAW MATERIALS, ESPECIALLY OIL. BULGARIA IS THE ONLY EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRY THAT HAS NOT ANNOUNCED THE PRICE HIKES WHICH TOOK EFFECT IN JANUARY, BUT SOME SPOKESMEN HAVE PRIVATELY PROFESSED NOT TO BE CONCERNED OVER ANY POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS.Y

TODOROV AGAIN CALLED FOR GREATER DISCIPLINE IN ORDER TO INCREASE LABOR PRODUCTIVITY AND SUSTAIN A HIGH RATE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH. THE REGIME WILL CONTINUE ITS CAMPAIGN TO INCREASE SHIFT WORK TO COMPENSATE FOR THE FIVE-DAY WORKWEEK. HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT HIGH-LEVEL PERSONNEL CHANGES OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS WERE MADE TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY AND PLANNING. ALTHOUGH PRAISING RECENT SUCCESSES, TODOROV ADDED

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THAT SOME PERENNIALLY WEAK SECTORS, SUCH AS HOUSING AND CONSUMER SERVICES, CONTINUE TO BE A "SERIOUS CAUSE OF CONCERN AND ALARM."

THE PREMIER HAD OTHER BAD NEWS FOR THE CONSUMER. HE STATED THAT "EXAGGERATED CONSUMER ASPIRATIONS AND PETTY BOURGEOIS ATTITUDES DO NOT BECOME SOCIALISM"-- WORDS THAT SURELY WILL NOT BE MET WITH ENTHUSIASM. TODOROV MAY BE PREPARING THE PUBLIC FOR A SLOWDOWN IN THE GROWTH OF CONSUMER GOODS AND FOR POSSIBLE CONSUMER PRICE RISES.

TODOROV PRAISED SOFIA'S "DYNAMIC FOREIGN POLICY" AND SAID THAT THE PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION OF PARTY-STATE LEADER ZHIVKOV HAS "ENHANCED THE PRESTIGE OF OUR COUNTRY." ON BULGARIAN-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS, TODOROV'S REMARKS WERE CONCILIATORY. HE SINGLED OUT ZHIVKOV'S TALKS WITH YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT TITO AT THE HELSINKI SUMMIT, NOTING THEY WOULD LEAD TO INCREASED BILATERAL COOPERATION. {CONFIDENTIAL} E-2 IMPDET.H

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EAST ASIA BRIEF 142-75.4

LAOS: THE COMMUNISTS ARE STEPPING UP THE PRESSURE AGAINST PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA AND KING SAVANG. THE TWO CLEARLY HAVE NO PLACE IN THE COMMUNIST STATE THAT HAS BEEN DEVELOPING IN LAOS SINCE LAST SPRING. THE PATHET LAO UP TO NOW, HOWEVER, HAVE TREATED BOTH THE MONARCHY AND SOUVANNA, THE SYMBOL OF "COALITION" RULE, WITH CIRCUMSPECTION, PERHAPS OUT OF CONCERN THAT ANY EARLY OR ABRUPT MOVES MIGHT NEEDLESSLY DAMAGE THE LAO COMMUNIST REPUTATION ABROAD AND EVEN PROVOKE SOME INTERNAL OPPOSITION. IN ANY CASE, IT NOW SEEMS LIKELY THAT BOTH SOUVANNA AND THE KING WILL BE FORCED FROM THEIR POSTS BY NEXT SPRING IF THEY HAVE NOT RESIGNED EARLIER.4

IN A BROADCAST ON SEPTEMBER 9, PATHET LAO - CONTROLLED RADIO VIENTIANE REPORTED THAT IN AN INTERVIEW WITH AN AFP CORRESPONDENT, PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA STATED HE WOULD NOT BE JOINING A NEW GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING THE "GENERAL ELECTIONS" SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 1, 1976. SOUVANNA INDICATED THAT HE WOULD RATHER RETIRE AND ADVISE HIS "YOUNGER SUCCESSORS."4

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SOUVANNA SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST HAS INDICATED TO FOREIGN NEWSMEN THAT HE WOULD RETIRE AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTIONS, BUT HIS REMARKS RECEIVED LITTLE NOTICE IN THE GOVERNMENT MEDIA. BY REPLAYING THIS LATEST INTERVIEW, THE COMMUNISTS PRESUMABLY HOPE TO MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR HIM NOT TO CARRY OUT HIS PROMISE.4

SOUVANNA ALMOST CERTAINLY HOPES THAT HIS HALF BROTHER SOUPHANOUVONG WILL BE THE NEXT PRIME MINISTER. HE MAINTAINS THAT SOUPHANOUVONG IS MORE OF A "NATIONALIST" THAN A COMMUNIST. THE PATHET LAO, HOWEVER, HAVE OFFERED FEW HINTS ON THEIR CHOCIE. THE SELECTION IN ANY CASE WILL HAVE LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE, BECAUSE REAL POWER WILL REST, AS IT DOES NOW, WITH THE LAO COMMUNIST PARRTY HEADED BY KAYSONE PHOMVIHAN.4

THE COMMUNISTS HAVE ALSO BEGUN TO WHITTLE AWAY AT THE PRESTIGE OF KING SAVANG IN AN APPARENT EFFORT TO FORCE HIS EARLY ABDICATION OR PERHAPS SCRAP THE INSTITUTION OF THE MONARCHY ALTOGETHER. AT A RECENT FESTIVAL IN LUANG PRABANG, THE ROYAL CAPITAL, FOR EXAMPLE, THE COMMUNISTS CUT BACK ON SOME OF THE FORMALITIES DESIGNED TO PAY HOMAGE TO THE KING AND ELIMINATED HIS TRADITIONAL

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MIDDLE EAST AFRICA BRIEF 142-75.4

1. LEBANON: LEBANESE ARMY UNITS MOVED INTO POSITION BETWEEN TRIPOLI AND ZAGHARTA EARLY ON THURSDAY, EFFECTIVELY ENDING CIVIL UNREST IN NORTHERN LEBANON. A FEW LEFTIST AND MUSLIM POLITICIANS IN TRIPOLI HAVE CRITICIZED THE CABINET'S DECISION TO BRING IN THE ARMY, BUT THE MAJORITY OF MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS IN THE AREA APPEAR TO HAVE WELCOMED IT.4

THE COUNTRY'S MAIN MUSLIM POLITICAL LEADERS, WHO RESIDE IN BEIRUT AND ORDINARILY OPPOSE ANY USE OF THE ARMY FOR INTERNAL SECURITY PURPOSES, HAVE SO FAR WITHHELD COMMENT. THIS IS PARTLY OUT OF DEFERENCE TO KARAMI, WHO HEADS ONE IMPORTANT SUNNI MUSLIM FACTION, BUT IT ALSO REFLECTS THEIR ADMIRATION FOR THE CONCESSIONS HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO WRING FROM LEBANON'S CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN LEADERS.4

THE CABINET YESTERDAY APPROVED A BILL REORGANIZING THE ARMY TO ESTABLISH THE "COMMAND COUNCIL" PROPOSED BY KARAMI IN A POLICY SPEECH LAST MONTH. ALTHOUGH NO DETAILS HAVE BEEN MADE PUBLIC, THE COUNCIL PRESUMABLY WOULD INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES

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OF LEBANON'S MAJOR RELIGIOUS SECTS AND HAVE THE FINAL WORD ON SUCH MATTERS AS ARMY DEPLOYMENTS AND PROMOTIONS. LOSS OF THESE PREROGATIVES WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE POWER OF THE ARMY COMMANDER, WHO BY CUSTOM IS ALWAYS A MARONITE CHRISTIAN.4

CHRISTIAN GROUPS IN PARLIAMENT HAVE IN THE PAST STRONGLY OPPOSED PROPOSALS TO REORGANIZE THE ARMY. KARAMI'S POSITION HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED CONSIDERABLY BY HIS HANDLING OF THE CURRENT CRISIS, HOWEVER, AND HIS PROPOSALS MAY NOW WIN GREATER BACKING FROM CENTRIST CHRISTIAN POLITICIANS HOPING TO AVOID ANOTHER ROUND OF VIOLENCE.4

IN RETURN FOR THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT, MUSLIM LEADERS APPARENTLY ARE DEMANDING ALSO THAT THE CHRISTIANS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KILLING OF 12 MUSLIMS ON THE TRIPOLI-BEIRUT HIGHWAY LAST SUNDAY BE TURNED OVER TO AUTHORITIES. CHRISTIAN LEADERS SO FAR HAVE REFUSED TO MEET THIS DEMAND.4

LEFTIST LEADERS WHO FOLLOW KAMAL JUMBLATT, HEAD OF THE PROGRESSIVE SOCIALIST PARTY, MET ON THURSDAY AND REPORTEDLY WILL ASSEMBLE AGAIN TODAY TO CONSIDER THEIR REACTION TO THE

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CAPITAL OF ERITREA PROVINCE, WHERE REBEL SEPARATISTS ARE OPERATING, AND WILL MAINTAIN MAXIMUM SECURITY BOTH THERE AND IN ADDIS ABABA.4

ACCORDING TO SOME SOURCES, THE MILITARY RULERS MAY PROCLAIM A REPUBLIC--A MOVE FORESHADOWED LAST MARCH WHEN THEY REVOKED THEIR EARLIER APPOINTMENT OF HAILE SELASSIE'S SON AS KING. THERE ARE ALSO REPORTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL DROP THE "PROVISIONAL" FROM ITS TITLE, A MOVE THAT MIGHT SPARK OPPOSITION FROM STUDENTS AND OTHERS WHO WANT A RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE. WHATEVER IS ANNOUNCED, MAJOR MENGISTU AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL ATNAFU, WHO EMERGED DURING THE PAST YEAR AS THE KEY COUNCIL MEMBERS, WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO WIELD EFFECTIVE POWER.4

SOME TOP LEVEL MILITARY OFFICERS AND DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS MAY BE RETIRED THIS WEEKEND--IN PART TO PROVIDE JOB OPENINGS FOR AMBITIOUS YOUNG OFFICERS. [REDACTED] ILLEGIB

ON SEPTEMBER 11 THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAD RELEASED AND AMNESTIED 55 POLITICAL PRISONERS, MOST OF WHOM WERE FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THE FATE OF THE REMAINING PRISONERS IS NOT CLEAR. ON SEPTEMBER 12 THE GOVERNMENT SAID IT HAD NO INTENTION

DATE:  
 ORIG:  
 UNIT:  
 EXT:

RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

CLASSIFICATION

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CLASSIFICATION

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OF EXECUTING OTHER PRISONERS WITHOUT TRIAL. THE GOVERNMENT HAS  
 MOVED THE SURVIVING MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY, PRINCIPALLY  
 THE EMPEROR'S DAUGHTER AND GRANDDAUGHTERS, TO AUSTERE PRISON  
 QUARTERS, BUT PUBLICALLY DENIED ANY INTENTION TO EXECUTE THEM.  
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DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 1975  
 ORIG:   
 UNIT: OCI/FLO  
 EXT: 1945

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF 142-75.4

//CHILE: IN A CEREMONY ON SEPTEMBER 11 MARKING THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILITARY TAKE-OVER, PRESIDENT AUGUSTO PINOCHET DECLARED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD PARTIALLY EASE THE STATE OF SIEGE, BUT HE REAFFIRMED ITS INTENTION TO RESTRICT INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS. MOST OF THE SPEECH WAS DEVOTED TO REITERATING THE REGIME'S MORAL RIGHTEOUSNESS, ITS FIERCE OPPOSITION TO MARXISM, AND ITS DETERMINATION TO STICK WITH A HARD LINE.//4

//NO NEW DEPARTURES WERE ANNOUNCED IN ECONOMIC OR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE ONLY NOTEWORTHY INNOVATION WAS A PROPOSAL TO CREATE A "COUNCIL OF STATE" COMPOSED OF FORMER PRESIDENTS AND OTHER PROMINENT CITIZENS TO ADVISE THE JUNTA ON MAJOR QUESTIONS. WHILE THIS WOULD SEEM TO OPEN THE DOOR TO COOPERATION WITH KEY POLITICIANS SUCH AS FORMER PRESIDENT EDUARDO FREI, LEADER OF THE LARGE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, THE ODDS ARE AGAINST THE MOVE TOWARD A MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE. FREI REPORTEDLY FORESEES THE EVENTUAL DEVELOPMENT OF SOME FORM OF COOPERATION WITH THE ARMED FORCES, BUT HE IS PROBABLY HOPING THAT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES WILL FORCE THE GOVERNMENT TO ABANDON ITS

83

SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM

EXTREMELY CONSERVATIVE ADVISERS AND PERHAPS ALTER THE JUNTA LEADERSHIP.//4

//THE PRESIDENT'S STRONG DISTRUST OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND HIS INDIRECT CRITICISM OF THEM IN HIS SPEECH SEEM TO SHOW THAT THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY REAL SHIFT IN THE GOVERNMENT'S AUTHORITARIAN ATTITUDE OR IN ITS TENDENCY TO EQUATE ALL OPPOSITION WITH SUBVERSION. ACTUALLY, THE PROPOSAL IS MORE LIKELY TO BE A PUBLIC RELATIONS GAMBIT THAN A FORTHRIGHT STEP TOWARD GREATER POLITICAL TOLERANCE.//4

//PINOCHET'S DECISION TO REDUCE THE STATE OF SIEGE MAY ALSO BE A LARGELY EMPTY GESTURE. THE DECISION WILL ALLOW SOME REVIEW AUTHORITY BY CIVIL COURTS, BUT THERE WILL PROBABLY BE LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE IMPACT UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT CHOOSES TO ABIDE BY DECREES MORE CLOSELY THAN IT HAS IN THE PAST. THERE HAS BEEN A REPEATED TENDENCY TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY WHILE THE SECURITY FORCES IGNORE THE LETTER AS WELL AS THE SPIRIT OF THE LAW. THERE WAS NO NEW WORD ON THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS.//4

//FOR THE MOST PART THE PRESIDENT DWELLED ON HIS NOW STANDARD THEME THAT CHILE STANDS VIRTUALLY ALONE IN ITS CAMPAIGN AGAINST

*24*

SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEN

MONOLITHIC WORLD COMMUNISM. THE US EMBASSY OBSERVED THAT HIS GENERALLY LACKLUSTER STATEMENTS FOUND A LESS ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION THAN LAST YEAR. THE RELATIVELY MINOR MODIFICATIONS HE PROPOSED WILL NOT GO FAR TOWARD SATISFYING CHILEANS WHO HAD HOPED FOR GREATER POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION AND A MORE HUMANISTIC ECONOMIC POLICY. NOR WILL THEY DO MUCH TO BOLSTER CHILE'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE-//4

//ALTHOUGH PINOCHET SAID THE INTERNAL UNITY OF THE JUNTA WAS "LIKE GRANITE," WE BELIEVE THAT GENERAL LEIGH, THE AIR FORCE MEMBER OF THE JUNTA, IS UNLIKELY TO BE SATISFIED WITH THE PRESIDENT'S HARD-LINE STANCE. MORE FRICTION OVER POLICYMAKING SEEMS INEVITABLE. (SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEN)//E-2 IMPDET.4

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SEPTEMBER 12, 1975  
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