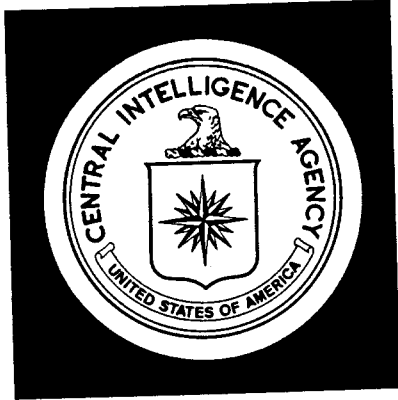


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Weekly Review

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February 7, 1975

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CHILE: STILL TRYING

The military government's continuing effort to improve its international image has picked up some momentum as Santiago mounts strenuous diplomatic efforts to blunt attacks at the Geneva meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission.

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Twenty-six detainees, including several leaders of the Radical Party whose freedom had been actively sought by Venezuela, were tabbed for release and deportation to Caracas this week. Another list of 17 who have been processed for exile was disclosed, and the government announced that 70 of the 100 persons on a previous list already have left the country.

The prisoner release program thus far has almost exclusively benefited "detainees"—those arrested under the state of siege but not charged with specific offenses or brought to trial. The government apparently plans to broaden the program to include at least 1,000 persons already convicted and sentenced. Arrangements for the commutation of jail sentences to expulsion may already be in the works and recipient countries are being sought. The government also is trying to speed judicial processes—mainly in military courts—against persons charged and awaiting trial.

There are indications that pressure is building within the government to rein in the free-wheeling Directorate of National Intelligence, a security arm subordinate only to the presidency. Some army generals are convinced that the directorate's penchant for mistreating prisoners is impeding the overall effort to improve the government's record on human rights.

Progress on prisoners and efforts to curb abusive practices notwithstanding, however, the government is far from complacent where internal security is concerned. Dagnet sweeps for common criminals and leftist fugitives were undertaken in Santiago late last month after a half-year hiatus. President Pinochet has promised new interim security legislation this month. It will probably be designed to fill gaps in existing laws until the eventual promulgation of an omnibus legal code.



President Pinochet
The decision will be his

The Human Rights Commission meeting may help bring a modification in the state of siege and a restoration of procedural safeguards suspended since the military take-over almost a year and a half ago. The success of Chilean efforts to avoid a condemnatory resolution at the meeting probably will hinge, however, on Santiago's willingness to accept yet another international fact-finding mission. Previous government policy was one of almost automatic acceptance of such groups, but there have been recent intimations that future fact-finders must also demonstrate access to the Soviet Union and Cuba. The final decision on this sensitive point undoubtedly will be made personally by President Pinochet. [REDACTED]