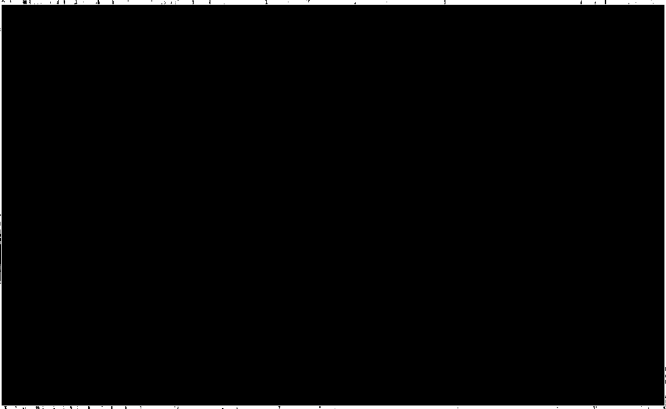


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ORIGINAL AND YELLOW COPY TO CABLE SECRETARIAT REMOVE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS  
LEFT MARGIN FOR 88 CHARACTERS TO A LINE INCLUDING SPACES DO NOT EXCEED THIS LIMITATION  
MESSAGES ARE CONSIDERED ROUTINE UNLESS A HIGHER PRECEDENCE IS INDICATED IN THE ADDRESSEE LINE

← ALIGN FIRST LETTER IN THIS BOX

TYPE THE WORD "ALIGN" TO REGISTER HERE →

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF [REDACTED]

1. CHILE: PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S DECISION TO RELEASE A NUMBER OF PRIESTS WHO WERE BEING DETAINED FOR AIDING FUGITIVE TERRORISTS HAS HALTED—AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT—THE STEADY DECLINE IN CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. FUNDAMENTAL TENSIONS REMAIN, HOWEVER, AND THE CHURCH IS LIKELY TO REMAIN AN IRRITANT TO THE REGIME.

IN MAKING THE AMNESTY GESTURE, PINOCHET TACITLY ADMITTED THAT MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY CHARGED WITH HARBORING "CRIMINALS" MIGHT HAVE BEEN INSPIRED BY ALTRUISTIC MOTIVES AND SENTIMENTS OF MERCY. THE PRESIDENT WARNED, NEVERTHELESS, THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT TREAT FUTURE OFFENDERS QUITE SO GENEROUSLY. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HAD EARLIER AGREED TO DISMANTLE THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR PEACE, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAD STRONGLY CRITICIZED FOR BEING PRO-MARXIST.

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2 MARGIN FOR 68 CHARACTERS TO A LINE, INCLUDING SPACES. DO NOT EXCEED THIS LIMITATION.  
3 MESSAGES ARE CONSIDERED ROUTINE UNLESS A HIGHER PRECEDENCE IS INDICATED IN THE ADDRESSEE LINE.

← ALIGN FIRST LETTER IN THIS BOX. TYPE THE WORD "ALIGN" TO REGISTER HERE →

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[REDACTED] PINOCHET'S ■■ INTERIOR

MINISTER, GENERAL CESAR BENAVIDES, IS A MAJOR OBSTACLE TO IMPROVING RELATIONS. THE MINISTER IS SAID TO BE A DOCTRINAIRE, STUBBORN INDIVIDUAL WHO REFUSES TO COMPROMISE; HIS OBSTINACY, WHICH IS NOT OUT OF STEP WITH THE PURITANICAL PINOCHET, PROBABLY ACCOUNTS FOR A LARGE MEASURE OF THE REGIME'S RIGIDITY ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. THE INTERIOR MINISTRY'S RULINGS ON DETENTIONS HAVE FREQUENTLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE BAD PRESS THAT CHILE HAS RECEIVED ABROAD. [REDACTED]

15c

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]