

BRIEF

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**WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF** [REDACTED]

1. //CHILE: A BREAKDOWN IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PINOCHET GOVERNMENT AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CHILE, WHICH HAD APPEARED IMMINENT, HAS BEEN AVERTED, ALTHOUGH DEEP DIFFERENCES REMAIN.// [REDACTED]

//BY BOUING TO PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S RECENT REQUEST TO DISSOLVE ITS COMMITTEE FOR PEACE, THE CHURCH INDIRECTLY ADMITTED THAT SOME OF THE COMMITTEE'S MEMBERS HAD ASSISTED FUGITIVES FROM THE TERRORIST MOVEMENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR). SOME OF THOSE ARRESTED FOR SHELTERING LEADERS OF THE TERRORIST GROUP WERE CHURCH PERSONS HOLDING US CITIZENSHIP.// [REDACTED]

//EARLIER THIS MONTH, CARDINAL SILVA, THE CHILEAN PRELATE, PUBLICLY THREATENED TO EXCOMMUNICATE AN INFLUENTIAL AND ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE ADVISER TO PINOCHET WHO HAD ATTACKED THE CHURCH FOR COMPLICITY IN THE MIR AFFAIR. THE CHURCH BEERED ON THE VERGE OF AN OPEN CLASH WITH THE GOVERNMENT. THIS, AS WELL AS THE CHURCH'S ACUTE EMBARRASSMENT OVER THE MIR MATTER, PROBABLY IMPELLED CHURCH AUTHORITIES TO BACK OFF FROM THEIR PREVIOUS TOUGH STANCE.//

//THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CAREFUL TO KEEP CHURCH-STATE

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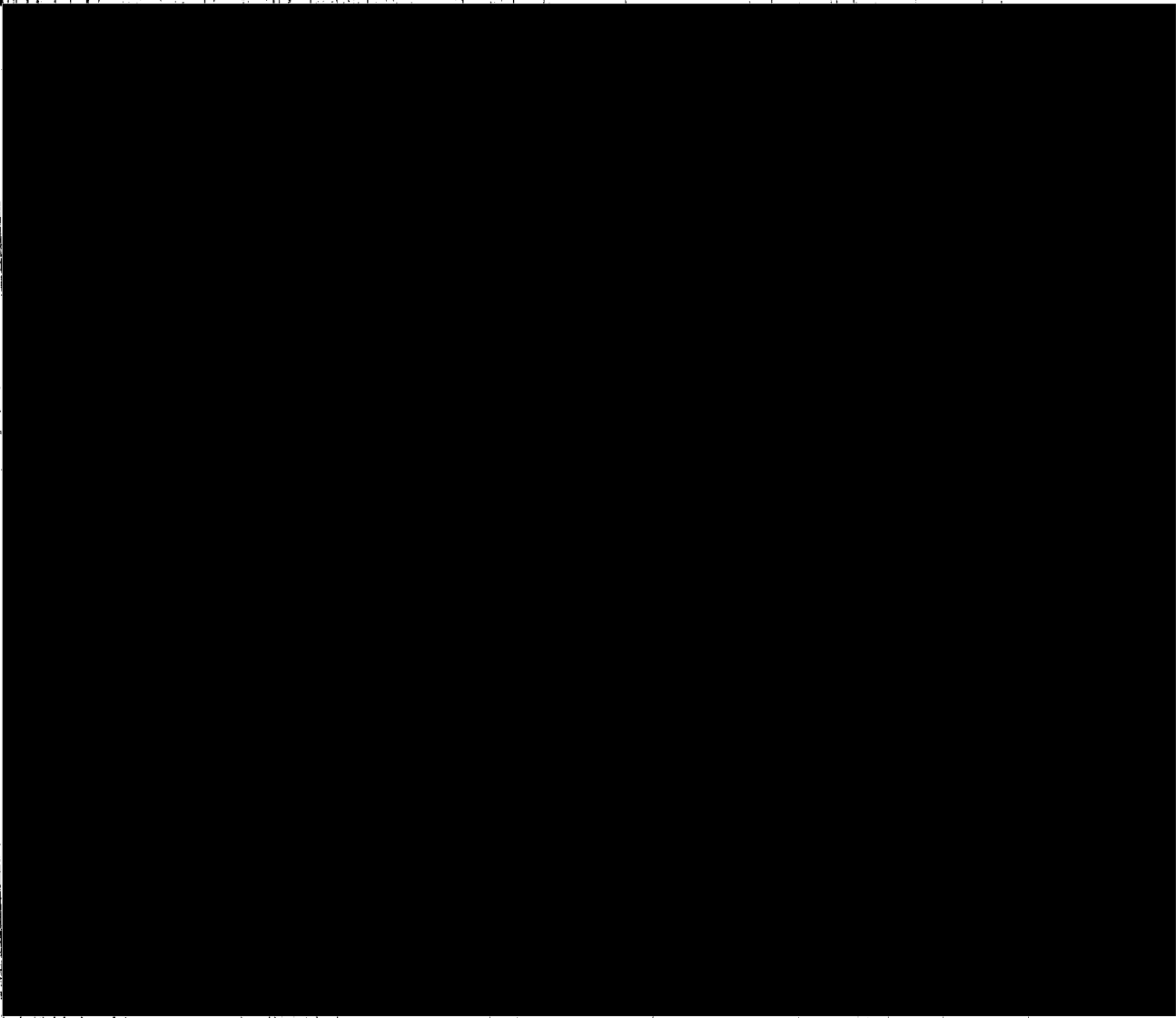
DIFFERENCES WITHIN MANAGEABLE LIMITS AND TO LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN FOR COOPERATION. PINOCHET HAS MET [REDACTED] WITH CARDINAL SILVA, PRESUMABLY TO WORK OUT AN UNDERSTANDING, AND BOTH HAVE APPEARED DISPOSED TO TAKE AN EVEN-HANDED APPROACH IN DEALING WITH THEIR QUARRELS.// [REDACTED]

//PINOCHET'S HANDLING OF THE ARREST AND SUBSEQUENT EXPULSION OF THE US CITIZENS CAN ALSO BE ATTRIBUTED TO A DESIRE TO AVOID FURTHER COMPLICATING RELATIONS WITH THE US.// [REDACTED]

//CARDINAL SILVA IS CURRENTLY IN ROME WHERE HE IS EXPECTED TO HOLD TALKS WITH THE POPE ON THE CHURCH'S POSITION IN CHILE. THE CHURCH WILL REMAIN CAUTIOUS IN DEALING WITH THE MILITARY REGIME'S FURTHER STRIKE OVER SENSITIVE ISSUES IS LIKELY, BUT IT IS TO THE ADVANTAGE OF BOTH SIDES TO SEEK COMPROMISES. THE JUNTA WOULD STAND TO LOSE THE MOST IF IT USED AN IRON HAND AGAINST THE CHURCH BECAUSE OF THE INEVITABLE INTERNATIONAL REPERCUSSIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE CHURCH COULD LOSE THE SUPPORT OF CONSERVATIVES, WHO HAVE ALREADY CRITICIZED ITS INVOLVEMENT WITH THE TERRORISTS, IF IT CONTINUES TO CONFRONT THE GOVERNMENT. [REDACTED]

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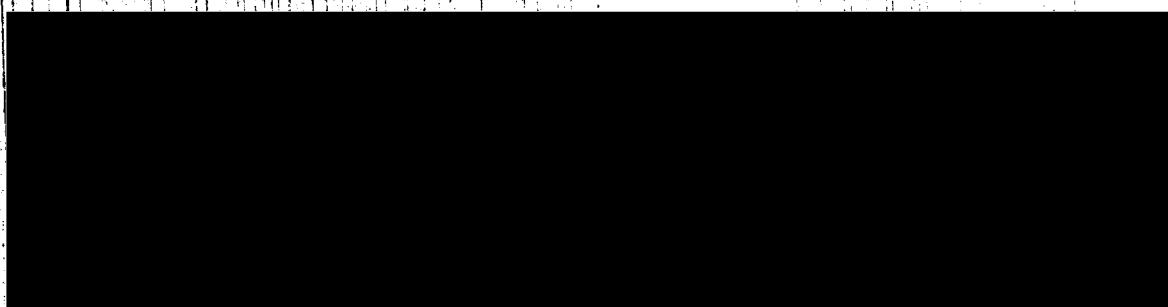
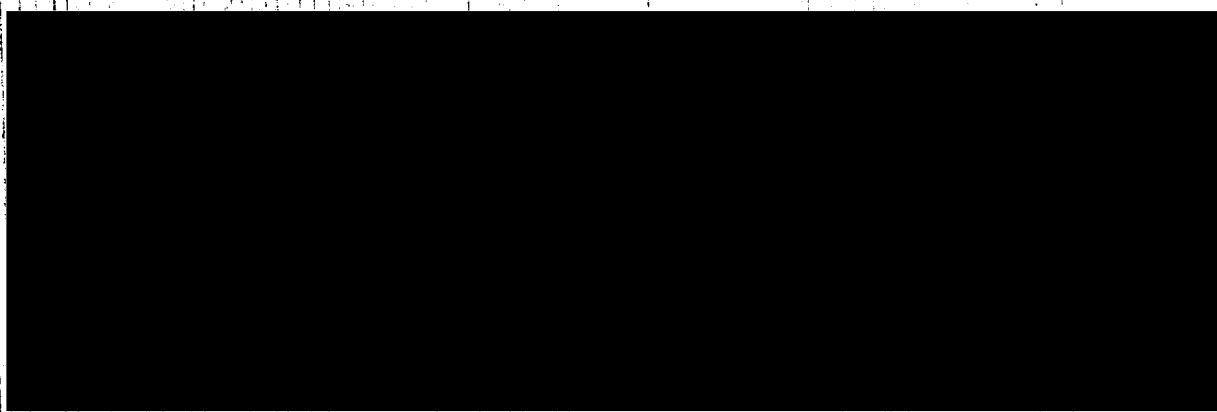
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