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Weekly Review

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CHILE: STILL NOT SECURE

Security considerations remained predominant in shaping the junta's policy decisions this week as the armed forces and carabineros made further inroads into traditionally civilian Chilean institutions.

[REDACTED] that the armed forces believe the left is regrouping for sabotage and guerrilla activity. They see the current relative calm as deceptive and have warned military and police units not to relax their vigilance. The regime probably is warranted in believing that its opponents have not been totally neutralized. One major extremist group [REDACTED] its logistical assets have not been damaged irreparably and is anxious to get into action. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] its worker-peasant base is losing its militancy and becoming resigned to the new government. Security forces meanwhile continue to turn up arms caches and capture fugitive leftists. The major security event of the week was the arrest of Communist Party chief Luis Corvalan; he is now on trial for treason before a military court that could hand down the death penalty.

The preoccupation with security undoubtedly is behind the junta's continued use of the harsh measures it deems necessary to deal with dissidents. The junta has pointedly reminded the military and police that orders such as those calling for the immediate punishment of certain crimes "in the very spot where they are committed" are absolute, definitive, and not subject to interpretation or discussion. On the other hand, the government does not appear to be engaged in the wholesale execution of prisoners.

Foreign Minister Huerta will address the UN General Assembly next week and attempt to defend the coup in the court of world opinion, but the junta apparently is willing to pay the price of alienating some support at home and suffering a bad press abroad in carrying out its campaign to rid the country of Marxist influence. When the junta concluded this week that the university rectors were not willing to undertake a thorough ideological housecleaning, it decided to appoint military "delegates" to do the job regardless of

[REDACTED] resulting disillusionment among Christian Democrats. The party [REDACTED] will not react precipitately, however, and it apparently still hopes to influence the regime from within.

The government's outlook is not entirely defensive. The junta hopes to build support in the traditional bastion of leftist strength with a concerted attempt to provide working class Chileans with basic necessities, demonstrate concern for their welfare, and achieve real social and economic progress. A program to improve the lot of urban slum dwellers already has been announced. The announcement that wage increases scheduled to go into effect on 1 October have been postponed indefinitely contradicts this, however, but is in line with the regime's attempt to limit consumption and bring inflation under control. The government took care to point out that special provisions would be made to maintain the buying power of the lowest paid workers.

The junta has been enjoying the unqualified support of the conservative National Party and of the private enterprise and professional "guilds." Friction between the government and these groups could develop however, if it becomes more apparent that the regime takes seriously its statements about equitable distribution of the nation's wealth, worker welfare and profit-sharing, and not "turning back the clock." Some businessmen [REDACTED] already are trying to get the junta to modify provisions of a draft statement of political, economic, and social principles. [REDACTED]

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