



Weekly Review

Declassified and Approved for Release July 2000

Top Secret

2 November 1973

RETURN TO ARCHIVES & RECURDS CENTER ASH RETER VISTARCEMENT

Nº 558 Copy

CHILE: MULTIPLE THREATS

The government is counting on the use of force and crash training courses in counter-insurgency to forestall the violent opposition it anticipates from the left. It appears less concerned with a potentially more serious problem—the impact of the economic recovery program on the working class.

Persons charged with armed resistance are now being turned over to the courts—military or civilian as appropriate—rather than shot on the spot, but death for serious offenses probably will continue to be the rule. Still, the junta is concerned about its image, and Interior Minister Bonilla has taken pains to emphasize that the state of siege and court-martial procedures have a firm legal standing.

Bonilla also has tried to clarify the status of detainees being held for trial. Those charged with committing crimes after the 11 September coup will be tried under the rules of the state of siege. Those charged with committing offenses prior to that date—high officials of the Allende government, for example—will be tried under the laws then in effect.

Opposition activity has been picking up in the countryside, and a special counter-guerrilla brigade has been dispatched to the south. The national police have again assumed primary responsibility for maintaining public order, a move designed to give the armed forces more time to train in counter-insurgency tactics.

TOP SECRET

Page 25 WEEKLY REVIEW

2 Nov 73



Opposition groups in Santiago are warning members of an alleged government plan to trap unwary leftists by having a phony clandestine radio station issue a call to take to the streets and fight.

widespread, they could pose a greater threat to the government than bands of rural guerrillas or urban terrorists.

A real clandestine "information agency" has been funneling stories of anti-government activity and alleged government atrocities to foreign newsmen, and some progress toward the formation of an umbrella opposition organization

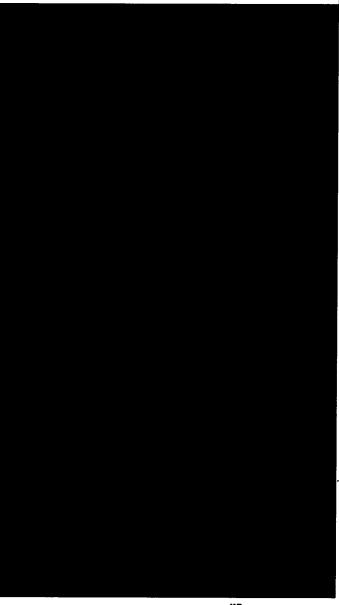
The left is not yet ready to begin a coordinated guerrilla-terrorist campaign, and the apparent existence of a number of "unified" fronts and commands suggests that much organizational work remains.

1.5c

The most radical leftist groups probably remain anxious to take up arms, but not all members of the former Popular Unity coalition are convinced that violence is the best tool with which to confront the government. Some groups appear to believe that fomenting strikes among workers disgruntled by the growing gap between wages and prices would be more productive.

The left's present ability to mobilize the workers is as questionable as its readiness for guerrilla warfare. Under Allende, leftist organizational activity centered on the actual place of work. Organizers and militants have now been dismissed from their jobs in private as well as government-owned enterprises, and the days of regular pay for demonstrating rather than working are over. The spectacle of political leaders literally beating down the doors of foreign embassies in search of political asylum may make workers less eager to follow new directives from professional agitators.

On the other hand, unemployment is rising and the regime readily admits that there will be no early end to the economic squeeze. If workers come to believe that they are making all the sacrifices, resentment could lead to strikes, and if



TOP SECRET

NR