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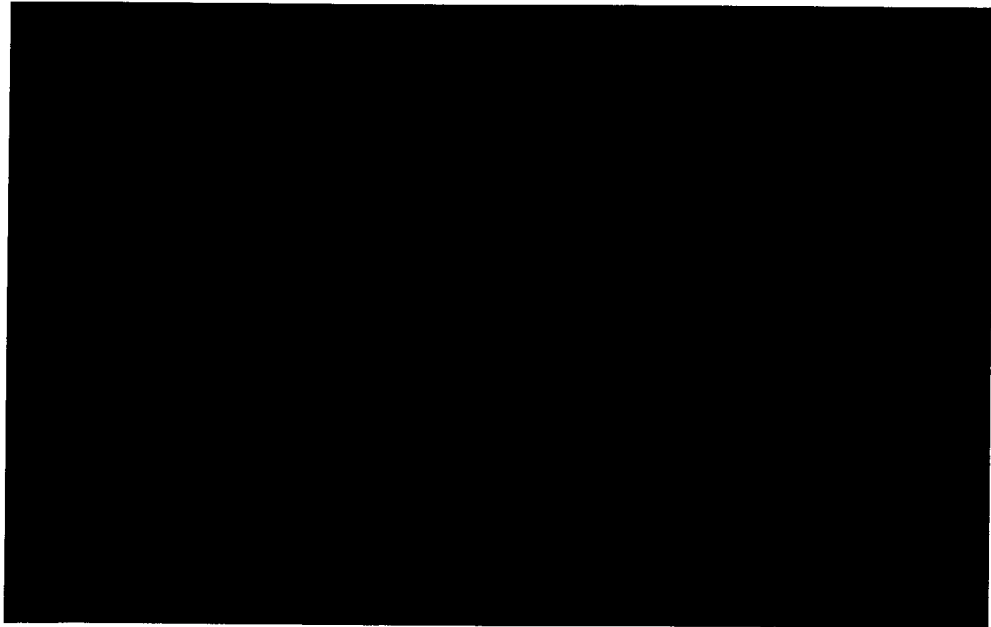


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CHILE: Pinochet Confronts Labor

The opposition's call for a national strike tomorrow—the first in 10 years—resulted in numerous arrests yesterday of organizers. Concurrently, President Pinochet made a concession by allowing several prominent political figures to return to Chile, which had been demanded by the National Workers' Command. The principal organizer of the strike is charged with attempting to overthrow the government. The administration is closely censoring press reports on the planned walkout, which would involve nearly 300,000 workers in the important copper, transport, and manufacturing sectors. [REDACTED]

Comment: Pinochet believes that divisions in the labor movement can be intensified by severely punishing strikers while rewarding potential supporters by following through on the political concessions he announced last Friday. A strike under current conditions would draw significant international labor support. The Army's backing for Pinochet and his latest tactics still appears firm, but his support among security and other military services may deteriorate if a strike is accompanied by widespread clashes. [REDACTED]



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