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CHILE: Government Official Murdered

The murder yesterday of the commander of the Santiago Military District probably is part of the radical left's plan to use violence to undermine the government's dialogue with the moderate opposition. Movement of the Revolutionary Left terrorists reportedly have claimed credit for the killing. After a meeting of the military junta, Navy Commander Merino announced that the government would bring the full force of the law against those involved, continue its discussions with moderate opposition leaders, and provide greater security "to those who need it."

Comment: The terrorists are likely to persist in their efforts, but they probably will not manage to provoke in the short term the massive government crackdown they are seeking. The incident, however, will prompt much tighter security measures for opposition protests scheduled for early next month.



