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PRIORITY

FRP:

STAFF

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 001
TOT 07 AUG 84

DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]

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BRIEF 07 DIRECTOR
TO: PRIORITY LATIN AMERICA BREF

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

LATIN AMERICA BREF [REDACTED] FOR 7 AUGUST 1984.

FROM: DDI/O/CPAS.

CONTENTS

- 1. CHILE: OPPOSITION IN DISARRAY
 - 2. [REDACTED] NR
 - 3. [REDACTED]
1. CHILE: OPPOSITION IN DISARRAY

INTERNAL DIVISIONS HAVE WEAKENED THE OPPOSITION MOVEMENT THAT EMERGED LAST YEAR AND HAVE ALLOWED PRESIDENT PINOCHET TO CRACK DOWN ON THE RADICAL LEFT. [REDACTED]

THE GROUP OF EIGHT--A RIGHTIST COALITION THAT ADVOCATED CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS IN 1986--COLLAPSED LAST MONTH BECAUSE OF DIFFERENCES OVER STRATEGY. THE CENTRIST DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE, WHICH HAS NOT MOUNTED A CREDIBLE ANTI-REGIME DEMONSTRATION SINCE MARCH, WILL TRY TO REKINDLE SUPPORT WITH A TWO-DAY PROTEST NEXT MONTH.

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Declassified and
Approved for Release
July 2000

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[REDACTED]
LABOR ALSO HAS MADE LITTLE PROGRESS TOWARD ITS GOAL OF ORGANIZING A GENERAL STRIKE. THE BROAD-BASED NATIONAL WORKERS COMMAND IS BESET BY SQUABBLING AMONG THE UNIONS. [REDACTED] IT MAY SPLIT INTO RIVAL DEMOCRATIC AND COMMUNIST-DOMINATED ACTIONS. [REDACTED]

THE GOVERNMENT, MEANWHILE, HAS BEEN ENCOURAGED BY A SUPREME COURT DECISION CONFIRMING ITS EXTENSIVE EMERGENCY POWERS. SINCE THE DECISION, PINOCHET HAS TAKEN A HARD LINE WITH THE FAR LEFT, EXILING SEVERAL COMMUNIST LEADERS AND PROSECUTING LEFTIST MILITANTS FOR ILLEGAL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: THE OPPOSITION MOVEMENT HAS BEEN UNDERCUT BY ITS OWN INTERNAL WEAKNESSES AND BY PINOCHET'S SHREWD MIXTURE OF REPRESSION AND PROMISES OF LIBERALIZATION. WIDESPREAD POLITICAL APATHY AMONG THE POPULATION IS ALSO CONTRIBUTING TO THE OPPOSITION'S DISARRAY. [REDACTED]

PROBABLY ONLY A SEVERE ECONOMIC SLUMP OR A CRACKDOWN ON LABOR AND THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES--BOTH UNLIKELY IN THE SHORT TERM--COULD PROVIDE THE NECESSARY CATALYST TO UNITE THE OPPOSITION AND THREATEN PINOCHET'S TENURE. IF THE PRESIDENT CONTINUES TO RESIST MEANINGFUL POLITICAL REFORM, HOWEVER, HE COULD EVENTUALLY ALIENATE HIS TWO KEY BASES OF SUPPORT--THE MILITARY AND THE CIVILIAN RIGHT. [REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED]

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