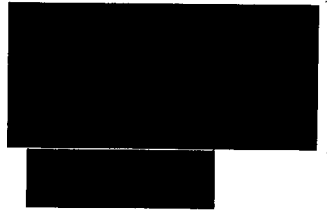




Director of  
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**Special Analysis**

**CHILE:**

**Political Battlelines Drawn**

***President Pinochet's recent cabinet changes and extension of the state of siege reflect his determination to maintain authoritarian control for the next few years.*** [REDACTED]

***Although his civilian political base has narrowed, moderate opposition forces are in disarray and unable to devise effective tactics.*** [REDACTED]

The ouster of two leading moderates—Interior Minister Jarpa and Finance Minister Escobar—marks the end of the political opening that began in 1983. The cabinet is now fully responsive to Pinochet's renewed insistence on adhering strictly to the constitutional transition timetable, which calls for a presidential plebiscite in 1989 and congressional elections a year later. [REDACTED]

**Support for Pinochet**

Pinochet's military colleagues, some of whom reportedly had misgivings about replacing Jarpa and extending the state of siege, now appear to back his recent actions. Moreover, a new coterie of conservative, devout Catholic advisers has emerged around Pinochet, reinforcing his instinctive toughness. [REDACTED]

The harshness of Pinochet's recent moves, however, has weakened his support among the traditional right and among many business and professional groups who want liberalization. [REDACTED] civilian backing for the regime is now confined to two small rightwing political groups. [REDACTED]

**Disorganized Moderates**

The democratic opposition has been on the defensive since Pinochet cracked down on its protest movement under the state of siege. Its attempt to revive the protest effort in late November fizzled, and armed forces commanders later rejected an opposition plea to bypass Pinochet and reopen a dialogue on the transition. The refusal of the disparate opposition parties to unite around a minimum program of opposition has weakened attempts to mobilize international opinion against Pinochet. [REDACTED]

*continued*

