

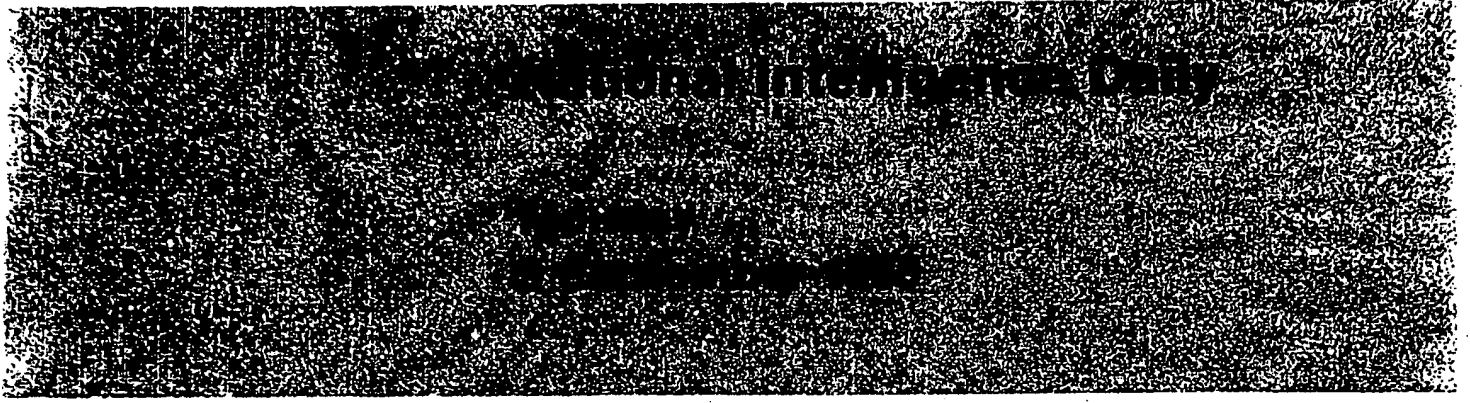
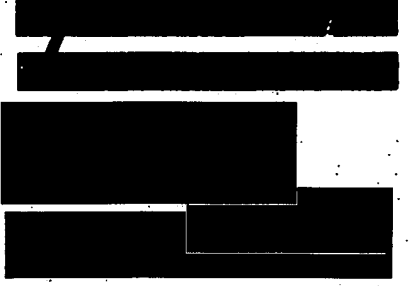


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CHILE:

Protest Activity To Continue

The Communist Party is planning another major protest Wednesday; but President Pinochet is threatening harsh reprisals and insists he will not yield to pressure from either the far left or moderates for an early return to civilian rule.

the Communist-organized demonstrations last week were the best organized and most violent of the past two years. Santiago has generally returned to normal, but security forces and protesters clashed for three nights in some slums, and numerous looting incidents occurred, as did scattered demonstrations in other cities. Eleven people were killed and about 1,000 protesters were arrested.

Blaming the far left for the violence, the government is issuing criminal indictments against more than 100 people, including leaders of the main opposition labor organization and the Communist Party's principal front group. Pinochet has publicly ruled out talks with opposition political parties and charged that the leader of the Catholic Church, who brokered the recent national accord among opposition elements, has been duped by politicians. The President reiterated on Thursday that he will not step down before his term ends in 1989 and vowed to repress future protests.

the Communists plan daily protests heralding the demonstrations Wednesday. Meanwhile, moderate opposition leaders are concerned that Pinochet will cite the violence to discredit the national accord. The security services have already arrested several dozen politicians in anticipation of protests this week.

Comment: The Communists' success appears to have surprised both the regime and its moderate opponents. Although moderate leaders oppose the Communists' plans for violence, some may now be tempted to collaborate more actively in organizing Wednesday's demonstrations.

Pinochet's actions will be tempered by morale problems in the police, opposition from some senior military officers to reimposing the state of siege, growing popular support for the national accord, and concern that negative world opinion might jeopardize Chile's recently negotiated debt relief package. If violence continues to mount in coming weeks, however, he may yield to his instincts and reimpose the state of siege.