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DIRECTORATE OF
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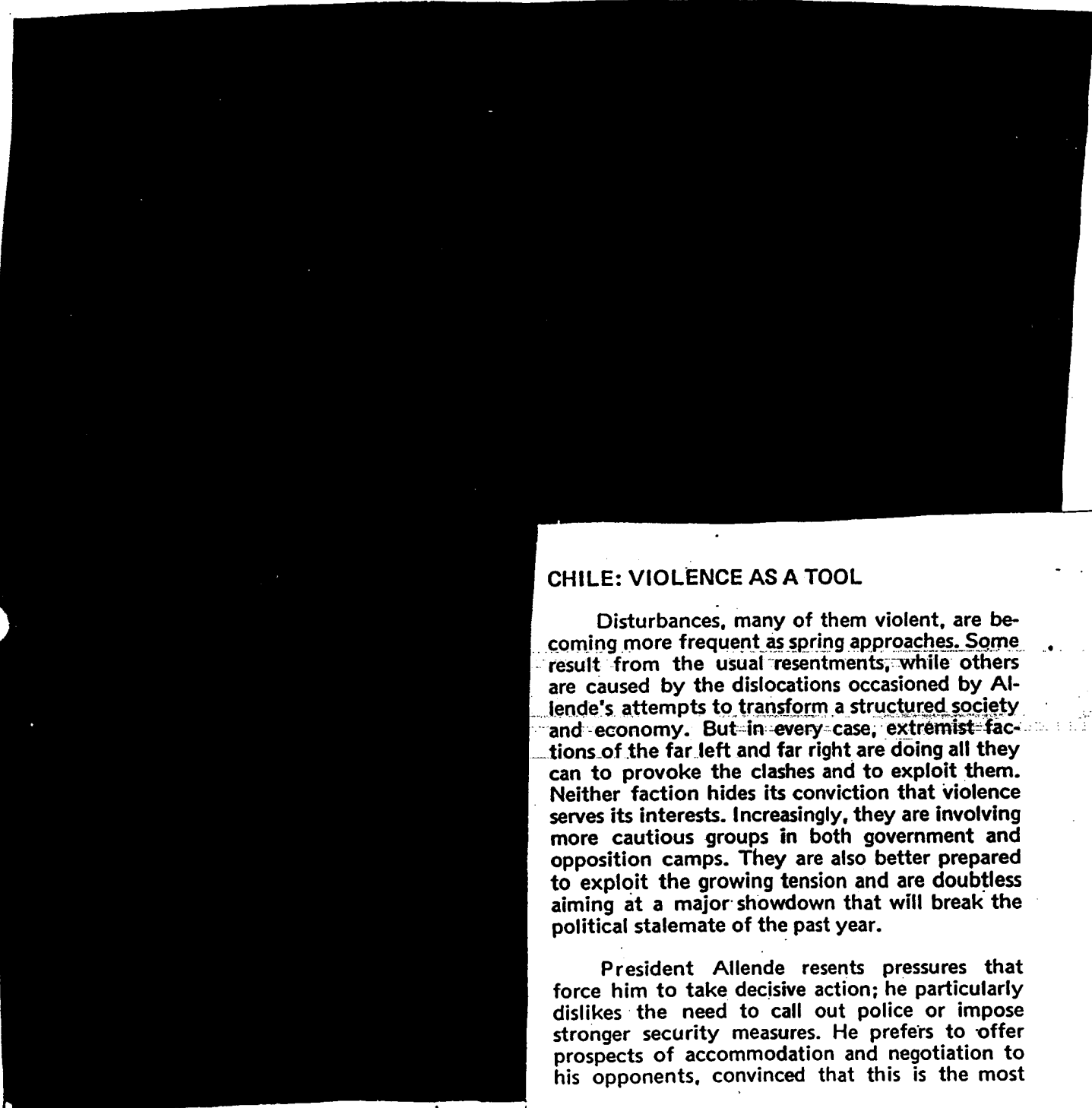
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CHILE: VIOLENCE AS A TOOL

Disturbances, many of them violent, are becoming more frequent as spring approaches. Some result from the usual resentments, while others are caused by the dislocations occasioned by Allende's attempts to transform a structured society and economy. But in every case, extremist factions of the far left and far right are doing all they can to provoke the clashes and to exploit them. Neither faction hides its conviction that violence serves its interests. Increasingly, they are involving more cautious groups in both government and opposition camps. They are also better prepared to exploit the growing tension and are doubtless aiming at a major showdown that will break the political stalemate of the past year.

President Allende resents pressures that force him to take decisive action; he particularly dislikes the need to call out police or impose stronger security measures. He prefers to offer prospects of accommodation and negotiation to his opponents, convinced that this is the most

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effective way to divide and weaken them as well as to maintain control over the hotheads who are increasingly vocal among his own forces.

There is no evidence yet that the security forces, major opposition leaders, or the Communist Party are any more apt than is Allende to conclude that violence will solve Chile's mounting problems to their satisfaction. Allende does, however, need to make some move to get back the initiative. He has indicated this could come in the major speech at the 4 September rally celebrating the second anniversary of his election, when he will present plans for a new constitution. [REDACTED]

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