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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF 096-75. 4

1. CHILE: THE ALLEGED OUTBREAK OF LEFTIST VIOLENCE IN CHILE IS BEING USED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO JUSTIFY TIGHT SECURITY MEASURES. 4

THE DEATH OF AN ARMY OFFICER IN SOUTH-CENTRAL CHILE ON JUNE 5 IS BEING ATTRIBUTED TO LEFTISTS, BUT SOME SOURCES SUGGEST IT WAS A SUICIDE. NEVERTHELESS, THE GOVERNMENT IS IMPLYING THAT THE INCIDENT IS THE REASON FOR ANTI-GUERRILLA SWEEPS BY SECURITY FORCES. 4

SUSPECTS HAVE BEEN ROUNDED UP IN THE SOUTHERN PROVINCE OF TALCA, WHICH HAS BEEN FINPOINTED BY OFFICIALS AS THE FOCUS OF RECENT EXTREMIST OPERATIONS. LABOR AND PEASANT LEADERS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHILE ARE SAID TO BE FOMENTING UNREST THERE. 4

IN THE NORTHERN PROVINCE OF ATACAMA SOME 50 LEFTISTS WERE ARRESTED LAST WEEK AND A RADIO TRANSMITTER AND EXPLOSIVES SEIZED. AUTHORITIES SAID THE GROUP WAS PLANNING TO SABOTAGE TELEPHONE, ELECTRIC POWER, AND FRESH WATER FACILITIES. 4

IN THE NEARBY CITY OF ANTOFAGASTA, 17 COMMUNISTS WERE ARRESTED FOR POSTING ANTI-GOVERNMENT PROPAGANDA. 4

SOME REPORTS CLAIM THAT CHILEAN GUERRILLAS HAVE CROSSED THE

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ANDES AND CLASHED WITH CARABINEROS. CHILEAN OFFICIALS HAVE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON REPORTS THAT SOME EXTREMISTS HAVE BEEN EXECUTED. 4

PRESIDENT PINOCHET HAS STATED THAT MILITARY FORCES ARE CLOSELY GUARDING THE ANDEAN PASSES IN TALCA PROVINCE. PINOCHET, WHO RECENTLY MET WITH MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN CONCEPCION, SAID THE SITUATION IS UNDER CONTROL AND WARNED THAT FURTHER EXTREMIST ADVENTURES WOULD BE SUICIDAL. 4

THOUSANDS OF CHILEANS FLED ACROSS THE ANDES AFTER THE FALL OF THE ALLENDE GOVERNMENT IN 1973, AND SOME [REDACTED] HAVE 3.3(b)(1) BEEN TRAINED BY ARGENTINE GUERRILLAS. IF THESE GROUPS ARE INDEED INFILTRATING BACK INTO CHILE, THE PINOCHET GOVERNMENT CAN BE EXPECTED TO CLAMP DOWN HARSHLY ON ALL OPPONENTS AND ABANDON ANY THOUGHT OF MOVING TOWARD GREATER TOLERANCE OF PEACEFUL OPPOSITION ACTIVITY. 4

LEFT-WING MILITANTS POSF NO SERIOUS THREAT NOW. AS ECONOMIC CONDITIONS WORSEN, ENGENDERING PUBLIC DISCONTENT, THE DISSIDENTS MAY BEGIN TO FOCUS ON RURAL LABOR TROUBLE OR URBAN TERRORISM.

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