



Director of
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Monday
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CIA LATE ITEM

CHILE: Pinochet Announces Referendum

Chilean President Augusto Pinochet announced last night that a constitutional referendum will be held on 11 September. The constitution, which is likely to be approved, will extend Pinochet's one-man rule for eight more years. It will preclude free elections for the presidency until 1997. The timing of the announcement reflects Pinochet's need to reassert his authority at a time of increasing terrorist violence from both right and left. The terms of the proposed constitution were immediately denounced as farcical by civilian opposition political parties. 

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IRAN

Ayatollah Khomeini strongly criticized the USSR again Saturday in a speech to representatives of 35 "liberation movements" currently meeting in Tehran. Khomeini labeled the Soviets a "big satanic power" for seeking to "suffocate Afghanistan" and for selling arms to Iraq for use against Iran. His comments could set the stage for reducing Iran's relations with Moscow to the charge level--a threat raised by Iranian Ambassador to the USSR Mokri the day before. [Redacted]

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Tehran radio, in both domestic and Arabic-language broadcasts yesterday, asserted that Shia communities in eastern Saudi Arabia had demonstrated Friday in support of Ayatollah Khomeini's "Jerusalem Day" remarks. It claimed that many of those "freedom-loving" people were attacked and jailed in "the prisons of the Saudi family." Iranian media claim that similar demonstrations also occurred in Bahrain on Friday. [Redacted]

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Education Minister Rajai will likely become Iran's prime minister today, as the Islamic Assembly is scheduled to vote on his nomination as forwarded by President Bani-Sadr. Once confirmed, his first task will be to assemble a new cabinet. [Redacted]

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BRIEFS AND COMMENTS

ROMANIA: New Middle East Peace Initiative

Romanian President Ceausescu may be carrying a new peace initiative when he travels to the Middle East next week, but he probably will not garner much support from the region's major protagonists.

[Redacted]

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Diplomatic sources in Bucharest report that Ceausescu-- who visits Jordan from 17 to 19 August and may also stop in Syria and Iraq--has been trying to line up support for a general Middle East peace conference to convene under Romanian sponsorship next year. Ceausescu has long advocated such a conference, attended by all interested parties including the Palestine Liberation Organization, the USSR, and the US, to discuss a "comprehensive settlement."

[Redacted]

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President Sadat probably has not yet formulated Egypt's stand toward the initiative.

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

The major obstacles to the Romanian initiative would appear to come from Israel--which has already rebuffed similar Romanian proposals--and from hardline states like Libya and Iraq, which oppose any negotiations with Israel. Ceausescu probably is motivated less by an expectation of success than by the benefits he anticipates will accrue to Romania just from making the effort. He may hope that Romania's stature in the Arab world will rise, thus assuring greater access to Middle East oil, and reinforcing his independent foreign policy line.

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ARGENTINA: Support of Bolivian Junta

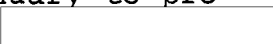
Argentine leaders appear determined to prop up the military regime in Bolivia, even at the risk of jeopardizing recent improvements in relations with the US. 

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President Videla has for the first time publicly expressed sympathy for the new ruling group led by General Garcia Meza and implied that Argentina would provide food aid and financial credits. These are the latest in a series of supportive actions taken by the Argentines,

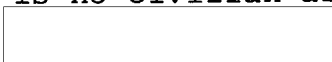


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Argentina's recognition of the new regime on 28 July was followed by the postponement of a visit to Buenos Aires by a high-ranking US official--a visit eagerly sought by the military government as a continuation of high-level bilateral meetings begun last January to promote better understanding and cooperation. 

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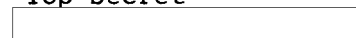
Although President Videla may send a personal emissary to Washington to discuss the Bolivian problem, there is little reason to expect the Argentines to show flexibility. Though there may be minor differences of opinion in the Argentine government hierarchy, those officers who count believe strongly that in Bolivia at present there is no civilian alternative to a rightwing military junta.



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ZIMBABWE: Status of Military Amalgamation

The process of combining elements of Zimbabwe's two guerrilla forces and the former Rhodesian Army appears to be stalled. [redacted]

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Current plans call for a four-brigade Army. Some battalions evidently will be little more than renamed Rhodesian units, while others will comprise former insurgents of the Zimbabwe African National Union and the Zimbabwe African People's Union. Only a single integrated battalion has been formed to date [redacted]

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The new force may include only 9,500 of the more than 43,000 guerrillas under arms at the time of independence. Former insurgents who are unfit or unwilling to serve are being demobilized. As of early July, only about 7,400 guerrillas had returned to civilian life, leaving more than 22,000 ZANU and some 13,000 ZAPU personnel still at assembly points. [redacted]

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The resignation of Army Commander-in-Chief Walls is only the latest obstacle to amalgamation. Important decisions on the size and composition of the force, and naming of a commander continue to be hampered by suspicions and rivalries. Even such minor matters as devising common rules and regulations are complicated by distrust. [redacted]

The cooperation, support, and leadership of white military personnel are essential, particularly in the near term. By late May, however, one-third of the white military officers and one-half of the senior white non-commissioned officers had already submitted retirement papers. Many of those still in uniform are not optimistic about the prospects for the new Army. [redacted]

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USSR: Disarmament Issues Discussed

A tour d'horizon of Moscow's arms control proposals signed by Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko and appearing in the mid-July issue of the theoretical journal of the CPSU, Kommunist, criticizes the West in general and the US in particular for alleged procrastination with regard to arms control and disarmament.

In excerpts of the text broadcast by Moscow radio for three consecutive days beginning on 7 August, Gromyko charges that "the leaders of NATO and the US above all" are attempting to change the strategic balance to their advantage in order "to return the world to the days of power politics." According to Gromyko, the West's apprehension regarding Soviet military spending and the presence of "a limited Soviet military force" in Afghanistan is mere pretense serving as a convenient rationale for an accelerated Western arms buildup.

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In recounting the experience gained in disarmament talks, Gromyko points out gloomily that "basically, nothing at all has been done to eliminate the material means of war." Nevertheless, he continues, "current agreements and treaties cut off some channels for the arms race, ban or limit individual weapons," and hinder "an unrestrained arms race."

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Gromyko urges the implementation of SALT II and chides the US for its postponement and the resulting delay of SALT III talks. He cites US failure to ratify SALT II, the US-Soviet treaty on Underground Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes, and the US-Soviet treaty on limiting underground nuclear tests as "facts" which "erode the credibility of the US as a reliable partner."

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In closing, Gromyko promises that the Soviet Union will continue to champion disarmament in the UN, but notes that because UN resolutions "are only in the nature of recommendations" Moscow favors "a forum that could adopt really effective decisions which could be really binding on all nations" and suggests that "such a forum could be a world disarmament conference."

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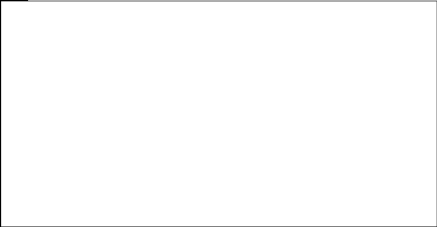
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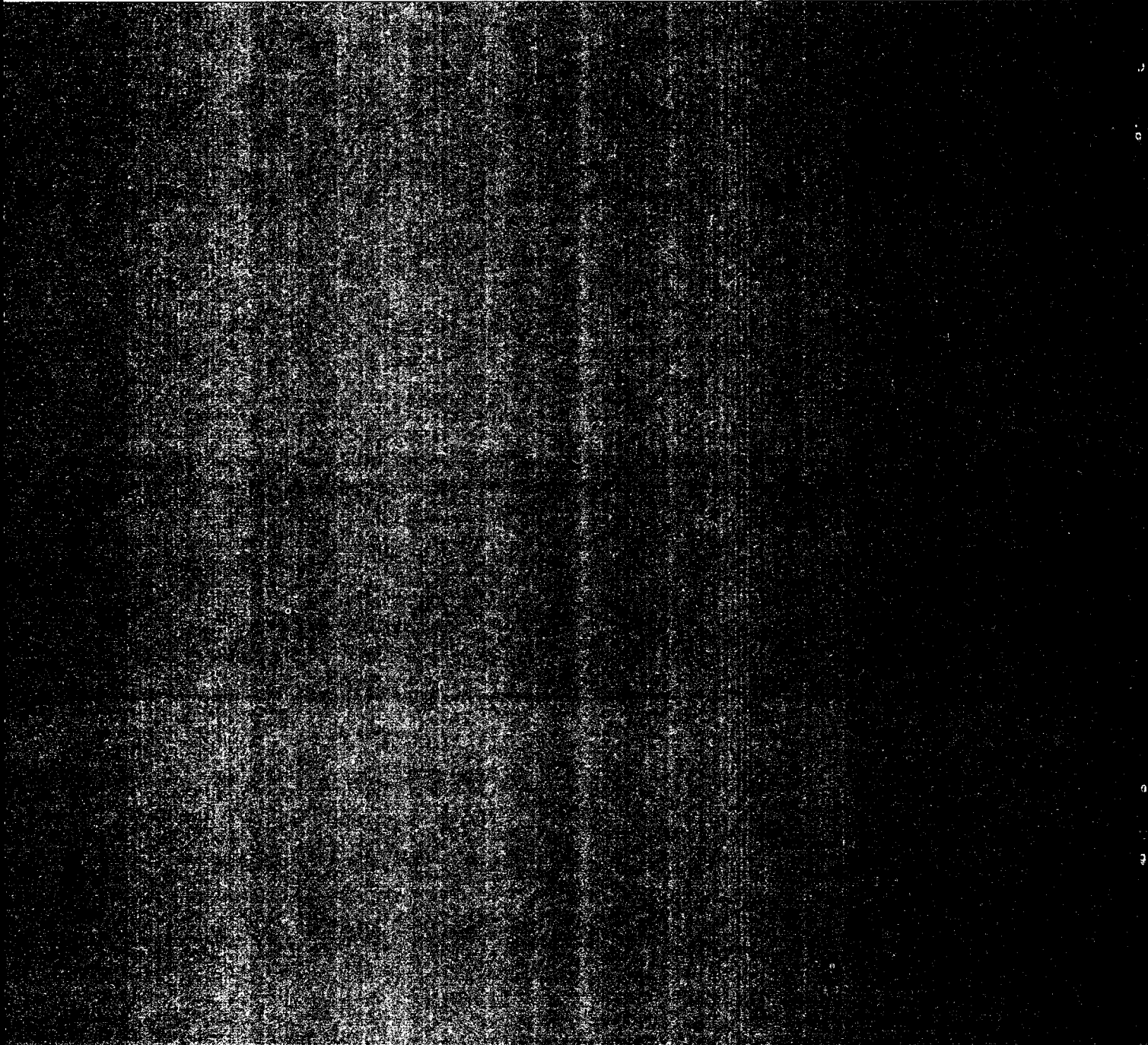
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