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Hanoi Airlifts Vital Supplies

Possible US Opposition Worries Chilean Military

The Chilean military regime's growing sense of its international isolation has been fed most recently by a feeling that the US is joining the opposition to the regime.

The climate of frustration and disillusionment within the officer corps does not portend a radical shift in relations with the US, but it doubtless adds to the government's sense of insecurity.

Anti-US sentiment is beginning to be a factor among middle and junior officers. Senior officers expect this sentiment to get stronger if, as expected, US military training and assistance is cut off. For the most part, the Chilean military is a conservative institution, and it can be expected to compensate for this loss by strengthening its ties with other conservative military es-

tablishments in South America, like the Brazilian. Chile will have trouble in lining up new suppliers of arms and training.

The criticism visited on Chile by the outside world may be reinforcing President Pinochet's harsh approach to sensitive domestic and international problems. Government apprehension over reports that leftists intended to turn an annual religious observance into an anti-government demonstration caused the President to restrict the ceremony.

This in turn provoked church leaders into canceling the event altogether. Some top army officials question the wisdom of Pinochet's decision. Relations between the government and church are not likely to be severed, that would not be in the interest of either party.

Pinochet has shown signs of taking a hard line in granting safe conduct to leftists who have recently sought refuge in embassies in Santiago. Pinochet insists that the asylees are "common criminals" and do not fall under normal provisions for political asylum. This issue will probably embitter relations with some foreign governments and provoke new charges abroad that the junta is violating international usage.

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