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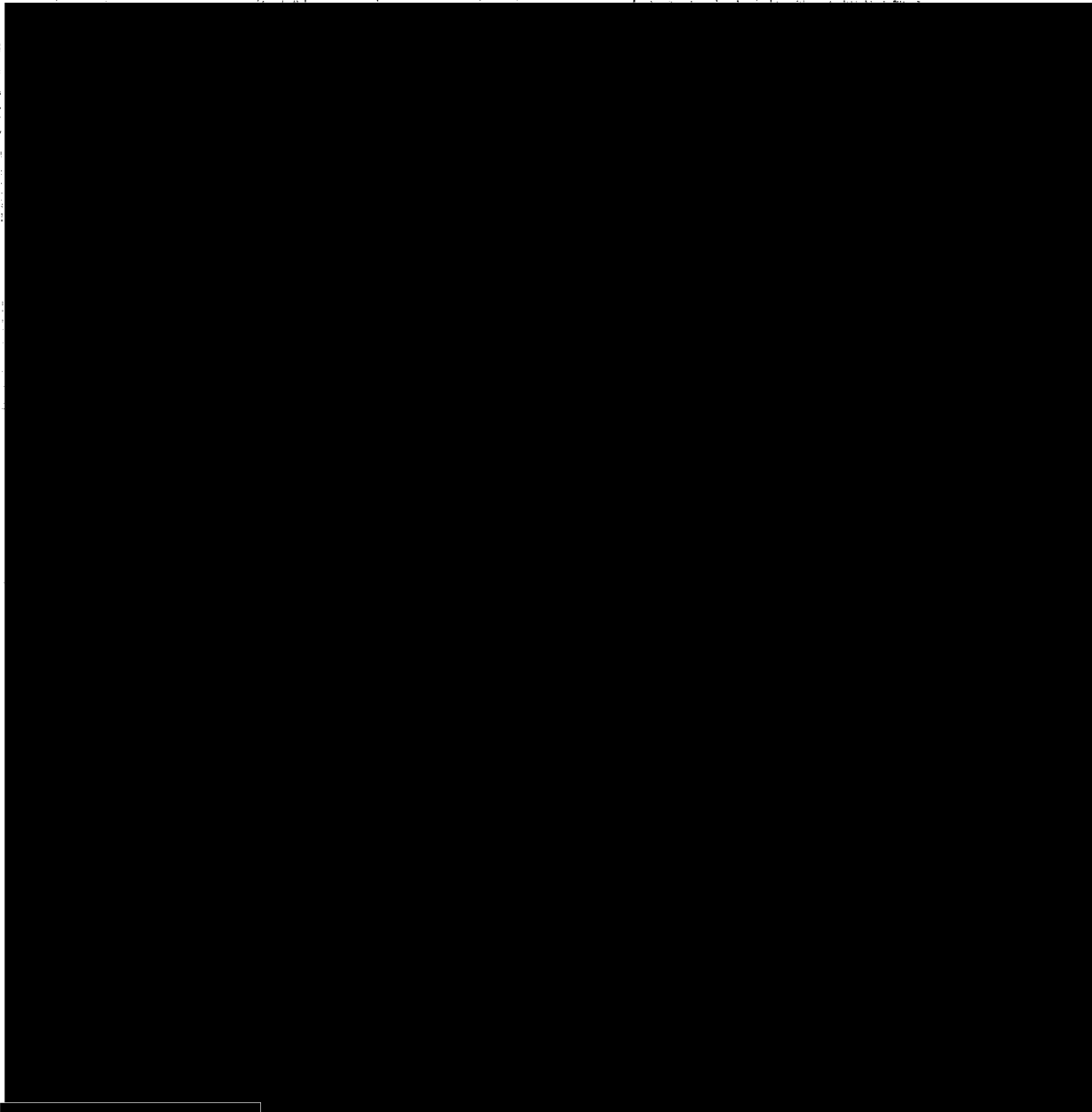
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Chilean Generals Aware of Link Between Rights, Foreign Image

Chile's military leaders have apparently come to recognize that they must make concessions on human rights issues at home if they are to improve their government's reputation abroad. Rejection by the US Congress of Chilean requests for military aid and equipment sales helped drive the point home.

In recent weeks, the Chilean government has:

- Released two imprisoned cabinet ministers and three lesser lights of the Allende regime and deported them to Romania.
- Reduced sentences imposed on some 30 Allende followers shortly after the coup in September 1973.
- Included the sister of the late president Allende on a list of 200 prisoners it has offered to fly to exile in Mexico.

- Tried to find a country willing to accept another group of 100 prisoners who will be released if they can be sent abroad.

Hard-line military and civilian opposition to an easing of internal security measures seems to be weakening, and additional concessions may be in the offing. The state of seige may be relaxed to permit civil courts to review the decisions of military tribunals.

In one area, however, the government is taking a tougher line. International agencies and commissions no longer will have almost automatic permission to enter the country and report on the Chilean domestic scene. Any organization seeking such permission will henceforth have to show that it has received permission to undertake similar missions in the USSR and Cuba.

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