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PINOCHET HAD SAID THAT THE RELEASE PROGRAM MIGHT BE EXTENDED IN CERTAIN CASES TO PEOPLE ALREADY SENTENCED, BUT BENAVIDES CAREFULLY LIMITED THE RELEASE TO DETAINEES AGAINST WHOM NO CHARGES HAD YET BEEN BROUGHT. BENAVIDES WOULD THUS APPEAR TO EXCLUDE AN ESTIMATED 4,000 ALREADY TRIED AND SENTENCED, OR CHARGED AND AWAITING TRIAL. THIS LARGE GROUP APPARENTLY WILL NOT BENEFIT FROM THE INITIAL STAGE OF THE RELEASE PROGRAM, BUT MANY MAY EVENTUALLY BE FREED, PERHAPS IN CONJUNCTION WITH A PROGRAM OF PARDONS AND A LIMITED AMNESTY.

EARLY THIS MONTH, THE GOVERNMENT PROMISED THAT ALL PERSONS THEN UNDER DETENTION WOULD BE FREED OR CHARGED BY EARLY NOVEMBER.

IN ANNOUNCING THE RELEASE PROGRAM, PINOCHET IMPLIED THAT ONLY PERSONS WHO AGREED TO LEAVE CHILE WOULD BE FREED. IT APPEARS, HOWEVER, THAT MOST OF THOSE NOW BEING RELEASED ARE, IN FACT, BEING ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN THE COUNTRY. ALLENDE REGIME OFFICIALS WILL PROBABLY BE EXCEPTIONS. ORLANDO LETELIER, FORMER AMBASSADOR TO THE US HAS ALREADY BEEN RELEASED AND EXPELLED.

WHEN THE GOVERNMENT BEGINS RELEASING PERSONS ALREADY CONVICTED OR CHARGED WITH "SERIOUS OFFENSES, IT IS LIKELY TO REQUIRE MANY TO

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