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CHILE: The government this week issued a regulation banning specific activities by the moderate and conservative political parties that it declared in "recess" after the junta took power. The leftist parties were outlawed at that time, and their status has not been changed.

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The new regulation, carrying on the regime's effort to "depoliticize" the nation completely, defines the "recess" as a "situation of inactivity that affects all attempts to achieve the goals of a party, without actually ending its existence." This restricts even the Christian Democrats who have cooperated with the government.

The parties have survived three months under the original "recess" decree, but if the long list of activities specifically prohibited by the new regulation is strictly enforced for an extended period of time, they will suffer severely. The long-range effect of the regulation will depend on what strategies the parties can devise to circumvent it so as to ensure their survival, and on the length and strength of the junta's commitment to strict enforcement.

The junta's broad disdain for politics and politicians apparently continues to outweigh entreaties by the Christian Democrats that only the Communists and other leftists skilled in the art of clandestine activity stand to gain from a strict political moratorium. [REDACTED]

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