



Weekly Review

Top Secret

14 December 1973

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CHILE: ON GUARD

The junta appears to have the security situation well in hand, but it is concerned over the possibility that its opponents will attempt to refocus international attention on Chile with head-line-making activity during the Christmas holidays.

Extremists still are far from ready to launch a concerted terrorist campaign, but probably could carry out a few spectacular operations. Strict security measures remain in effect nationwide, and the regime has been trying to counter rumors of a "black Christmas" with assurances that the armed forces "will guarantee tranquility and see to it that every child has a toy." As part of its general strategy, the junta reportedly has decided that it will not negotiate with kidnapers and that three prominent leftist prisoners will be executed if a kidnap victim is killed.

The junta apparently has also decided to end the exodus of dissidents. Safe-conduct passes out of the country will not be granted to persons seeking asylum in European embassies after 11 December. Asylum can still be secured at Latin American embassies, but these remain closely watched and several people have recently been caught trying to scale the walls. The regime has struck back at its disaffected diplomats and other opponents outside the country by withdrawing their citizenship.

The current wage-price squeeze, putting the traditional holiday amenities out of the reach of many, may cause heightened resentment against the regime and its economic policies. This dissatisfaction could have more serious consequences than the threat of leftist violence.

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