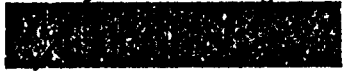




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CHILE: The junta has rebuffed attempts by some Christian Democrats to influence the military to modify some of its political actions and policies. In addition to this possible alienation of potential supporters, the military's high-handed tactics may give other supporters pause.

The military does not appear totally inflexible on its policies, but its apparent intolerance and repressiveness could cause further problems internally and subject it to increased international criticism. While the military junta is concerned with its international image, and is making efforts to improve it, it has committed excesses that conjure up unfortunate historical comparisons.

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The banning of all Marxist parties and yesterday's decree "recessing" the remaining political organizations as a means of promoting "national unity" demonstrate the government's determination to keep the left from regaining power. The junta's tight hold on the country could ease as it secures its position further, but if the left regroupes and is able to launch an urban or rural insurgency, even stronger measures are possible.

The Christian Democrats will be disheartened by the turn of events. Neither a split in the party nor a break between it and the regime seems likely now, but at the same time the junta cannot afford to take the party's continued support for granted.

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