



# The National Intelligence Daily

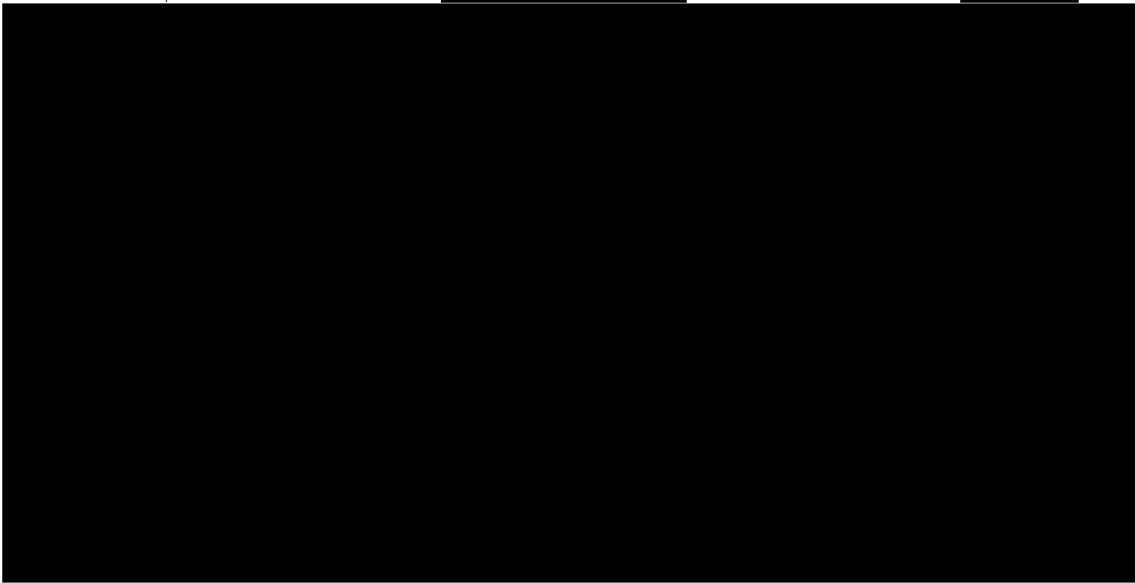
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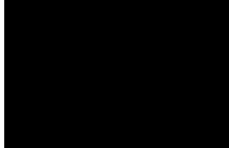


## Chile: Friction Between Church and State

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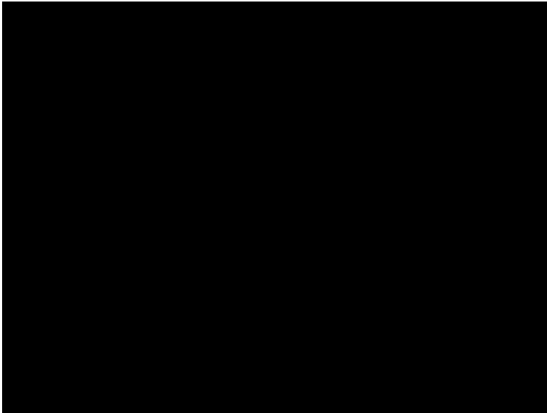
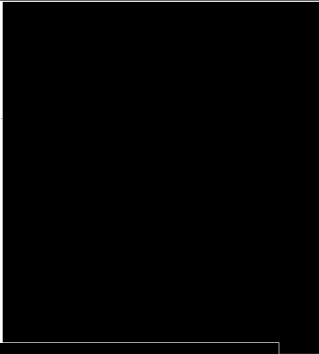


Cardinal Silva



Chilean President Pinochet, reacting in an uncharacteristically conciliatory manner, has backed off for the moment from some of the heavy-handed policies that recently incited bitter condemnation from the Catholic Church, the Christian Democratic Party, labor leaders, the press, and leading intellectuals. Pinochet is probably concerned that he had overstepped himself by enacting a series of harsh measures advocated by a close circle of extreme rightist advisers. To avert a confrontation with the

Catholic Church and embarrassment abroad, Pinochet abruptly ousted Justice Minister Damilano on April 20. The minister, a brusque lawyer and a crony of Pinochet with a penchant for stepping on toes, was in office for just over a month. He aroused the ire of the Catholic Church's hierarchy by publicly attacking a group of bishops for their strong censure of social and political conditions in Chile. Damilano's statements appeared in print at a time when Pinochet had been cautiously seeking to avoid friction with the church. In a letter to the offended bishops, the President clearly disavowed the views of the outspoken minister. (See Chile...Page 4)



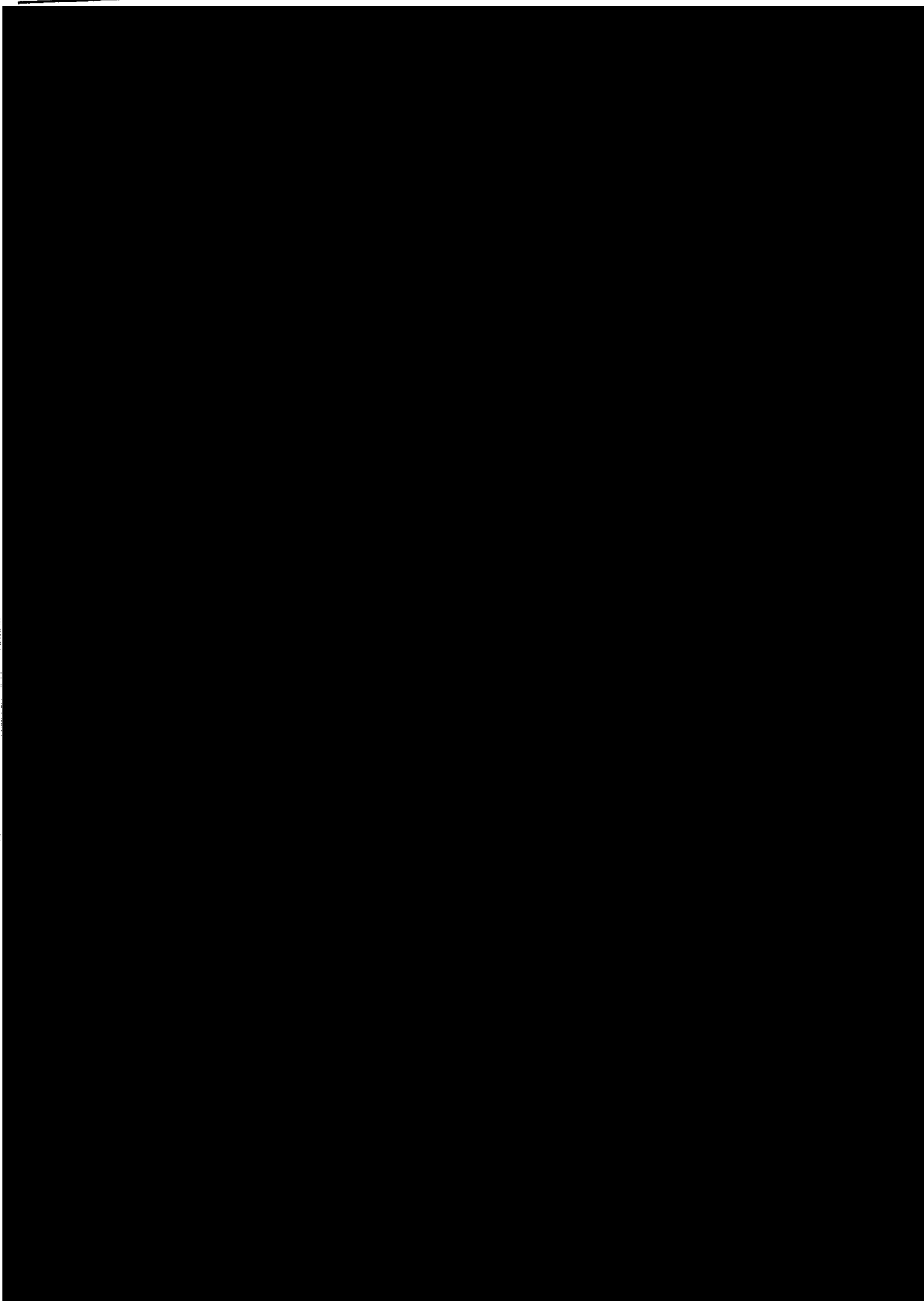
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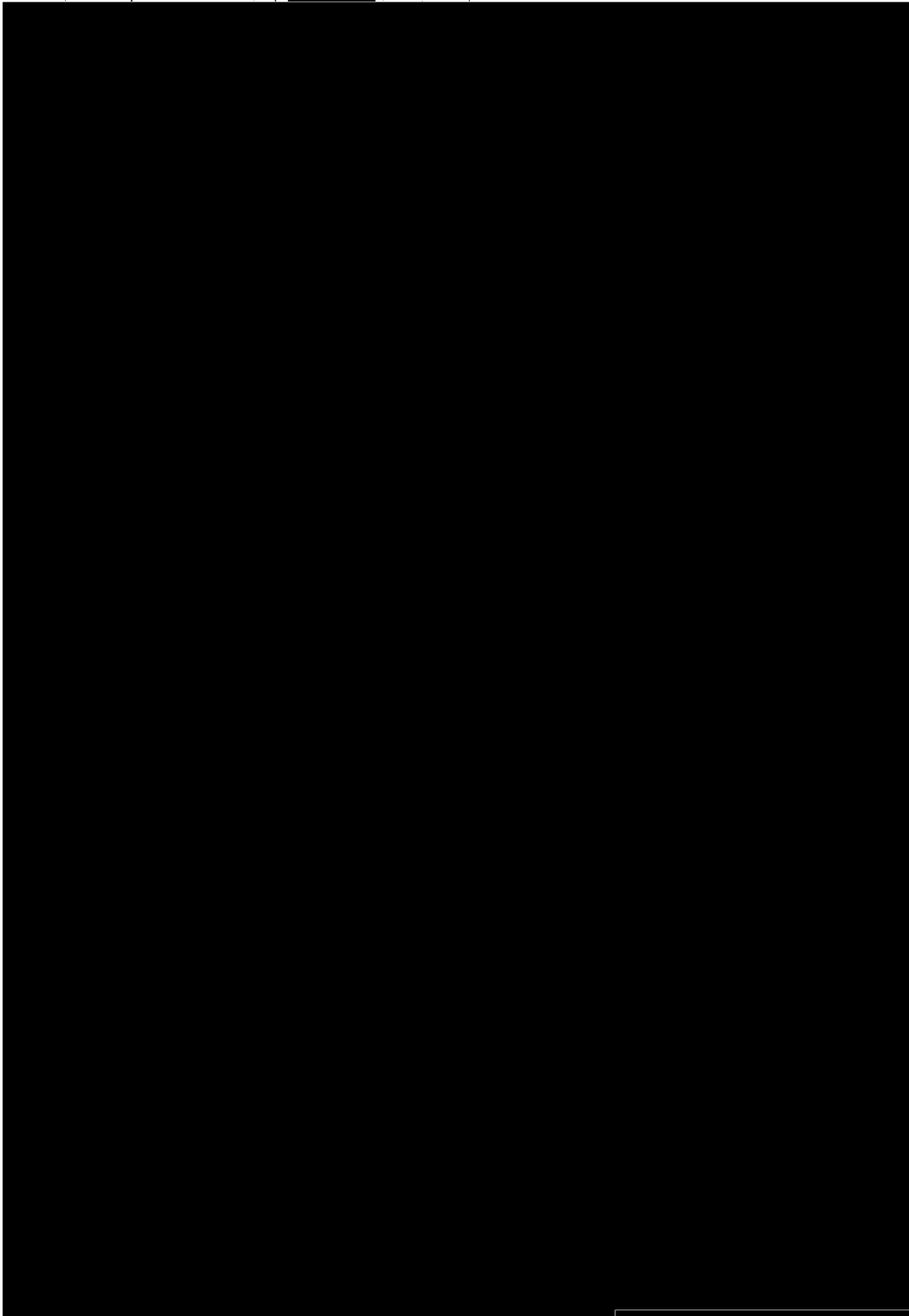


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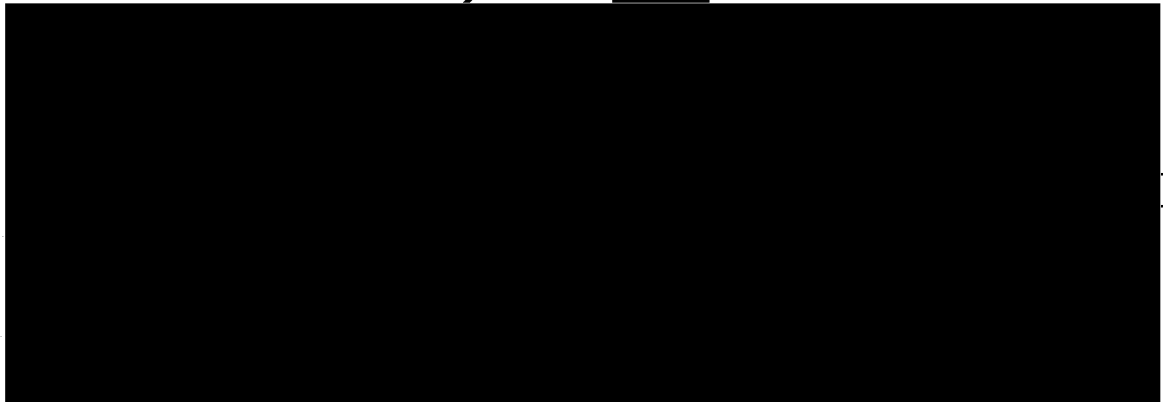
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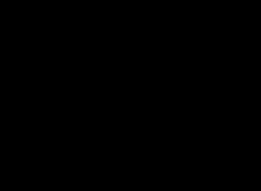


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### Chile. . .

*From Page 1*

Although leaders of the junta and church have gone to some lengths to keep their dispute from leading to a sharp break, the church seems likely to assume a more belligerent attitude in the future. So far, the most striking evidence of increasing stridency has been an attack by the church on the junta for dissolving Chile's remaining democratic political parties last month. The Catholic Church is virtually the only stronghold of criticism that has not been silenced by the government.



May Day observances planned by the church and Christian Democratic labor leaders could provide a platform for the expression of antigovernment views. The religious and labor leaders will probably be careful, however, to refrain from any action that might provoke a showdown.

