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Weekly Summary

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on such issues as human rights and the economic plight of the poor in Chile. One result may be to encourage other critics of the military government, such as Christian Democratic followers of former president Frei, to step up their attacks.

The church has blamed the government for the hostile demonstrations that greeted three prominent Chilean bishops when they returned home from a recent conference in Ecuador. President Pinochet denied allegations that security agents orchestrated the anticlerical violence, but [redacted] confirm government involvement. The church reacted by excommunicating security personnel accused of roughing up the bishops.

Later, the church issued a sharp attack on the government for the summary expulsion of two prominent civil rights attorneys on August 6. It censured the government for practices that create a "moral problem" on which the church cannot remain silent. It charged that the junta's refusal to define the grounds for the lawyers' expulsion was "unacceptable and closes the road to all reconciliation."

The incidents will give Chilean and foreign critics of the government new ammunition at a time when fresh reports are circulating of illegal detentions and unexplained disappearances of persons in

Chile. The UN Human Rights Commission will probably find new justification for pressing its mandate to investigate the Chilean situation.

President Pinochet has reacted by personally denying that relations with the church have been impaired. He arranged a meeting with the Chilean cardinal and other bishops, and [redacted] it took place in "a climate of frankness and cordiality." Despite these disclaimers, the government has banned any radio or television reporting on the recent incidents. [redacted]

CHILE

Church-state relations in Chile have become more strained. An open split will probably be averted, but the Catholic hierarchy is likely to be more outspoken