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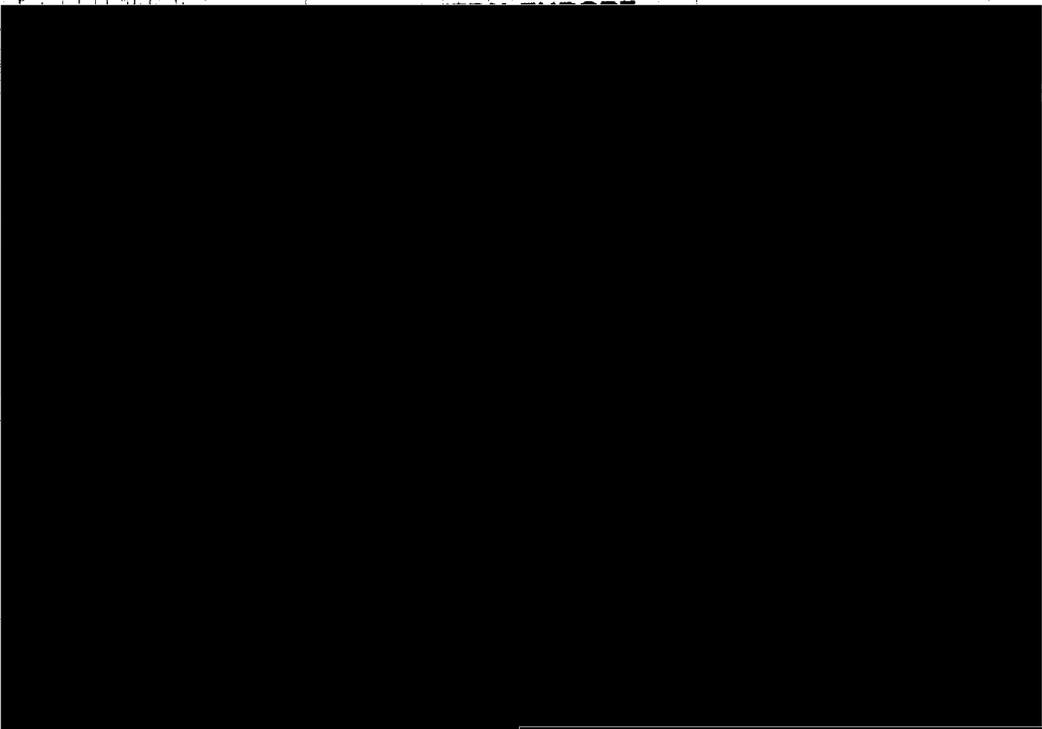
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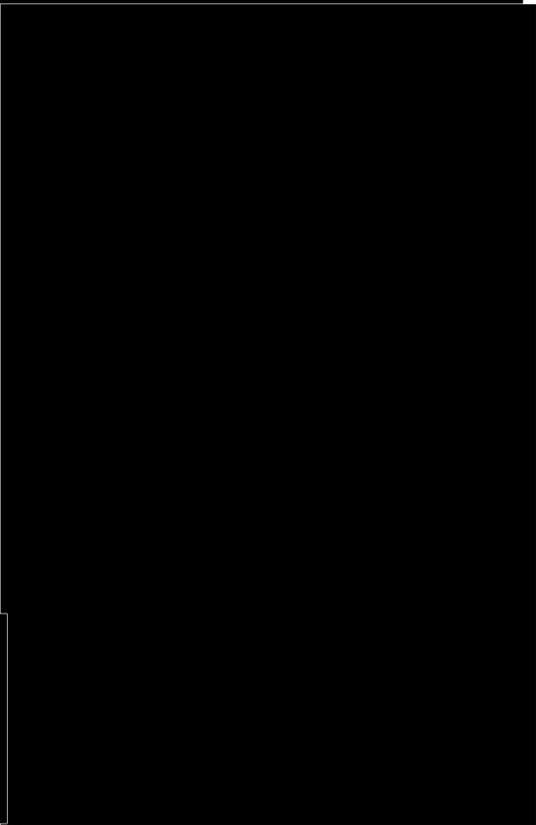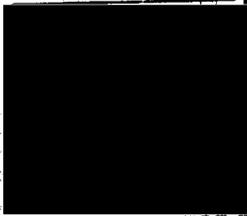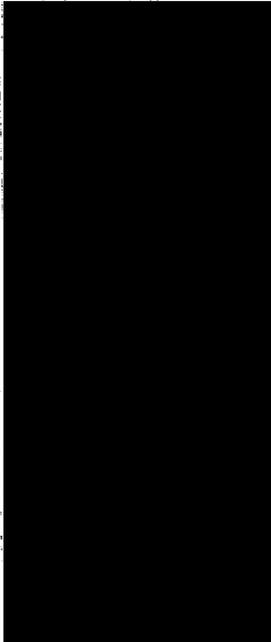## Chilean President Considering Dissolution of Political Parties

████████████ Chilean President Pinochet is being pressed by his advisers to dissolve all political parties. The obvious target of such a move is the Christian Democratic Party, the major source of opposition to continued rule by the military.

The government and the Christian Democrats have approached the brink before, but both sides have shied away from an open fight. Pinochet may now believe that the party's criticisms of the government warrant its dissolution. Friction increased when two high-ranking party leaders were exiled a year ago, and relations worsened recently when former president Eduardo Frei, the Christian Democratic leader, publicly criticized the government's economic policies.

Presidential advisers who bitterly oppose the Christian Democrats ████ have been instrumental in persuading Pinochet to suppress Chile's remaining political parties, which were declared "in recess" after the September 1973 coup. We have had indications over the past month that the government was considering some sort of added restrictions on the parties, possibly including the expulsion from Chile of prominent party leaders.

Christian Democratic leaders are aware of the government's views and have instructed their followers to avoid political actions that might provide an excuse for the government's proscribing the party.

Pinochet will probably delay taking action against the parties in view of the unfavorable international publicity that resulted from his cancellation of the visit of a UN fact-finding mission. ████

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