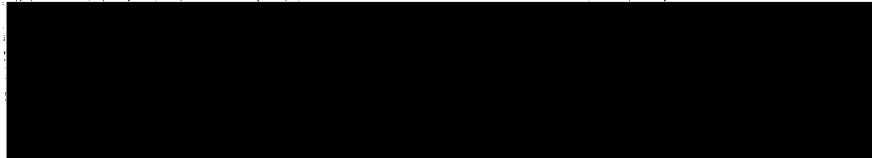


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ORIGINAL AND YELLOW COPY TO CABLE SECRETARIAT REMOVE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS
 SET MARGIN FOR 68 CHARACTERS TO A LINE, INCLUDING SPACES DO NOT EXCEED THIS LIMITATION
 M. STATES ARE CONSIDERED ROUTINE UNLESS A HIGHER PRECEDENCE IS INDICATED IN THE ADDRESSEE LINE.

← ALIGN FIRST LETTER IN THIS BOX. TYPE THE WORD "ALIGN" TO REGISTER HERE →

OUTGOING MESSAGE

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AGI: [REDACTED] TPE: MNC: DCI: PAGE 2 OF PAGES

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET NOFORN~~
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LATIN AMERICA BRIEF 77-066, 24 APRIL 1977-Y

CHILE: //CARDINAL SILVA, PRIMATE OF CHILE, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

THE CLERGY'S GROWING
 MILITANCE MAY BE CAUSING THE GOVERNMENT TO HESITATE ABOUT TAKING ANY
 ADDITIONAL REPRESSIVE STEPS THAT MIGHT FURTHER ANTAGONIZE ITS
 CRITICS. / [REDACTED]

//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. / [REDACTED]

//TO AVERT A CONFRONTATION WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND
 EMBARRASSMENT ABOARD, PINOCHET ABRUPTLY OUSTED JUSTICE MINISTER
 DALLANO ON APRIL 20. THE MINISTER, A BRUSQUE LAWYER AND A CRONY OF
 PINOCHET WITH A PENCHANT FOR STEPPING ON TOES, WAS IN OFFICE FOR

ORIG:
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2. MESSAGES ARE CONSIDERED ROUTINE UNLESS A HIGHER PRECEDENCE IS INDICATED IN THE ADDRESSEE LINE.

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

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CLASSIFICATION

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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. / [REDACTED]

//DANTLANO'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. / [REDACTED]

//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. / [REDACTED]

//SILVA [REDACTED]

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

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[REDACTED] EXCOMMUNICATION OF THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA HAS NOT BEEN RULED OUT AS A LAST RESORT. [REDACTED]

//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. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ISSUING OFFICER
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ORIGINATING OFFICE

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