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CHILE: Increase in Terrorism

An increase in terrorist activity by both the right and the left threatens to erode the regime's public support and has prompted moderate and hardline military officers to put more pressure on President Pinochet. [REDACTED]

The assassination last month of the director of the Army intelligence school and the kidnaping and murder this week of a university student are the most serious of recent terrorist acts. The Cuban-backed Movement of the Revolutionary Left is responsible for some incidents, and rightwing extremists--possibly associated with government security forces--have carried out others. Pinochet has publicly acknowledged that rightists may be involved and has promised to punish those responsible, whatever their ideology. [REDACTED]

The regime's claim to legitimacy rests on its success in ending the chaos of the Allende administration it overthrew in 1973. Restoring the confidence of both the public and the security forces without engaging in excessive repression will be a difficult task. Some church officials have already protested police crackdowns, and press speculation about official involvement in some of the incidents could foster antiregime feeling. [REDACTED]

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