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CHILE: Prospects for Dialogue Fading

Prospects for a renewal of talks between Interior Minister Jarpa and the Democratic Alliance are diminishing because of the government's increasingly tough line and the declining ability of the opposition to mobilize protestors. [REDACTED]

The government has decreed imprisonment and exile for protest organizers and removed names from already published lists of exiles permitted to return. [REDACTED]

The opposition believes its ability to mount effective challenges has slipped rapidly, and leaders are scrambling to devise tactics that will restore momentum. The increasing frequency of the protests is also eliminating the lulls that had facilitated talks. [REDACTED]

Comment: The declining prospects for dialogue also may be straining Jarpa's relations with President Pinochet. There have been confrontations between them over economic and political policies, and Jarpa is now apparently concentrating on developing his own base of political support. [REDACTED]

This increased polarization, the lack of an effective channel for dialogue, and growing frustration of the opposition, if coupled with a harsh government crackdown on leaders of the national strike set for next month, could provoke widespread violence. [REDACTED]

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