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CHILE: Mounting Opposition to Government Crackdown

Catholic Archbishop Fresno yesterday released a pastoral letter strongly condemning the state of siege and urging participation in the church-sponsored national day of prayer on 23 November. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] he is increasingly disenchanted with Minister of Interior Jarpa, who has criticized church officials.

Meanwhile, opposition Christian Democratic leaders visited a slum recently raided by government troops to encourage support for antiregime demonstrations on 27 and 28 November. The terrorist arm of the Chilean Communist Party reportedly is preparing to step up activities by distributing homemade grenades in Santiago. [REDACTED]

Comment: The pastoral letter will further damage the church's relations with the Pinochet regime, as will the growing distance between the Archbishop and Jarpa—the government's leading moderate. The government so far has acted primarily against suspected leftist agitators, but the Christian Democrats risk provoking Pinochet if they too obviously organize antiregime protests. An increase in terrorist violence would cause the government to prolong the state of siege. [REDACTED]

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