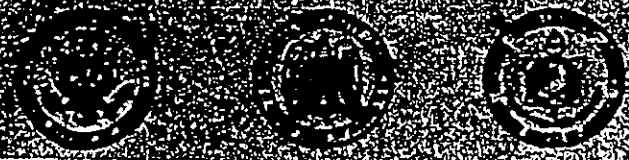
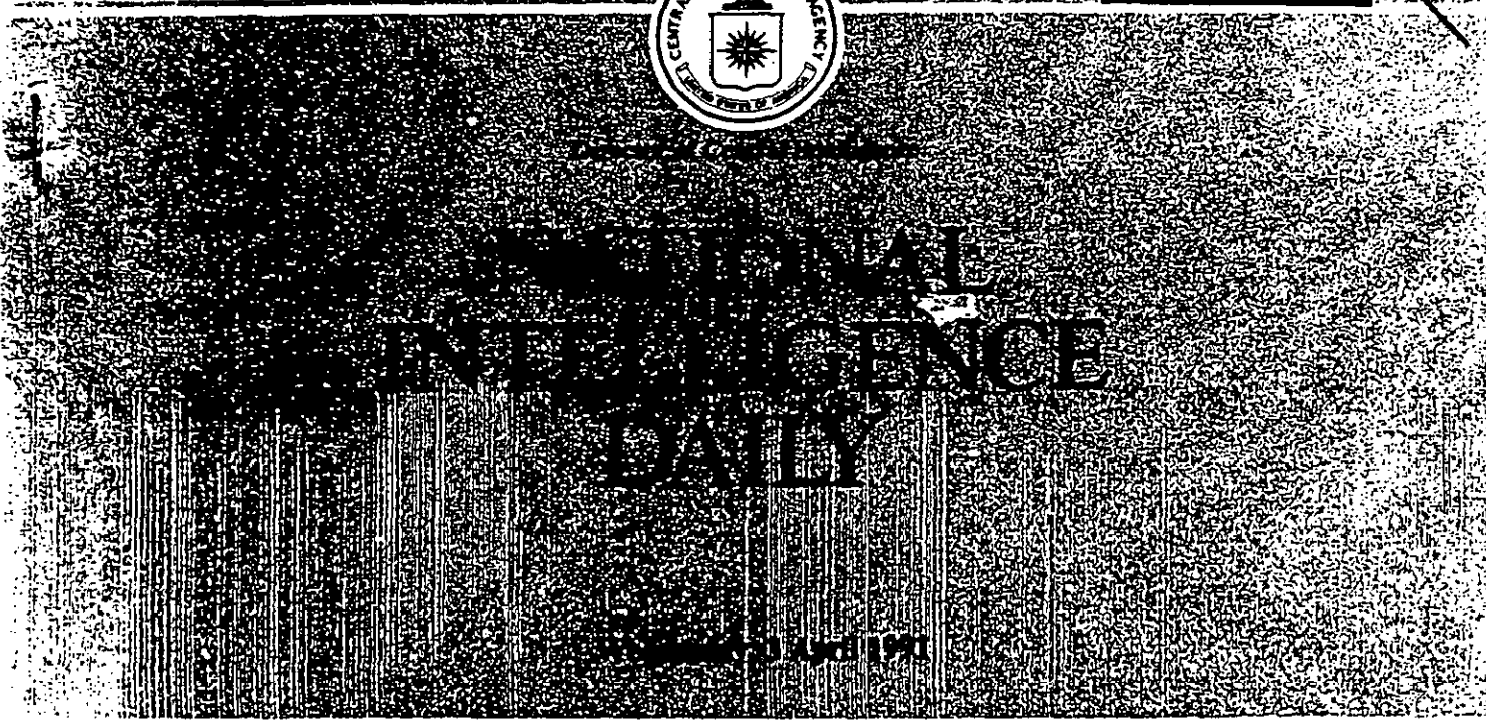
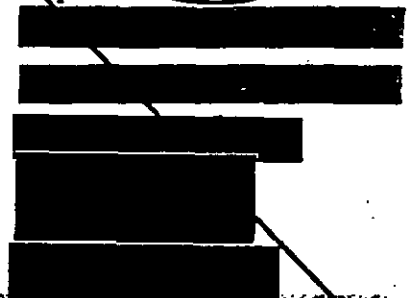


1019

Top Secret *M*



Declassified and  
Approved for Release  
July 2000



Top Secret



3 April 1991

258

DS  
24  
30



**CHILE:**

**Assassination Fueling Political Tension**

*The assassination on Monday by leftist terrorists of a prominent conservative ally of Army Commander Pinochet will fuel concerns on the right about President Aylwin's counterterrorism policy and exacerbate political tension over the government's human rights strategy.*

The Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front has claimed credit for assassinating Senator Jaime Guzman, founder of a major far-right party. The Chilean press has linked the killing to a recent government-commissioned report that details human rights abuses by security forces under the Pinochet regime but does not charge individual perpetrators. The Aylwin administration has requested the appointment of a special judge to investigate the murder and has announced plans for an antiterrorist coordinating group of representatives of the two police forces.

**Comment:** Guzman was the fourth and most prominent victim assassinated by the left since the human rights report was finished. His death is likely to deepen fear of leftist retribution among former high-ranking officials. The military's far-right political allies, on the defensive since the human rights report was released, may try to recoup by criticizing the government's counterterrorism program. Pinochet may seize on public concern about terrorism to criticize the government and play up the law-and-order record of his regime.

Aylwin may also come under renewed pressure on the human rights issue from left-leaning parties in his own coalition. The Socialists, for example, may try to seize on the assassinations as further testimony to the need to try human rights abusers, arguing that Aylwin's moderate strategy has failed to provide justice or encourage reconciliation.

Aylwin's decision to put the police in charge of antiterrorist coordination shows his determination to avoid giving the Army the internal security responsibilities it had under Pinochet's regime, despite the service's superior capabilities. Although the paramilitary national police has had some success in wrapping up terrorist leaders recently, the force is inexperienced in counterterrorism and intelligence gathering on extremist groups. The investigative police is undergoing a purge to rid it of corruption and can offer little support.