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CHILE

THE MILITARY MAY ATTEMPT A COUP AGAINST THE ALLENDE GOVERNMENT ON 10 SEPTEMBER. MEANWHILE, OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE CALLING FOR ALLENDE'S RESIGNATION AND THE IMPEACHMENT OF HIS CABINET.

The three services have reportedly agreed to move against the government on 10 September, and civilian terrorist and right-wing groups will allegedly support the effort with a campaign to block roads and disrupt possible government resistance. The military's final decision may have resulted from President Allende's refusal to accept the resignation of Navy Commander Adm Raul Montero, even after Vice Adm Jose Merino presented him with an ultimatum during a meeting on the 7th. There are indications that some armed forces units wanted to move as early as the 8th but were dissuaded by higher-ranking officers who stressed the need for a coordinated effort, which they said could not possibly be put together until 10 September.

The coup appears to have the support of all the service commanders, a situation that Allende had been able to avoid over the past year. The President is reportedly aware that resistance by his supporters is futile and that any effort to oppose the military could result in heavy casualties. The National Police, who also feel that a coup is imminent, have reportedly been in contact with army plotters and have agreed not to resist the military if a coup is attempted.

Should no coup develop, however, Allende is still faced with further political troubles. In the wake of this week's demonstrations and resulting violence, the political opposition has hardened its stance against the Allende government. Moderate

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Christian Democrats have solidified their charges against the Cabinet and are proceeding with impeachment action despite the President's declaration that such an act is illegal. They have also thrown full support behind a nationwide strike and are encouraging workers already on strike to continue. The rightist National Party has gone one step further and is demanding Allende's resignation for incompetence.

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