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## **Chile: Christian Democrats Choose Aylwin As Presidential Candidate**

*by John Neagle*

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On Feb. 5, Chile's Christian Democrat Party elected party leader Patricio Aylwin as their candidate for the Dec. 14 presidential election. The 70-year-old former Senator was expected to receive support from 17 moderate opposition parties. Aylwin was a major force in the opposition's success last October in mobilizing voters in a plebiscite to prevent an extension of the presidency of dictator General August Pinochet. Aylwin's nomination was secured by a unanimous vote at 3 a.m. by the 286-delegate convention in the town of Talagante, 20 miles southwest of Santiago. Party officials said the vote was unanimous after at least two other contenders withdrew from the race. Aylwin has said one of the future government's priority tasks is the prosecution of those responsible for the massive human rights violations that occurred under the military regime. The other 16 opposition parties are scheduled to meet in late February to vote on a single candidate. (Basic data from AP, Notimex, DPA, 02/05/89; AFP, 02/06/89)

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