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## **Chilean President On Transfer Of Power, Plans To Continue As Army Commander In Chief**

*by John Neagle*

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In an interview published June 1 by weekly Que Pasa, Chilean President Augusto Pinochet said he was willing to turn over his position to opposition leader Patricio Aylwin if he wins the December 14 elections. Next, he said he would not resign as commander-in-chief of the army, even if the next president asked him to do so. Aylwin, head of the Christian Democrat Party, leads the list of likely opposition presidential candidates. In October Pinochet lost a plebiscite bid to remain in office until 1997. He seeks to remain as head of the army during the same period. Chilean opposition politicians perceive Pinochet's plans in this regard as a repetition of the "Panama syndrome," or Panamanian Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega's de facto hold on power behind the facade of a civilian president. (Basic data from AFP, 06/01/89)

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