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Chile: On Recent Violent Incidents

by John Neagle
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On July 21, suspected leftist guerrillas shot and killed two police officers guarding a bank in Santiago. Police said about 10 men armed with submachine guns fled after taking the weapons the policemen were carrying. According to the government news agency, Orbe, the Lautaro Popular Rebel Forces, a small leftist guerrilla group, claimed responsibility for the incident. The same group claimed responsibility for killing two other police officers earlier in July in Santiago. Later, the previously unknown Che Guevara Movement and the Lautaro group announced in simultaneous statements that the attack was in reprisal for the July 17 shooting death of a young man involved in a violently repressed squatters' takeover of buildings that were under construction. In statements to reporters on July 22, opposition presidential candidate Patricio Aylwin offered his condolences for the deaths of the two paramilitary policemen. "This disgrace creates an absolutely unacceptable climate of violence," he said. (Basic data from AP, 07/21/89; AFP, 07/23/89)

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