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On Aug. 10, the Permanent Episcopal Conference (Chile's Roman Catholic bishops) urged Chileans to elect a president capable of encouraging national reconciliation while simultaneously investigating human rights abuses under Gen. Augusto Pinochet's regime. The communique was signed by Msgr. Carlos Gonzalez, who heads the Conference. The opposition has proposed reopening human rights investigations which were closed after a 1978 amnesty was decreed for members of the security forces accused of abuses. The Chilean Commission on Human Rights has called on Pinochet to account for detainees who disappeared while in police custody and to answer to allegations that security forces executed, tortured or committed other rights abuses against government opponents. (Basic data from AFP, 08/10/89)

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