8-15-1989

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Chile: Four Presidential Candidates To Run In Dec. 14 Elections, Summary Of Related Events & Statements

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Category/Department: General
Published: Tuesday, August 15, 1989

On Aug. 11 at midnight, registration was closed for presidential and Chamber of Deputy candidates to run in the Dec. 14 elections. Presidential candidates registered are lawyer Patricio Aylwin, leader of the Christian Democratic party, and the 17-party opposition coalition, Rally for Democracy; Hernan Buchi, a former finance minister under President Augusto Pinochet; businessperson Francisco Javier Errazuriz; and, Dr. Fernando Monckeberg, a well-known child nutrition expert. The deadline for registration of candidates running for the 38 elected seats in the Senate is Sept. 7. Sergio Onofre Jarpa, president of the rightist National Renovation Party, pulled out of the race shortly before the registry closed, announcing that he would support Buchi. At 8 p.m. on Friday, two major parties described as center-right National Renovation and the Independent Democratic Union formalized an electoral pact called "Democracy and Progress." Both parties will support Buchi. Next, 120 candidates for deputy seats from 60 electoral districts will be supported by this pact. Also on Friday, Pinochet's 20-member cabinet resigned as three ministers plan to run for seats in the Chamber of Deputies or the Senate. The new cabinet will hold office until March 11, 1990. A survey released Aug. 10 by the Center for the Study of Contemporary Reality said 53.8% of respondents said they would vote for Aylwin, while 28.3% said they intended to vote for Buchi. On Aug. 12, Electoral Registry officials said more than 500 candidates would run for the 120 seats in the Chamber of Deputies. Last week Interior Minister Carlos Caceres announced that the government had decided to maintain a prohibition against the candidacies of six men who have been selected by respective parties to run for deputy or senate seats. On Aug. 14, Hernan del Canto, head of the Partido Socialista-Almeyda, said that several leaders of the Rally for Democracy coalition had signed a petition calling on the government to rescind a ban that would prevent Clodomiro Almeyda from running as the party's candidate for a senate seat. The petition, he said, will be delivered to the Constitutional Tribunal on Aug. 16. Del Canto asserted that the Tribunal should also authorize the senate candidacy of Socialist German Correa. According to the Interior Ministry, in a letter to the Army high command Correa made statements that were harmful to the Army and therefore in violation of state security. The remaining four affected by the government's prohibition who attempted to register for candidacy in the race for Chamber of Deputies seats are Felipe Sandoval, Christian Democrat Party; Oscar Guillermo Garreton, Party for Democracy (Partido por la Democracia); and, Jose Sanfuentes and Jose Santos Millao, Communist Party. (Basic data from AFP, 08/11/89; AFP, Xinhua, 08/12/89; New York Times, 08/13/89; Notimex, 08/14/89)

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