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John Neagle

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Chile: Opposition Candidate Increases Lead In Presidential Preference Poll

by John Neagle

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According to a presidential preference poll released Dec. 1 in Santiago, 56.4% of respondents said they plan to vote for opposition candidate Patricio Aylwin. A Christian Democrat, Aylwin's candidacy is being fielded by an alliance of over 20 parties known as the Rally for Democracy. The survey was carried out between Nov. 17 and Nov. 27 by the Study Center of Contemporary Reality (CERC), a group linked to the Roman Catholic Church. In second place with 21.2% was pro-government candidate Hernan Buchi, a former finance minister under President Augusto Pinochet. Businessperson Francisco Javier Errazuriz polled 12.6%. In October another CERC poll indicated that Aylwin had the support of 53.8% of respondents, compared to Buchi at 25.1%, and Errazuria, 11%. (Basic data from AFP, 12/01/89)

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