

Technical Preparatory Meeting for the
8th Annual First Ladies' Conference
June 22-26, 1998

Ms. Nicole Rabner

ON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

DRAFT TARGET DEADLINES**UNITED STATES-CHILE DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Timeline</u>
MOU establishing Scholarship Program	4/16/98
Deadline for Submitting Training Proposals	8/31/98
Deadline for making recommendations to the AA/LAC	9/15/98
Meeting with GOC officials	9/15/98 to 10/30/98 (Possibly during the First Ladies visit)
Training Programs Begin	1/15/99

u:\euribe\docs\mou.tim



property
Education.

U.S. AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
RONALD REAGAN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20523-5900**

OFFICE OF REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FAX MESSAGE

DATE:

June 17, 1998

TO:

Nicole Labnar, Office of the First Lady

FAX#:

202-456-2878

TEL#:

OF PGS.

4
(INCLUDING COVER SHEET)

FROM:

Madeline Williams, INCLAS/DHR

TEL#:

202-712-5634

FAX#:

202-216-3262 - (5.09 - 062U)

202-216-3403 - (5.09 - 091U)

REMARKS:

As requested.

DRAFT**U.S. CHILE PARTNERSHIP TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL COOPERATION**

The United States and Chile will sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Thursday April 16, 1998 outlining a new partnership for the two countries to work together in carrying out technical cooperation programs linked to Summit initiatives. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Chilean International Cooperation Agency are the primary executing agencies for this agreement.

TALKING POINTS

The joints efforts of USAID and the International Cooperation Agency of Chile will focus on providing technical assistance for the design and implementation of programs related to poverty alleviation, democracy strengthening, education and economic integration. Priority attention will be given to those areas in which both parties can provide leadership to other countries in the region in order to achieve the Summit's objectives.

The agreement includes a "United States-Chile Development Scholarship Program" to strengthen human resource capacities throughout the hemisphere. The U.S. has set aside \$250,000 from its ongoing training programs to cover a portion of the costs for participants attending training programs in Chile. Chile will finance in-country costs associated with the training.

The U.S. Chile Memorandum of Understanding is directly linked to the call for improved hemispheric cooperation related to implementation of Summit initiatives. The USG welcomes the increased collaboration among the region's emerging bilateral development cooperation agencies. Increased collaboration among both bilateral and multilateral cooperation institutions is essential to assisting national governments in their commitments to carry out the Summit recommendations.

The eight countries in the region with international cooperation programs (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, United States, Mexico, Venezuela and Chile) have informally met to discuss increased collaboration on programs and projects in support of the Summit. Chile has offered to host a meeting of these countries later this year to discuss more fully possibilities for increased collaboration among this group of new donors.

*Women
will be
50%
of
recipients*

DRAFT

Potential Announcement for the First Ladies Conference in Chile

A \$40,000 Grant to Corporacion Participa (in Chile) for Follow-up work on the Santiago Summit and Civil Society's Participation

Dialogue

This project contemplates five basic activities:

- 1) Design an initial proposal on how to bring together civil society and governments to cooperate in the formulation of a follow-up strategy;
- 2) Hold meetings between civil society organizations and governmental representatives to discuss a strategy for implementing actions under one or more of the following issues: education, the role of women in the eradication of poverty and discrimination, strengthening civil society and transparency as a means of combating corruption;
- 3) Publish and distribute information relevant to the process of promoting civil society-government dialogue in relation to monitoring the Summit agreements through various Summit-related web pages on the Internet as well as through monthly bulletins sent via electronic mail and/or fax;
- 4) Prepare a final document, including information and an evaluation of the process carried out;
- 5) Publish the final document with the results of these meetings and distribute it to approximately 500 civil society and governmental representatives from around the Western Hemisphere to share the results and information obtained.

The challenge faced in this activity is to encourage dialogue between governments and civil society in the context of implementing strategies to concrete the Plan of Action signed by the Presidents during the Santiago Summit in the previously mentioned issues. In order to encourage this dialogue, we believe that it is important to nurture the relationships already established between civil society and government in the preparatory process to the Summit. A clear and consistent connection must be established between the process of preparation and governmental activities to follow-up on the Summit Plan of Action. We will seek to establish this connection through both direct, personal meetings and contact as well as through the distribution of the report compiling the information and results obtained throughout this process.

DRAFT

Possible Announcement/Signing for First Lady's Conference

\$5.0 million will be committed for a new regional program towards strengthening local government in Latin America and the Caribbean

Background:

This program is a direct response by the U.S. to the commitment made in Santiago, Chile at the Second Presidential Summit of the Americas to "strengthen the capabilities of regional and local governments, when appropriate, and to foster more active participation in civil society."

The twin trends of democratization and decentralization are being felt throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. In 1980, three countries elected mayors. Today, fifteen do. More and more, municipalities are being looked to for leadership in solving local problems. Nevertheless, because of the strong past tradition of centralization, much remains to be done. Local political power, including control over more resources, is only gradually increasing. Municipalities are only slowly discovering the synergies of working collaboratively at the grassroots with their local communities.

The changing political landscape being shaped by decentralization and democracy offers new opportunities and presents challenges to women in the Americas. Driven by high family values, their concern for safe neighborhoods, the education and health of their youth, and local employment opportunities many women are already accustomed to interaction with government -- an interface with the public sector that is too often frustrating and unfruitful. Democratization and decentralization offers the promise of empowerment by bringing this level of interaction closer to the voter, male or female. Consequently, women have increased potential to influence government decision-making in areas of direct relevance to their greatest concerns.

Women also have increased opportunities to become politically active. We are witnessing throughout the Americas women who are entering into political service through participation in their local governments, either as mayors, council members or other elected positions. The beginnings have been modest. Well under ten percent of mayors in Latin America are women. But there are promising indications. Already, women who first served as local officials have become members of Congress or have emerged as candidates or potential candidates to higher levels of public office.

We fully expect that in these ways women will make important contributions to the strengthening of local governments in the Americas.

This regional program, which supplements USAID's bilateral assistance, will work with the national associations of municipalities, their regional support organizations, and the international donor community over the next five years to:

- increase accountability of local governance by introducing and re-enforcing practices and measures for citizen participation in decision-making, greater transparency in the budget process, and better communications with constituents;
- increase and improve the training of municipal officials and employees in these and other critical areas;
- through the Internet, bring about timely sharing between municipalities throughout the Hemisphere of their successes in solving common problems; and
- establish a Donors Consultative Group to improve the effectiveness of international support for decentralization and local government programs.

→ Int'l City Managers Association
U.S. NGO
Secretariat for donor group

USAID



U.S. AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
RONALD REAGAN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20523-5900**

OFFICE OF REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FAX MESSAGE

DATE: 6/18/98
TO: Nicole Rabner
FAX#: 456 - 9412
TEL#: 456 - 7263
OF PGS. 5
(INCLUDING COVER SHEET)

FROM: Madeline Williams
TEL#: 712 - 4077
FAX#: 202-216-3262 - (5.09 - 062U)
202-216-3403 - (5.09 - 091U)

REMARKS: No promised...

DRAFT

JUNE 16, 1998

MEMORANDUM TO USAID/LAC MISSION DIRECTORS

FROM: AA/LAC Mark Schneider

SUBJECT: United States-Chile MOU on International Development Cooperation

This memorandum describes key provisions of a new United States-Chile Memorandum of Understanding on International Development Cooperation (MOU) and outlines steps for USAID/LAC Missions to participate in the implementation of the Development Scholarship Program, the first joint initiative to be undertaken under the MOU.

I. U.S.-CHILE MOU ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

A. Background

Focus on Summit Objectives: On April 16, 1998, Secretary of State Albright and Chilean Minister of Foreign Relations Insulza signed an MOU on International Development Cooperation. The MOU establishes a new bilateral partnership to promote closer relations between our respective national, regional and local entities involved in international development. Under the MOU, the United States and Chile are to share information on ongoing activities and seek opportunities to undertake joint development programs that support the objectives agreed to during the Summit of the Americas in Santiago, Chile, especially in the areas of 1) poverty alleviation; 2) democracy strengthening; 3) education; and 4) economic integration.

Expanding International Development Cooperation: The MOU provides a basis for broadening our bilateral cooperation by enabling other nations in the hemisphere to participate in development programs designed to carry out the Summit's objectives within the scope of the MOU. The USG and GOC hope that the MOU will serve as a catalyst in getting the more developed nations to work as partners and thus extend the reach of our collaborative efforts. Eight countries with international cooperation programs (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, the United States, and Venezuela) have informally met to discuss collaborating on programs and projects in support of the Summit. Chile has offered to host a meeting of these countries later this year to discuss more fully the possibilities for collaboration.

Agencies Responsible for Implementation: The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the International Cooperation Agency of Chile are charged with the primary responsibility for implementing the MOU.

B. U.S.-Chile Development Scholarship Program

The MOU specifically provides for the creation of a "United States-Chile Development Scholarship Program" to assist with the Latin American and Caribbean human resources development. The Scholarship Program is designed to develop the hemisphere's professional and technical capacities by providing scholarships for individuals to attend training programs in Chile that advance U.S. bilateral programs/objectives in third countries in the region. This Scholarship Program will comprise the first joint initiative under the MOU.

II. IMPLEMENTING THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM -- NEXT STEPS

In order to participate in the implementation of the U.S.-Chile Development Scholarship Program, Missions are to submit training proposals which meet the requirements outlined below.

A. Deadline For Submitting FY 99 Training Proposals -- August 31, 1998

The USAID/LAC Missions are to submit their FY 99 training proposals to USAID/LAC AA by August 31, 1998. The AA/LAC will then coordinate the implementation of the various proposals with the GOC.

B. Training Proposals Must Focus On A Priority Development Area

Proposals must intend to provide training to strengthen professional or technical capacities needed to support any of the following priority development areas:

1. **Poverty alleviation;**
2. **Democracy strengthening;**
3. **Education; and/or**
4. **Economic Integration.**

C. Training Proposal Criteria

Proposals must be designed to:

1. **Directly improve human resource capacities, either professional or technical (i.e., no seminars or conferences);**
2. **Impart professional or technical expertise that is sustainable; and**

3. Be incorporated as part of a Mission's strategy to **meet one or more of the Mission's Strategic Objectives.**

D. USAID AA/LAC to meet with GOC Officials

The AA/LAC will meet with GOC officials to seek agreement on:

1. Training proposals to be undertaken for joint collaboration contingent on agreement by the benefiting government (if government entity involved);
2. Timeline; and
3. In-kind and/or financial contributions.

III. ATTACHMENTS

- A. ATTACHMENT "A," United States-Chile MOU
- B. ATTACHMENT "B," Survey of Training Capacity in Chile
- C. ATTACHMENT "C," Proposed timeline for implementing the "United States-Chile Development Scholarship Program"

Drafted by EUribe ext. 2-1654
u:\euribe\docs\chilecab.mou

U.S. Department of State

Background Notes: Chile, March 1998

Released by the Bureau of Inter-American Affairs.

OFFICIAL NAME: Republic of Chile

PROFILE

Geography

Area: 756,945 sq. km. (302,778 sq. mi.); nearly twice the size of California.

Cities: *Capital*--Santiago (metropolitan area est. 5.2 million). *Other cities*--Concepcion-Talcahuano (840,000); Vina del Mar-Valparaiso (800,000); Antofagasta (245,000); Temuco (230,000).

Terrain: Desert in north; fertile central valley; volcanoes and lakes toward the south, giving way to rugged and complex coastline; Andes Mountains on the eastern border.

Climate: Arid in north, Mediterranean in the central portion, cool and damp in south.

People

Nationality: *Noun and adjective*--Chilean(s).

Population (1997): 14.6 million.

Annual population growth rate: 1.5%.

Ethnic groups: Spanish-Native-American (*mestizo*), European, Native-American.

Religions: Roman Catholic 89%; Protestant 11%.

Language: Spanish.

Education: *Years compulsory*--8. *Attendance*--3 million. *Adult literacy rate*--94%.

Health: *Infant mortality rate*--17/1,000. *Life expectancy*--72 yrs.

Work force (5.2 million): *Services and government*--36%. *Industry and commerce*--34%. *Agriculture, forestry, and fishing*--14%. *Construction*--7%. *Mining*--2%.

Government

Type: Republic.

Independence: September 18, 1810.

Constitution: Promulgated September 11, 1980; effective March 11, 1981; amended in 1989 and 1993.

Branches: *Executive*--president. *Legislative*--bicameral legislature. *Judicial*--Constitutional Tribunal, Supreme Court, court of appeals, military courts.

Administrative subdivisions: 12 numbered regions, plus Santiago metropolitan region, administered by appointed "intendentes," regions are divided into provinces, administered by appointed governors;

provinces are divided into municipalities administered by elected mayors.

Political parties: Major parties are the Christian Democrat Party, the National Renewal Party, the Party for Democracy, the Socialist Party, the Independent Democratic Union, and the Radical Social Democratic Party. The Communist Party has not won a congressional seat in the last three elections.

Suffrage: Universal at 18, including foreigners legally resident for more than five years.

Economy (1997)

GDP: \$77.1 billion.

Annual real growth rate: 7.1%.

Per capita GDP: \$5,280.

Mining (8.2% of GDP): Copper, iron ore, nitrates, precious metals, and molybdenum.

Forestry, agriculture and fisheries (7.5% of GDP): *Products*--wheat, potatoes, corn, sugar beets, onions, beans, fruits, livestock, fish.

Industry (15.3% of GDP): *Types*--mineral refining, metal manufacturing, food processing, fish processing, paper and wood products, finished textiles.

Trade (1996): *Exports*--\$15.4 billion: copper, fishmeal, fruits, wood products, paper products. *Major markets*--EU 24%, U.S. 17%, Japan 16%, U.K. 6%, Brazil 6%, South Korea 6%, Germany 5%,

Argentina 5%. *Imports*--\$17.4 billion: petroleum, chemical products, capital goods, vehicles, electronic equipment, consumer durables, machinery. *Major suppliers*--U.S. 24%, EU 20%, Argentina 9%, Brazil 6%, Japan 5%, Germany 4%.

U.S.-CHILEAN RELATIONS

Relations between the United States and Chile are better now than at any other time in history. The United States Government applauded the rebirth of democratic practices in Chile in the late 1980s and early 1990s and sees the maintenance of a vibrant democracy and healthy economy as among the most important U.S. interests in Chile. President Eduardo Frei's February 1997 state visit to the United States forged close ties with President Clinton, leading to the latter's state visit to Chile in April 1998. The two governments consult frequently on issues of mutual concern, and dialogue takes place in four bilateral commissions (on defense, global security, agriculture, and science).

Many prominent Americans and senior U.S. officials visited Chile during the period 1995-1997, including Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton, ex-Presidents Carter, Bush, and Ford, former Secretary of State Christopher, and many other members of the Cabinet and Congress, and senior members of the U.S. military, concerning a large range of issues from education through international trade.

The warm relationship enjoyed by United States and Chile today contrasts with the difficult period of relations during Augusto Pinochet's military regime from 1973-89. A 1976 car bomb attack in Washington, DC, which killed Orlando Letelier, former Chilean ambassador to the United States and a member of President Salvador Allende's cabinet, and U.S. citizen Ronni Moffitt, caused a sharp deterioration in relations, including a ban on security assistance and arms sales to Chile. In response to a commitment by President Aylwin's Government to pursue the Letelier-Moffitt case within the Chilean judicial system, President Bush lifted the sanctions. A Chilean court subsequently convicted two Chilean military officers of having ordered the assassination.

The goal of U.S. foreign policy in Chile is to pursue expanded economic relations and to cooperate on a range of bilateral and multilateral issues of interest. Above all, the United States believes that an economically strong and democratically healthy Chile will benefit the entire hemisphere.

U.S. Embassy Functions

Besides working closely with Chilean Government officials to improve our bilateral relationship, the U.S. Embassy in Santiago provides a wide range of services to U.S. citizens and businesses in Chile. (Please see the Embassy's home page: <http://www.rdc.cl/~usemb> for details of these services.) The embassy is also the locus for a number of American community activities in the Santiago area.

Attaches at the embassy from the Foreign Commercial Service and Foreign Agriculture Service work closely with the hundreds of U.S. companies which maintain offices in Chile. These officers provide information on Chilean trade and industry regulations and administer several programs intended to aid U.S. companies starting or maintaining business ventures in Chile.

The Consular section of the embassy provides vital services to the more than 5,500 U.S. citizens residing in Chile. Among other services, the Consular section assists Americans who wish to participate in U.S. elections while abroad and provides U.S. tax information. Besides the U.S. residents living in Chile, over 80,000 U.S. citizens visit annually. The Consular section offers passport and emergency services to U.S. tourists as needed during their stay in Chile.

Principal U.S. Embassy Officials

Ambassador--Gabriel Guerra-Mondragon
Deputy Chief of Mission--Charles S. Shapiro
Economic and Political Counselor--Stephen Wesche
Agricultural Counselor--Richard J. Blabey
Consul General--Thomas J. Rice
Administrative Counselor--David Davison
Commercial Counselor--Carlos F. Poza
Defense Attache--Capt. Thomas L. Breitingner, USN
Public Affairs Officer--Kathleen Brion
Milgroup Commander--Col. Mark Mayer

The U.S. Embassy and Consulate in Santiago are located at 2800 Andres Bello Avenue, Las Condes, (tel. 562-232-2600; fax: 562-330-3710). The mailing address is Casilla 27-D, Santiago, Chile. Internet: <http://www.rdc.cl/~usemb>.

ECONOMY

Chile's economy, spurred by free market-oriented policies, has averaged a real growth rate of almost 8% per year over the past decade. A limited government role in the economy, openness to international trade and investment, high domestic savings and investment rates, and budget surpluses have made this performance possible. The economy's rapid growth has led to steady increases in wages and living standards.

In 1997, the economy grew by 7.1% in real terms as the inflation rate fell to 6.0%. With investment continuing at a record pace, the economy is expected to continue growing quite vigorously over the next several years. The late-1997/98 financial crisis in Asia is expected to negatively affect Chilean exports and reduce Chile's substantial trade surplus with the region; the Asian crisis is expected to reduce Chilean GDP expansion by roughly one percentage point, resulting in a growth rate of between 5.5% and 6.0% in

1998.

Chile has achieved central government budget surpluses every year since 1988. In 1997, the surplus equaled 1.9 % of GDP. The 1973-90 military government sold many state-owned companies, and the two democratic governments since 1990 have continued privatization at a more sporadic pace. Import tariffs are a flat 11% on nearly all products and the GOC plans to reduce the rate to 8% in 1998. Policy measures such as the privatization of the national pension system encourage domestic investment, contributing to an estimated total domestic savings rate of approximately 23% of GDP in 1997. The foreign investment law offers investors basically the same treatment as domestic firms, along with some extra guarantees.

Wages have risen faster than inflation each year since 1990; nearly all of this growth reflects greater productivity. The higher wages have increased living standards and have brought more people into the labor force. The share of Chileans with incomes below the poverty line (roughly \$4,000/year for a family of four) fell from 46% of the population in 1987 to 23% in 1997.

Unemployment has varied with the business cycle in recent years, with annual rates of between 4.5% and 6.0%.

Inflation has declined every year since 1990, when the indicator stood at 27%. In 1996, December-to-December inflation stood at 8.2%, and it fell to 6.0 % in 1997. Because most wage settlements and spending decisions are indexed, either formally or informally, it has been difficult to reduce inflation rapidly while maintaining high growth rates. Still, the independent Central Bank has been willing to raise interest rates when necessary to bring down inflation.

The establishment of a compulsory private sector pension system in 1981 was an important step toward increasing domestic savings and the pool of investment capital. Under this system, all workers must pay 10% of their salaries into privately managed funds. This large capital pool has been supplemented by substantial foreign investment.

Total public and private investment in the Chilean economy is very high; in 1997, investment accounted for 33% of GDP, a historical record. The government recognizes the necessity of steadily increasing private investment to boost worker productivity. The government is also encouraging diversification to non-traditional exports such as fruit, wine, and fish to gradually reduce the relative importance of basic traditional exports such as copper, timber, and other natural resources.

Chile's welcoming attitude toward foreign direct investment is codified in the country's Foreign Investment Law, which gives foreign investors the same treatment as Chileans. Registration is simple and transparent, and foreign investors are guaranteed access to the official foreign exchange market to repatriate their profits and capital. However, such capital must be kept in Chile for one year before being repatriated.

Foreign direct investment in Chile continued at a record pace in 1997, adding \$5.0 billion to the total stock. Total foreign investment flows in 1998 (including portfolio and other indirect forms of investment) were \$8.1 billion, or better than 10% of GDP.

Foreign Trade

Chile's economy is highly dependent on international trade. In 1996, exports reached \$15.4 billion and

imports \$17.4 billion. Exports accounted for almost 22% of GDP. Chile has traditionally been dependent upon copper exports. The state-owned firm CODELCO is the world's largest copper producing company. Foreign private investment has developed many new mines, and the private sector produces more copper than CODELCO. Copper output is expected to increase significantly in the next few years as more private sector projects come on stream.

Non-traditional exports have grown faster than those of copper and other minerals. In 1975, non-mineral exports made up just over 30% of total exports; by 1996, they accounted for 52% of export earnings. The most important non-mineral exports are forestry and wood products, fresh fruit and processed food, fishmeal and seafood, and other manufactured products.

Chile's export markets are geographically diverse. Asia and the European Union are the largest regional markets. The U.S., the largest single market, takes in about 17% of Chile's exports. Latin America has been the fastest-growing export market in recent years. The government actively seeks to promote Chile's exports globally. Since 1991, Chile has signed free trade agreements with Canada, Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Ecuador. An association agreement with MERCOSUR (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay) went into effect in October 1996. Chile has joined the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) organization in an effort to boost commercial ties to Asian markets. Also, Chile and the European Union plan to negotiate a trade agreement in the medium term. Chile shares the U.S. interest in negotiating a comprehensive trade agreement between the two countries. This is due in large part because the United States is the country's most important single trading partner and source of foreign investment; both countries also recognize that the example it would set for broader hemispheric trade integration would be in each other's interest. Chile's 1996 free trade agreement with Canada was modeled largely on NAFTA in anticipation of an eventual trade pact with the United States; similarly, Chile broadened its bilateral free trade agreement with Mexico in March 1998.

Imports have grown along with the economy in the past few years. The country's high investment rate is reflected in the fact that capital goods make up almost 30% of total imports. The United States is Chile's largest single supplier, supplying 24% of the country's imports in 1996. Import tariffs are a flat 11% on nearly all products although higher effective tariffs can be charged on imports of wheat, wheat flour, vegetable oils, and sugar as a result of a system of import price bands.

Finance

Chile's financial sector has grown faster than other areas economy over the last few years; a banking law reform approved in 1997 broadened the scope of permissible foreign activity for Chilean banks. Domestically, Chileans have enjoyed the recent introduction of new financial tools such as home equity loans, currency futures and options, factoring, leasing, and debit cards. The introduction of these new products has been accompanied by increased use of traditional instruments such as loans and credit cards. Chile's private pension system, with assets worth over \$30 billion at the end of 1997, has provided an important source of investment capital for the stock market. The number of firms with shares traded on the stock market continues to grow.

Chile's credit rating is one of the best in Latin America. In recent years, many Chilean companies have sought to raise capital abroad due to the relatively lower interest rates outside of Chile. There are three main ways Chilean firms raise funds abroad: bank loans, issuance of bonds, and the selling of stock on U.S. markets through American Depositary Receipts (ADRs). Nearly all of the funds raised go to finance investment.

The government is rapidly paying down its foreign debt. The combined public and private foreign debt was roughly 35% of GDP at the end of 1997, low by Latin American standards.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS

Following a coup in 1973, Chile was ruled by a military regime headed by General Augusto Pinochet until 1990. The first years of the regime were marked by serious human rights violations. In its later years, however, the regime gradually permitted greater freedom of assembly, speech, and association, to include trade-union activity.

In contrast to its authoritarian political rule, the military government pursued decidedly laissez faire economic policies. During its 16 years in power, Chile moved away from economic statism toward a largely free-market economy and that fostered an increase in domestic and foreign private investment.

General Pinochet was denied a second eight-year term as President in a national plebiscite in 1988. In December 1989, Christian Democrat Patricio Aylwin, running as the candidate of a multi-party center-left coalition, was elected president. In the 1993 election, Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle of the Christian Democratic Party was elected president for a six-year term and took office in March 1994.

Chile's constitution was approved in a September 1980 national plebiscite. It entered into force in March 1981. After Pinochet's defeat in the 1988 plebiscite, the constitution was amended to: ease provisions for future amendments to the constitution; create nine appointed or "institutional" senators; and diminish the role of the National Security Council by equalizing the number of civilian and military members (four members each).

Chile's bicameral Congress has a 48-seat Senate (38 elected, 9 appointed, one for-life) and a 120-member Chamber of Deputies. Deputies are elected every four years. Senators serve for eight years with staggered terms. The current Senate contains 20 members from the center-left governing coalition, 18 from the rightist opposition. In March 1998, nine newly appointed institutional senators--replacing those appointed under the former military government in 1989--took seats, as did ex-President Pinochet, who became a "senator for life" (Chile's constitution provides that ex-Presidents who have served at least six years shall be entitled to a lifetime senate seat.) Both the Aylwin and Frei Administrations have proposed unsuccessfully the abolition of the nine appointed Senate seats. The last congressional elections were held in December 1997. The current lower house (the Chamber of Deputies) contains 70 members of the governing coalition and 50 from the rightist opposition. The Congress is located in the port city of Valparaiso, about 140 kilometers (84 mi.) west of the capital, Santiago.

Chile's congressional elections are governed by a unique binomial system that rewards coalition slates. Each coalition can run two candidates for the two Senate and two lower chamber seats apportioned to each chamber's electoral districts. Typically, the two largest coalitions split the seats in a district. Only if the leading coalition ticket outpolls the second-place coalition by a margin of more than 2-to-1 does the winning coalition gain both seats.

The political parties with the largest representation in the current Chilean Congress are the centrist Christian Democrat Party and the center-right National Renewal Party. The Communist Party and the small Humanist Party failed to gain any seats in the 1997 elections.

Chile's judiciary is independent and includes a court of appeal, a system of military courts, a constitutional tribunal, and the Supreme Court.

National Security

Chile's armed forces are subject to civilian control exercised by the president through the Minister of Defense. Under the 1980 constitution, the services enjoy considerable autonomy, and the president cannot remove service commanders on his own authority.

Army 55, troops: The Commander in Chief is Lt. General Ricardo Izurieta. The army is organized into six divisions, one separate brigade, and an air wing.

Navy: Admiral Jorge Arancibia directs the 29,000-person navy, including 5,200 marines. The fleet of 11 surface vessels and four submarines is based in Valparaiso. The navy operates its own aircraft.

Air Force: General Fernando Rojas Vender heads a force of 12,000. Air assets are distributed among four air brigades headquartered in Iquique, Santiago, Puerto Montt, and Punta Arenas. The Air Force also operates an airbase on King George Island, Antarctica.

The Chilean police are comprised of a national, uniformed police force (carabineros) and a smaller, plainclothes investigations police force. After the military coup in September 1973, the Chilean national police were incorporated into the Defense Ministry. With the return of democratic government, the police were placed under the operational control of the Interior Ministry, but remain under the nominal control of the Defense Ministry. General Manuel Ugarte, who directs the national police force of 27,000, is responsible for law enforcement, traffic management, narcotics suppression, border control, and counter-terrorism throughout Chile.

PEOPLE

About 85% of Chile's population live in urban centers with 40% living in greater Santiago. Most have Spanish ancestry. A small, yet influential, number of Irish and English immigrants came to Chile during the colonial period. German immigration began in 1848 and lasted for 90 years; the southern provinces of Valdivia, Llanquihue, and Osorno show a strong German influence. Other significant immigrant groups are Italian, Croatian, French, and Middle Eastern. About 400,000 Native Americans, mostly of the Mapuche tribe, reside in the south-central area.

The northern Chilean desert contains great mineral wealth, primarily copper and nitrates. The relatively small central area dominates the country in terms of population and agricultural resources. This area is also the historical center from which Chile expanded until the late 19th century, when it incorporated its northern and southern regions. Southern Chile is rich in forests and grazing lands and features a string of volcanoes and lakes. The southern coast is a labyrinth of fjords, inlets, canals, twisting peninsulas, and islands. It also has small, rapidly declining petroleum reserves, which supplied about 8% of Chile's domestic requirements during 1996.

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

About 10,000 years ago, migrating Indians settled in fertile valleys and along the coast of what is now Chile. The Incas briefly extended their empire into what is now northern Chile, but the area's remoteness prevented extensive settlement.

In 1541, the Spanish, under Pedro de Valdivia, encountered hundreds of thousands of Indians from

various cultures in the area that modern Chile now occupies. These cultures supported themselves principally through slash-and-burn agriculture and hunting. Although the Spanish did not find the extensive gold and silver they sought, they recognized the agricultural potential of Chile's central valley, and Chile became part of the Viceroyalty of Peru.

The drive for independence from Spain was precipitated by usurpation of the Spanish throne by Napoleon's brother Joseph. A national junta in the name of Ferdinand--heir to the deposed king--was formed on September 18, 1810. Spanish attempts to reimpose arbitrary rule during what was called the Reconquista led to a prolonged struggle under Bernardo O'Higgins, Chile's most renowned patriot. Chilean independence was formally proclaimed on February 12, 1818.

The political revolt brought little social change, however, and 19th century Chilean society preserved the essence of the stratified colonial social structure, family politics, and the influence of the Roman Catholic Church. The system of presidential power eventually predominated, but wealthy landowners continued to control Chile.

Toward the end of the 19th century, government in Santiago consolidated its position in the south by persistently suppressing the Mapuche Indians. In 1881, it signed a treaty with Argentina confirming Chilean sovereignty over the Strait of Magellan. As a result of the War of the Pacific with Peru and Bolivia (1879-83), Chile expanded its territory northward by almost one-third and acquired valuable nitrate deposits, the exploitation of which led to an era of national affluence.

Chile established a parliamentary-style democracy in the late 19th century, which tended to protect the interests of the ruling oligarchy. By the 1920s, the emerging middle and working classes were powerful enough to elect a reformist president, whose program was frustrated by a conservative congress. Continuing political and economic instability resulted in the quasi-dictatorial rule of General Carlos Ibanez (1924-32).

When constitutional rule was restored in 1932, a strong middle-class party, the Radicals, emerged. It became the key force in coalition governments for the next 20 years. In the 1920s, Marxist groups with strong popular support developed. During the period of Radical Party dominance (1932-52), the state increased its role in the economy.

The 1964 presidential election of Christian Democrat Eduardo Frei-Montalva (father of the current president) by an absolute majority initiated a period of major reform. Under the slogan "Revolution in Liberty," the Frei Administration embarked on far-reaching social and economic programs, particularly in education, housing, and agrarian reform, including rural unionization of agricultural workers. By 1967, however, Frei encountered increasing opposition from leftists, who charged that his reforms were inadequate, and from conservatives, who found them excessive.

In 1970, Dr. Salvador Allende, a Marxist and member of Chile's Socialist Party, who headed the "Popular Unity" (UP) coalition of Socialists, Communists, Radicals, and dissident Christian Democrats, was elected by a narrow margin. His program included the nationalization of most remaining private industries and banks, massive land expropriation, and collectivization. Allende's proposal also included the nationalization of U.S. interests in Chile's major copper mines.

Elected with only 36% of the vote and by a plurality of only 36,000 votes, Allende never enjoyed majority support in the Chilean Congress or broad popular support. Domestic production declined, severe shortages of consumer goods, food, and manufactured products were widespread and inflation reached

1,000% per annum. Mass demonstrations, recurring strikes, violence by both government supporters and opponents, and widespread rural unrest ensued in response to the general deterioration of the economy. By 1973, Chilean society had split into two hostile camps. A military coup overthrew Allende on September 11, 1973. As the armed forces bombarded the presidential palace, Allende committed suicide.

FOREIGN POLICY

With its return to democracy in 1990, Chile became an active participant in the international political arena. It is an active member of the Rio Group, and it rejoined the Non-Aligned Movement. Chile was a driving force in the world summit for social development held in Copenhagen in March 1995. Chile is an active member of the United Nations and the UN family of agencies, serving on the UN Security Council 1995-97. Chile participates in UN peacekeeping activities, including UNSCOM in Iraq. The Chilean Government has diplomatic relations with most countries, including Cuba. Chile maintains only consular relations with Bolivia; Chile's acquisition of territory during the War of the Pacific (1879-83) continues to influence adversely its relations with Peru and Bolivia. Chile's association with the MERCOSUR countries in 1996 and its continuing interest in hemispheric free trade, as well as its membership in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) grouping auger well for even closer international economic ties in the future. Politically, Chile has been one of the most active countries in supporting implementation of the 1994 Summit of the Americas, hosting the second Summit of the Americas in Santiago, April 1998.

Principal Government Officials

President--Eduardo FREI Ruiz-Tagle

Minister of Foreign Affairs--Jose Miguel INSULZA

Ambassador to the United States--John BIEHL Del Rio

Ambassador to the Organization of American States (OAS)--Carlos PORTALES

Ambassador to the United Nations--Juan SOMAVIA Altamirano

Chile maintains an embassy in the United States at 1732 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20036 (tel. 202-785-1746).

OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION:

American Chamber of Commerce in Chile

Vespucio Sur 80, Piso 9

82 Correo 34

Santiago

Tel./Fax: 562-290-9700

Fax: 562-206-0911/2247

Home page: <http://www.amchamchile.cl>

U.S. Department of Commerce

Trade Information Center

International Trade Administration

14th and Constitution Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20230

Tel: 800-USA-TRADE, Fax: 202-482-4726

Home page: <http://www.ita.doc.gov>

TRAVEL AND BUSINESS INFORMATION

The U.S. Department of State's Consular Information Program provides Travel Warnings and Consular Information Sheets. **Travel Warnings** are issued when the State Department recommends that Americans avoid travel to a certain country. **Consular Information Sheets** exist for all countries and include information on immigration practices, currency regulations, health conditions, areas of instability, crime and security, political disturbances, and the addresses of the U.S. posts in the country.

Public Announcements are issued as a means to disseminate information quickly about terrorist threats and other relatively short-term conditions overseas which pose significant risks to the security of American travelers. Free copies of this information are available by calling the Bureau of Consular Affairs at 202-647-5225 or via the fax-on-demand system: 202-647-3000. Travel Warnings and Consular Information Sheets also are available on the Consular Affairs Internet home page: <http://travel.state.gov> and the **Consular Affairs Bulletin Board (CABB)**. To access CABB, dial the modem number: (301-946-4400 (it will accommodate up to 33,600 bps), set terminal communications program to N-8-1 (no parity, 8 bits, 1 stop bit); and terminal emulation to VT100. The login is **travel** and the password is **info** (Note: Lower case is required). The CABB also carries international security information from the Overseas Security Advisory Council and Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security. Consular Affairs Trips for Travelers publication series, which contain information on obtaining passports and planning a safe trip abroad, can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954; telephone: 202-512-1800; fax 202-512-2250.

Emergency information concerning Americans traveling abroad may be obtained from the Office of Overseas Citizens Services at (202) 647-5225. For after-hours emergencies, Sundays and holidays, call 202-647-4000.

Passport Services information can be obtained by calling the 24-hour, 7-day a week automated system (\$.35 per minute) or live operators 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (EST) Monday-Friday (\$1.05 per minute). The number is 1-900-225-5674 (TDD: 1-900-225-7778). Major credit card users (for a flat rate of \$4.95) may call 1-888-362-8668 (TDD: 1-888-498-3648).

Travelers can check the **latest health information** with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. A hotline at (404) 332-4559 gives the most recent health advisories, immunization recommendations or requirements, and advice on food and drinking water safety for regions and countries. A booklet entitled *Health Information for International Travel* (HHS publication number CDC-95-8280) is available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, tel. (202) 512-1800.

Information on **travel conditions, visa requirements, currency and customs regulations, legal holidays, and other items of interest to travelers** also may be obtained before your departure from a country's embassy and/or consulates in the U.S. (for this country, see "Principal Government Officials" listing in this publication).

U.S. citizens who are long-term visitors or traveling in dangerous areas are encouraged to register at the U.S. embassy upon arrival in a country (see "Principal U.S. Embassy Officials" listing in this publication). Registering with the embassy may help you to replace lost identity documents or help family members contact you in case of an emergency.

Further Electronic Information:

Department of State Foreign Affairs Network. Available on the Internet, DOSFAN provides timely, global access to official U.S. foreign policy information. Updated daily, DOSFAN includes *Background Notes*; *Dispatch*, the official magazine of U.S. foreign policy; daily press briefings; *Country Commercial Guides*; directories of key officers of foreign service posts; etc. DOSFAN's World Wide Web site is at <http://www.state.gov>.

U.S. Foreign Affairs on CD-ROM (USFAC). Published on an annual basis by the U.S. Department of State, USFAC archives information on the Department of State Foreign Affairs Network, and includes an array of official foreign policy information from 1990 to the present. Contact the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. To order, call (202) 512-1800 or fax (202) 512-2250.

National Trade Data Bank (NTDB). Operated by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the NTDB contains a wealth of trade-related information, including Country Commercial Guides. It is available on the Internet (www.stat-usa.gov) and on CD-ROM. Call the NTDB Help-Line at (202) 482-1986 for more information.

[end of document]

Return to DOSFAN Home Page. This is an official U.S. Government source for information on the WWW. Inclusion of non-U.S. Government links does not imply endorsement of contents.

USIS Washington File

16 April 1998

TEXT: FACT SHEET ON U.S.-CHILE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE 21st CENTURY

(Highlights cooperation on environment, education, trade) (1110)

SANTIAGO, Chile -- Following is the text of an April White House fact sheet issued during President Clinton's state visit to Chile, on the U.S.-Chilean partnership for the coming century:

(Note: In the text "billion" means 1,000 million)

(begin text)

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
(Santiago, Chile)
For Immediate Release
April 16, 1998

FACT SHEET: U.S.-CHILE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

President Clinton and President Frei reaffirmed the strong ties between the United States and Chile and strengthened the partnership between the two nations in confronting the common challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. On the eve of the Second Summit of the Americas, and in the wake of the 1994 Miami Summit, the United States and Chile stand in the forefront of hemispheric efforts to safeguard our environment, deepen democracy in the Americas, and to make it work for all our citizens through improving education, committing to economic growth with equity, and preparing ourselves to face the new transnational threats of tomorrow.

Protecting the Environment

Joint Action on Climate Change

President Clinton and President Frei today agreed that developing countries should participate meaningfully in efforts to address climate change, taking on emissions targets whenever possible. The Presidents also affirmed their support for the goals of the Kyoto Protocol, negotiated by more than 120 nations last December. The leaders also agreed that industrialized countries should reduce greenhouse gas emissions as a matter of priority and committed their governments to work together in preparation for the next conference of parties to the climate treaty, this November in Buenos Aires. President Clinton and President Frei emphasized the role of market mechanisms in promoting clean energy, energy efficiency and other activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Their statement recognized the opportunities for the private sector in meeting the challenge of climate change. Today's joint announcement compliments President Clinton's comprehensive climate change strategy, including win-win initiatives to effectively address climate change while promoting economic growth and competitiveness. It includes a \$6.3 billion package of tax cuts and R&D spending to spur clean energy technology, partnerships with industry to encourage cost-effective emissions reductions, steps to reduce federal energy use, and an electricity restructuring plan that will reduce emissions through market competition.

Cooperation on El Nino

The Presidents announced their joint cooperation to launch a

The Presidents announced their joint cooperation to launch a Pan-American Climate Information System for Disaster Preparedness (PACIS). The United States and Chile will be charter members of this system, which will build on the demonstrated accuracy and timeliness of El Nino forecasting provided to the Americas by the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction. PACIS will put in place a climate forecasting system to reduce the impact of weather disasters by giving governments, business and citizens the tools to predict and mitigate the effects of climate fluctuations. This information will provide benefits in terms of the provision of shelter, health care, forest and water management, agriculture, and food security. Chile will also this year co-sponsor with the United States a first hemispheric meeting of disaster preparedness and climate change experts.

Education

Building on the U.S.-Chile Fulbright agreement signed last year, a U.S.-Chile Memorandum of Understanding on Education will strengthen cooperation between both countries in educational reform, and includes:

Links between U.S. and Chilean classrooms, teachers and students through information technology to enrich learning. Joint research on the use of information technology to create educational opportunities for poor children. Development of bilingual software and teaching materials so that technology is placed at the service of all our citizens. Cooperation to develop high-speed research networks especially advancing the Next Generation Internet Initiative. Joint efforts to enhance quality and standards through the design of new assessment tools based on Chile's national assessment efforts and the U.S. Report Card for the Nation and the States. Exchanges at all levels of education to promote training and professional development. Cooperative work with multilateral lending agencies to lead the way in conceiving of new ways to finance education. In addition, the United States and Chile will share our efforts on a new hemisphere-wide web-site Americas.edu, which will advance the Summit's priority commitment to education. Chile will also become the 66th country in the world to join the GLOBE Program for environmental observation and learning around the world, via the Internet.

Economic Cooperation

Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to expanding economic opportunity for all citizens through open and transparent markets and a comprehensive free trade agreement that includes the United States and Chile. Towards that end, the two leaders agreed to broaden the scope of trade ties by establishing a U.S.-Chile Joint Commission on Trade and Investment. The Commission will examine the full range of measures affecting our growing bilateral trade (\$6.7 billion in 1997), and ensure that trade differences are resolved constructively. In addition, both countries' banking supervisors agreed to deepen their cooperation in bank regulation, recognizing that market confidence is important in a world in which capital markets are increasingly integrated. The respective Commerce Departments will deepen bilateral cooperation by exchanging commercial missions and information on major infrastructure projects.

Development Partnership

The United States and Chile have agreed on a program of donor cooperation between their international development agencies, including joint funding of scholarships for training. This effort will form the core of a broader cooperative program to help ensure that the Summit of the Americas' commitments on poverty alleviation, education, strengthening democracy and promoting economic integration are followed through across the hemisphere.

Delivering Public Services

Through a Memorandum of Understanding, the United States and Chile will bring relevant authorities from both governments together to collaborate on the study and implementation of public policies that strengthen government administration and make governance more efficient, effective, and responsive to the citizens it serves. Both governments are committed to delivering public services in ways that work better and cost less.

Security

Helping to define the new security reality of the Americas in the next century, the United States and Chile, through their Defense Consultative Commission and Global Security Dialogue, will advance and support the concept of a hemispheric convention on transparency in conventional arms purchases. The United States and Chile are also cooperating in international peacekeeping, and against nontraditional threats, such as narcotics trafficking and related crime. They welcome the full implementation of the OAS Anti-Drug Strategy for the hemisphere, which will lead the way to a hemispheric alliance against drugs.

(end text)

Return to [Washington File](#) home page

UNCLASSIFIED

3/20/98

CHILE: FROM RECIPIENT TO DONOR NATION

USAID's half-century development relationship with Chile facilitated dramatic economic reform, institutional change and capacity building which has helped this country reach high GDP growth rates (6% per year) realize remarkable social sector improvements, and transition to a full democracy. After years as an aid recipient, Chile has become an example of economic and social reform for other countries in the Hemisphere and an emerging U.S. development partner.

USAID's program in Chile, which ended in 1996, transitioned from a heavy focus on infrastructure development in the 1950s and 1960s to a more mature program of assistance in the 1990s aimed at facilitating democratic transition and addressing environmental problems. USAID's accomplishments over the years have included: over \$1 billion in infrastructure improvements; the creation of a broad-based housing industry; and health system improvements that helped pave the way to vast improvements in the health status of Chile's population. USAID's efforts to develop Chile's human were also an outstanding success. As an example, several Chileans trained in the economics program at the University of Chicago in the 1950s played a crucial role in Chile's economic reform.

In the 1990s, USAID focused on programs in environment and democracy. USAID assistance helped the GOC to create its first national environmental agency, draft and enact new environmental legislation and reduce industrial pollution in Santiago. USAID's judicial sector efforts helped modernize the judicial system and improved access to justice, particularly for low income women. USAID's civic education project resulted in increased voter registration and increased citizen participation in government.

In August 1995, USAID and the Chilean Government's international cooperation agency (AGCI) signed a Letter of Intent to enter into a more mature development relationship, working as partners to accelerate the economic growth of other hemispheric countries.

TALKING POINTS:

- We commend Chile for its sustained economic growth and remarkable social sector improvements.
- As a former aid recipient, Chile can offer many lessons to other countries in the Hemisphere.
- At this Summit, the U.S. and Chile should work as partners with our more developed neighbors to ensure sustained economic growth for all countries in the Hemisphere.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

3/18/98

U.S. ASSISTANCE TO CHILE

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and its predecessor agencies provided over \$2.5 billion to Chile for development projects between 1943 and 1996. USAID's long-term development relationship with Chile facilitated dramatic economic reform, institutional change and capacity building which has helped this country reach high GDP growth rates (6% per year), realize remarkable social sector improvements, and transition to a full democracy.

In the 1950s and 1960s the major focus of USAID's program was infrastructure development. During this time period, approximately \$1 billion in USAID resources was invested in infrastructure, such as roads, airport and port improvements, and electrification, that helped provide some of the underpinnings for the country's impressive economic development. Improvements to water and sanitation and to the primary health care system facilitated vast improvements in health status of the Chilean population. During the 1950s, USAID also began a 40-year program of support to Chile's housing sector. USAID assistance provided the basis for Chile's broad-based housing industry through private sector home mortgages, the creation of a secondary mortgage bond market and reinvigorated urban areas.

An outstanding success of USAID's program in Chile was its human resource development and capacity building efforts. Thousands of Chileans received USAID-financed academic training in the U.S. As one example of return on this investment, several Chileans trained in the economics program at the University of Chicago in the 1950s played a crucial role in Chile's economic reform: a major overhaul of policy and practice which produced a model for sustained economic growth in Latin America.

In the 1990s, USAID focused on programs in environment and democracy. In the area of environment USAID assistance helped the GOC to create its first national environmental agency (CONAMA), draft and enact new environmental legislation and develop enforcement capacity. Efforts to reduce industrial pollution in Santiago resulted in substantially reduced heavy metals emissions, more efficient water use and immediate savings of over \$3 million by industries involved in the program.

USAID assisted with the modernization of Chile's judicial sector and improved access to justice, particularly for low income women. USAID also supported a civic education project that resulted in increased voter registration and increased participation in government, especially by women.

UNCLASSIFIED

3/18/98

HEALTH ISSUES IN CHILE

Health conditions in Chile are more comparable to those of the United States than the regional averages in Latin America and the Caribbean. Chileans enjoy a long life expectancy of 75.3 years. In most developed countries, there has been a shift in the age structure of the population with a growing elderly group. At 56 per 100 population, the dependency ratio is similar to the US (53). This means there are fewer working-aged people to support the young and elderly. Common to many industrialized nations, chronic diseases account for the majority of deaths; heart disease and cancer contribute to approximately 58% of all deaths.

Fifteen infants die under one year of age for every 1000 live births; slightly more than double the United States rate. However, Chile's rate is substantially lower in comparison with regional rates. This is partially attributable to Chile's 90-98% vaccination coverage rates for the major childhood diseases.

Ninety-one percent of Chileans have access to drinking water in the home, although this masks an urban-rural discrepancy since only 47% of their rural population has ready access to potable water.

Because 100% of deliveries are attended by trained personnel, maternal mortality in Chile is less than the regional average (25/100,000 live births; 110/100,000 respectively). Maternal causes of death rank fourth among female deaths. Fewer women are dying during childbirth partly due to the use of contraceptives since the 1960s. By the end of their reproductive years, Chilean women have 2.7 children on average.

Chile has demonstrated a long term commitment to health reform characterized by the introduction of new models, analysis of results and adjustments to address weaknesses identified. Chile should be lauded for a major reform innovation--notably the separation of financing and delivery and regulation of health services.

Chile established a national health fund (FONASA) which uses taxes and payroll contributions to finance health services. Chileans also may opt to direct their payroll contributions to private insurance companies (ISAPRES). This system allows users provider choice. Efforts are underway to address issues including lack of comparable service packages, regulation of the private sector and user satisfaction.



U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS U.S. - CHILE PARTNERSHIP TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL COOPERATION

The Secretary of State of the United States and the Minister of Foreign Relations of Chile will sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Thursday April 16, 1998 outlining a new partnership for the two countries to work together in carrying out technical cooperation programs linked to Summit initiatives. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Chilean International Cooperation Agency are the primary executing agencies for this agreement.

The joint efforts of USAID and the International Cooperation Agency of Chile will focus on providing technical assistance for the design and implementation of programs related to poverty alleviation, democracy strengthening, education and economic integration. Priority attention will be given to those areas in which both parties can provide leadership to other countries in the region in order to achieve the Summit's objectives.

The agreement includes a "United States-Chile Development Scholarship Program" to strengthen human resource capacities throughout the hemisphere. The U.S. has set aside \$250,000 from its ongoing training programs to cover a portion of the costs for participants attending training programs in Chile. Chile will finance in-country costs associated with the training.

The U.S. - Chile Memorandum of Understanding is directly linked to the call for improved hemispheric cooperation related to implementation of Summit initiatives. The United States Government welcomes the increased collaboration among the region's emerging bilateral development cooperation agencies. Increased collaboration among both bilateral and multilateral cooperation institutions is essential to assisting national governments in their commitments to carry out the Summit recommendations.

The eight countries in the region with international cooperation programs (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, United States, Mexico, Venezuela and Chile) have informally met to discuss increased collaboration on programs and projects in support of the Summit. Chile has offered to host a meeting of these countries later this year to discuss more fully possibilities for increased collaboration among this group of new donors.

CHILE

CHILE: MAIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	1995	1996	1997 ^a
<i>Annual rate of variation</i>			
Gross domestic product	8.2	7.2	6.5
Consumer prices	8.2	6.6	6.3
Real wages	4.0	4.1	2.7
Money (M1)	14.8	-7.8	17.7
Real effective exchange rate ^b	-3.3	-2.6	-5.8
Terms of trade	13.3	-17.0	5.8
<i>Percentages</i>			
Urban unemployment rate	7.4	7.0	7.5
Fiscal balance/GDP	2.5	2.2	1.0
Real deposit rate	7.0	6.4	5.2
Real lending rate	11.6	10.1	8.6
<i>Millions of dollars</i>			
Exports of goods and services	19 297	18 711	20 800
Imports of goods and services	17 980	20 086	22 100
Current account	146	-2 918	-3 200
Capital and financial account	912	5 422	7 400
Overall balance	1 058	2 504	4 200

Source: ECLAC, on the basis of official figures.

^a Preliminary estimates.

^b A negative rate signifies an appreciation of the currency in real terms.

The Chilean economy's 6.5% rate of expansion in 1997 marked its fourteenth consecutive year of uninterrupted growth. The deficit on the current account will remain in the range of 4% of GDP, but inflows of medium- and long-term foreign investment will provide more than enough funds to cover the shortfall. The public sector will close out the year with another surplus, which this time will amount to about one percentage point of GDP. At about 6%, inflation will be somewhat lower than the year before.

The strong performance of the Chilean economy is made possible by its high levels of gross fixed investment and domestic saving (29% and 26% of GDP, respectively, in 1997) and by its level of international reserves, which are equivalent to more than one year's worth of imports. In addition, the country's levels of debt and of short-term external commitments are quite low, although its domestic public debt totals 29% of GDP.

The debate regarding how much manoeuvring room is needed for macroeconomic policy, in view of the steep downward trend of the real exchange rate and its possible impact on exports and growth, heated up during the year. The controversy centres around how large a current account deficit is sustainable and how fast the economy can absorb capital flows without jeopardizing its macroeconomic stability or export growth.

In line with its ongoing policy of gradually relaxing the country's monetary adjustment measures, the Central Bank lowered the interbank interest rate by a quarter of a point on three different occasions, which brought it to 6.5% by September. This downward trend was not always matched by long-term rates, however. In the third quarter, once the high level of activity occurring in this period had become apparent, the moderately upward trend in long-term interest rates steepened. As the year drew to a close, the future course of this variable appeared to be linked primarily

to the impact of the Asian crisis on the country's external accounts.

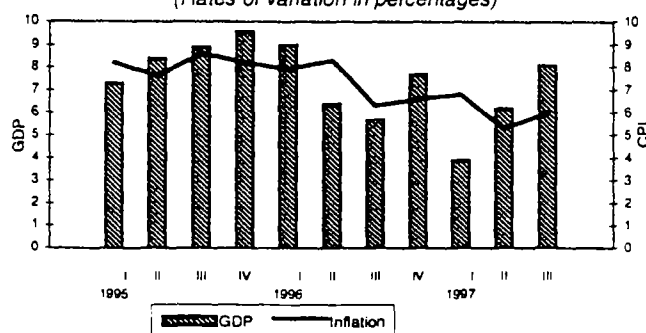
In January, the Central Bank widened the currency band from 10% to 12.5% on either side of the reference rate and modified the composition of the currency basket used to define the exchange rate. In March, it re-established the reserve requirement on external credit operations in the US\$ 10,000-US\$ 20,000 range, while letting the exemption stand for loans under US\$ 10,000. In October, in an effort to restrict the surplus on the capital account as well as arbitrage activity, the Foreign Investment Committee lowered the financing ceiling on external credits for projects entering the country under decree-law 600 from 70% to 50% and raised the minimum size of such investment projects from US\$ 25,000 to US\$ 1 million.

Economic activity cooled down in the first quarter, but picked up again in the second and accelerated further in the third. Mining and transport and communications made a strong showing, with annual growth rates of over 10%; with rates in the 6%-7% range, construction and commerce also did well.

The tighter monetary adjustment measures implemented in late 1996 in an effort to counter an unsustainable expansion of output and spending made their effects felt in the first quarter of 1997, as GDP growth slowed to 3.8% and spending edged up by a scant 1%. This outcome was also partially attributable to the interest rate hike instituted in

CHILE: GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AND INFLATION

(Rates of variation in percentages)



Source: ECLAC, on the basis of official figures.

December 1996 and the effects of the drought that affected the entire central and northern regions of the country.

During the following quarters the economy rebounded, thanks to improved terms of trade and a succession of interest rate reductions. In the third quarter, GDP growth topped 8% and spending increased by 12.4%. These rates put the economy at the uppermost limit of the permissible range for achieving the country's growth and inflation targets for 1998.

The substantial decrease in the **real exchange rate** was one of the most significant aspects of the economic scene in 1997. By late October, the deterioration in the rate amounted to 10% in annualized terms. During the last two months of the year this trend was reversed, however, as the Chilean economy began to feel the effects of the Asian crisis.

The **annualized rate of inflation** for the first 11 months of the year was 6.3%. Monetary adjustment measures drove down service and wage inflation sharply during the first two quarters. The annualized rate of price increases for non-tradables slackened from an average of 8.2% for the first quarter to 6.2% for the second and 5.7% for the third. A downward trend was also seen in tradables until the third quarter, when, despite the steep drop in the real exchange rate, it was interrupted as a consequence of the rigidity of markups on these types of goods.

Between July and October, a resurgence of inflation was observed owing to the price shocks associated with some perishable products—first meat and later fruits and vegetables—as a result of the storms unleashed by El Niño. Once seasonal variations are factored out, however, it becomes apparent that the trend of inflation has continued to be downward, as evidenced by the figures for the last two months of the year.

After standing at an annual rate of around 10% during the first quarter, the growth rate for **nominal wages** began to slip. In the period from August to October, the annualized variation was 8.1%. This deceleration carried over into real wages, whose 2.7% average real variation as of the end of October was below the increase in average labour productivity.

Employment increased at an average annual rate of 2%, with the strongest growth being observed in the second half of the year, especially in such non-tradables sectors as construction, commerce, and transport and communications, although employment in manufacturing also rebounded.

Unemployment rose in the metropolitan area but declined in the rest of the country. The increase was caused by the rapid expansion of the secondary labour force from the third quarter on.

The **current account** deficit is expected to total US\$ 3.2 billion, which is US\$ 280 million more than in 1996. This setback is wholly attributable to the upswing in factor payments, since the trade balance is expected to improve slightly.

The **capital account** shows net income of US\$ 7.4 billion in 1997, for an overall surplus of US\$ 4.2 billion. The first of these figures represents a US\$ 2 billion increase over 1996, thanks to the prepayments on the external debt made during the first half of the year.

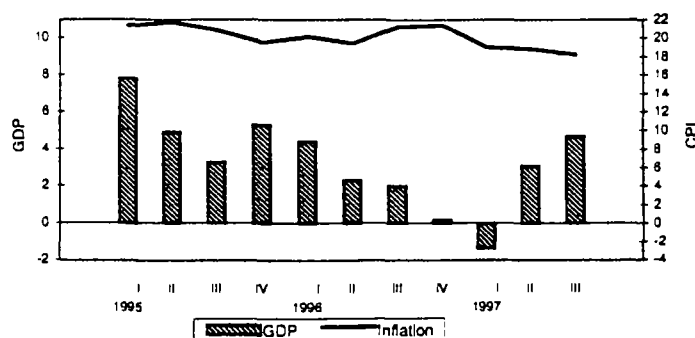
As 1997 drew to a close, the external debt totalled US\$ 26.9 billion; 5% of this sum was made up of short-term obligations, while the public sector's share amounted to a fifth of the total. Net international reserves as of mid-November stood at US\$ 19 billion, which was equivalent to more than one year's worth of imports.

COLOMBIA

In 1997 the Colombia economy rebounded from the slump of the year before, while inflation subsided to 18%, thereby meeting the target set by the Banco de la República for the first time since that institution was granted autonomy in 1991. A nominal devaluation of nearly 30% helped to hold down the current account deficit, but the fiscal deficit was still quite hefty.

The Colombian economy had lapsed into a recession during the final quarter of 1996, when it shrank by 0.4%, and then bottomed out in the first quarter of 1997 with a contraction of 1.3%. At that point it began to rebound vigorously, marking up growth rates of 3% and 4.7% in the second and third quarters. The overall growth rate for 1997 will therefore be around 3%. This outcome is largely attributable to the steep reduction in interest rates and to high coffee prices on the international market, which gave a boost to domestic demand.

COLOMBIA: GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AND INFLATION
(Rates of variation in percentages)



Source: ECLAC, on the basis of official figures.

Chile

Chile has a proud legal tradition producing many the noted Latin American legal scholars. The Chilean people appreciate that democracy rests on an effective and equitable legal system. Ultimately, as the Summit of the Americas recognized "[a] democracy is judged by the rights enjoyed by its least influential members." The Summit declaration gave priority to the rule of law, respect for human rights and universal access to justice. I am very proud to be here at the Centro de Asistencia Legal (Legal Services Center), which is an example for all nations in the Hemisphere on how to guarantee legal access and legal rights in the end, it is an expression as democracy in action.

Important legal reforms are taking place throughout the region. Codes are being revised, oral process introduced, public hearings and proceedings taking place in courts, better training for judicial officers is being developed along with improved administration of the courts and prisons, mechanisms for alternative dispute resolution are being established and improved legal assistance programs and ensuring greater access to justice for all people. This Centro represents an important contribution and example of reform not only for Chile but for the Hemisphere.

The United States is proud of its affiliation with this Centro through the assistance of the United States Agency for International Development. For many years, USAID has been at the forefront of U.S. efforts to encourage and support legal reform throughout the Americas. USAID has assisted reform efforts ranging from code revision to police and prosecutor training to legal aid and public education, as well as support universal access to justice. This Centro and the commendable work being carried out by the committed lawyers and staff is a testimony to the partnership between the people in Chile and the people in the U.S. The broad diversity of legal assistance which you provide and the fact that you reach those who need this assistance the most exemplifies respect for law, human rights and democracy.

It is an honor to be here with you and I appreciate this opportunity to share your experience in an area which I as an attorney truly appreciate.

BRIEFING PAPER

USIA

U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY, WASHINGTON DC 20547

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND MEDIA REACTION

March 27, 1998

B-31-98

CHILE IS SOLIDLY PRO-U.S.

Chileans are set to welcome the President on his state visit and to applaud SOA initiatives.

Majorities Hold Positive Views of U.S., President Clinton: Solid majorities of urban Chileans express favorable opinions of both the United States (64%) and President Clinton (59%). Six-in-ten are confident of U.S. ability to deal responsibly with world problems, although opinion is split on whether U.S. world leadership should continue at current levels (38%) or be reduced (36%).

Regional Policies Are Widely Endorsed: Majorities are also confident Latin Americans will benefit from important regional policies promoted by the U.S., including: *protecting the environment, combating drugs, promoting free trade, encouraging democracy, and protecting intellectual property rights*. Half believe U.S. efforts to *foster regional security* will benefit the region. However, fewer (37%) think the U.S. is working for peace and stability in Latin America; indeed, one fourth say the U.S. is promoting an arms race (35% believe it is doing neither or haven't heard enough to say).

Bilateral Relations Are Viewed Favorably:

Three-fourths think current relations with the U.S. are in good shape. Almost as many (68%) believe the U.S. treats Chile with *dignity and respect* and over half say the U.S. tries to *understand Chile's point of view*. Still, eight-in-ten think the *U.S. expects Chile to support the U.S. position on matters of concern to both countries*.

TABLE 1: U.S. IMAGE Percent (%) giving selected responses:		CHILE (1200)
Opinion of U.S.:	"very/fairly good"	64
Opinion of Pres. Clinton:	"very/fairly favor."	59
"Great deal/fair amt" confidence in U.S. policies:		
	Promoting environment	65
	Combating drugs	62
	Promoting free trade	60
	Promoting democracy	58
	Protecting IPR	55
	Fostering security in region	49
U.S. is:	"Working for peace and stability"	37
	"Promoting an arms race"	26
Status of bilateral relations:	"very/fairly good"	74
"Strongly/somewhat agree" that the U.S.:		
	Treats Chile with dignity and respect	64
	Tries to understand Chile's point of view	54
	Expects Chile's support/matters mutual concern	80

U.S. Is Most Important Economic Partner: Twice as many say Chile's most important "economic" partner is the U.S. (37%) as say Japan (17%), the major regional competitor. A slightly smaller plurality also believe the U.S. will be the most important partner ten years hence. Chileans probably give the U.S.

Data are from USIA questions placed on a MORI-Chile omnibus poll, in which a representative sample of 1200 adults in cities of 40,000 and more were interviewed face-to-face. Fieldwork was conducted March 12-22, 1998. Margin of error is +/- 4%. Prepared by: Nancy C. Llach, R/AA (202-619-5111; llach@usia.gov).

top ranking in part because of their agricultural- and mineral-based exports to the U.S.; when making important (non-everyday) purchases, they tend to buy products made in Chile (47%) or imported from Asia (21%), rather than the U.S. (14%).

The public is divided on which type of trade agreement would best suit Chile's economy at this moment: approximately one-fourth each endorse membership in NAFTA (28%), full membership in MERCOSUR (27%), and bilateral agreements (26%). Half support the idea of a specific bilateral trade agreement with the U.S., but others think such an agreement would make little difference to the economy (26%) or might actually be detrimental (19%). Support for a bilateral agreement may well be influenced by perceived U.S. import limitations: just 38 percent think the U.S. makes it easy for Chile to sell its products in the U.S., while twice as many say that Chile facilitates the sale of U.S. products in Chile.

Several Issues Important for SOA:

Chileans believe the most important concerns regional leaders should address at the Summit are (2 choices from a list): *poverty* (55%), *economic development* (30%), *narcotrafficking* (31%), and *education* (28%). *Corruption in business, free trade, and global warming* receive fewer mentions (19%, 15%, and 13%, respectively).

TABLE 2: TRADE RELATIONS with U.S. Percent (%) giving selected responses:		CHILE (1200)
Most important economic partner now:	U.S.	37
	Japan	17
Most important econ. partner in 10 years:	U.S.	29
	Japan	19
Effect of trade agree. w/ U.S. on Chile's economy:	Benefit	48
	Harm	19
	Little difference	26
Effect of hemisphere FTAA on Chile's economy:	Beneficial	80
	Harmful	14

Regarding specific topics on the SOA agenda:

- Eight-in-ten believe a hemispheric free-trade agreement (FTAA) would be beneficial to Chile's economic development.
- Many are concerned about IPR issues: a majority (58%) think that the sale of illegally copied videos, CDs, books, medicines and other intellectual property is widespread in Chile. Most (80%) believe the practice is bad for the country, in that it discourages both foreign investment and the creation of new products by local authors and inventors.
- On the problems facing public education in Latin America, significantly more mention lack of resources (25%), the high cost of education (15%), and its poor quality (14%) than a host of other factors. Most would go – or send their children – to study overseas if given the opportunity, with many more mentioning the U.S. as the destination of choice (27%) than Spain, France, England (about one-in-ten each) or Canada.
- By a large margin, *air pollution* (51%) is considered the most serious of the environmental problems facing Chile, over *ground contamination* from mining (18%), *fresh water pollution* (16%), and *deforestation and erosion* (13%). As are majorities elsewhere in the region, Chileans are both aware of and worried about the *global warming* caused by emissions of gas into the atmosphere; seven-in-ten (68%) express at least some concern about the issue (35% are 'very' concerned), while just one-fourth are not concerned.

CHILEAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Ms. Josefina Bilbao, Minister-Director of the National Women's Service (SERNAM), led the Chilean delegation to the Fourth World Conference on Women. Ms. Bilbao also chaired the Seventh Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago, November 19-21, 1997.

You met Ms. Bilbao at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen. A devout Catholic and mother of six, she is committed to the issue of violence against women and regularly meets with religious leaders to engage them in this issue.

At the Beijing Conference, Chile announced the following actions it planned to take to implement the Platform for Action:

- reduce poverty, eliminating abject poverty, particularly for women;
- foster better employment opportunities for women;
- reduce the pay gap between women and men;
- eliminate all forms of violence against women;
- put into practice equality policies with an Equal Opportunities Plan;
- mainstream the gender perspective into all policies and programs.

SERNAM, which was created in 1991 to combat discrimination against women, has taken steps to meet the commitments made in Beijing. In 1996, it conducted a study of more than 12,000 reports of domestic violence and found that three years after the Law on Intra-Family Violence went into effect, only one in five accusations resulted in judicial action. As a result, SERNAM conducted courses on the legal, medical, and psychological aspects of domestic violence for police officers and judicial and municipal authorities.

Another SERNAM study found that the average earnings of female heads of household are only 71 percent of male heads of household. In an effort to alleviate this disparity, SERNAM has initiated a pilot program that provides occupational training and child care.

Chile played a positive role at the Fourth World Conference on Women. The Chilean and the U.S. delegations shared similar views on important issues such as women's human rights and violence against women. Chile adopted the Beijing Platform for Action without written reservations.

WOMEN'S ISSUES AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN CHILE

Women have had the right to vote in municipal elections since 1934 and in national elections since 1949 and are active in political life at the grassroots level. Women make up a majority of registered voters and of those who actually cast ballots. However, women are under-represented at senior political levels, within parties, as well as in all levels of government. In the December 1997 Congressional elections 14 women (increased from nine and an all-time high) won seats in the 120-member chamber of deputies. Two women serve in Chile's 48-seat Senate. Three cabinet ministers are women. Women are broadly represented in other professions, such as health care and higher education.

Women have long enjoyed basic legal protections such as the right to own property. Some legal distinctions between the sexes still exist, and certain laws create de facto distinctions. For example, Chilean law allows legal separation but not divorce, so those who wish to remarry must seek an annulment. Since annulment implies that a marriage never existed under the law, former spouses are left with little legal recourse for financial support. More importantly under Chilean law, it strips children of property rights, and removes legal claims on the father's support. In conservative Chile, where the indissolubility of marriage is accepted as a tenet of society, many grapple with how to reconcile the legal consequences of marriages that fail.

Maternity leave benefits, which private health insurance companies (ISAPRES) must provide under Chilean law are generous. However, these benefits also discourage the hiring of women in their child bearing years.

The National Women's Service (SERNAM) was created in 1991 to combat discrimination against women; a law on intra-family violence went into effect in 1994. However, a study by SERNAM found that only one in five cases of family violence, out of a reported 12,000, resulted in judicial action.

BRIEFING PAPER

USIA

U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY, WASHINGTON DC 20547

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND MEDIA REACTION

April 8, 1998

B-40-98

CHILEANS SPEAK OUT ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

Urban women -- and men, if less enthusiastically -- endorse modern roles for Chilean women. But pursuit of such roles is stymied by lack of opportunity and discrimination.

Majorities Approve Non-traditional Activities: Majorities of urban women approve of a woman breaking away from her traditional home base and involving herself in workplace and political activities: *running her own business* (91% strongly/somewhat approve), *working for pay* (90%), *becoming President* (81%), and *becoming a political activist* (65%). Majorities of men also approve of a woman undertaking these activities, although in slightly fewer numbers (7-11% less). In addition, Chilean women believe a woman should be able to *decide the number of children* she has (74%); men are significantly less approving (54%). Only about half of either gender think women should continue to be tasked with *sole responsibility for the home and children* (45% women, 54% men). While men and women have largely similar views, women tend to express considerably greater enthusiasm for non-traditional activities. As the table indicates, half or more women voice "strong" approval for all save political activism, compared to half or less among men.

Fewer See Equal Opportunities than Elsewhere:

Chilean women have a hard time finding non-traditional jobs. The December Latinobarometro examined how urban women in 17 countries view basic opportunities. Only minorities in Chile -- fewer than in any other country -- think they are as likely as a man to *find a good job* (32%), *earn the same salary* (24%), or *hold public office* (34%). In all other countries, half or more say they do have such opportunities.

Discrimination Is Viewed as Major Problem:

The fact that Chile's society remains quite conservative may in part explain the lack of non-traditional opportunities for women. It may also contribute to another widely-felt problem -- discrimination. Discrimination in either the workplace or society at large is volunteered by seven-in-ten women (68%) and slightly fewer men (59%) as the most serious problem facing Chilean women. This is more than double the proportion of urban women who mentioned such discrimination as their most critical problem in Venezuela (21%), Brazil (29%), or Argentina (38%) in mid-1997 USIA polls.

Women's Issues: (%) giving selected responses:	F	M
<i>Percent saying <u>strongly</u> approve a woman:</i>		
<i>Having sole responsibility for house/kids</i>	17	22
<i>Deciding how many children she has</i>	49	27
<i>Working for pay outside home</i>	58	42
<i>Running own business</i>	67	52
<i>Becoming a political activist</i>	38	21
<i>Becoming President of the country</i>	59	36
<i>Most serious problem facing <u>women</u> in Chile:</i>		
<i>Workplace discrimination, incl. pregnancy/child care restrictions, unequal demands, low salaries/value of work, lack of opportunities</i>	42	35
<i>General discrimination, lack of laws protecting women</i>	26	24
<i>Family problems/violence, working/caring for children</i>	11	8
<i>Machismo, sexual harassment</i>	7	8
<i>Poverty</i>	4	3

Data are from USIA questions placed on a MORI-Chile omnibus poll, in which a representative sample of 1200 adults in cities of 40,000 and more were interviewed face-to-face. Fieldwork was conducted March 12-22, 1998. Margin of error is +/- 4%. Prepared by: Nancy C. Llach, R/AA (202-619-5111; llach@usia.gov).

DRAFT

U.S. CHILE PARTNERSHIP TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL COOPERATION

The United States and Chile will sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Thursday April 16, 1998 outlining a new partnership for the two countries to work together in carrying out technical cooperation programs linked to Summit initiatives. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Chilean International Cooperation Agency are the primary executing agencies for this agreement.

TALKING POINTS

The joint efforts of USAID and the International Cooperation Agency of Chile will focus on providing technical assistance for the design and implementation of programs related to poverty alleviation, democracy strengthening, education and economic integration. Priority attention will be given to those areas in which both parties can provide leadership to other countries in the region in order to achieve the Summit's objectives.

The agreement includes a "United States-Chile Development Scholarship Program" to strengthen human resource capacities throughout the hemisphere. The U.S. has set aside \$250,000 from its ongoing training programs to cover a portion of the costs for participants attending training programs in Chile. Chile will finance in-country costs associated with the training.

The U.S. Chile Memorandum of Understanding is directly linked to the call for improved hemispheric cooperation related to implementation of Summit initiatives. The USG welcomes the increased collaboration among the region's emerging bilateral development cooperation agencies. Increased collaboration among both bilateral and multilateral cooperation institutions is essential to assisting national governments in their commitments to carry out the Summit recommendations.

The eight countries in the region with international cooperation programs (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, United States, Mexico, Venezuela and Chile) have informally met to discuss increased collaboration on programs and projects in support of the Summit. Chile has offered to host a meeting of these countries later this year to discuss more fully possibilities for increased collaboration among this group of new donors.

DRAFT

JUNE 16, 1998

MEMORANDUM TO USAID/LAC MISSION DIRECTORS

FROM: AA/LAC Mark Schneider

SUBJECT: United States-Chile MOU on International Development Cooperation

This memorandum describes key provisions of a new United States-Chile Memorandum of Understanding on International Development Cooperation (MOU) and outlines steps for USAID/LAC Missions to participate in the implementation of the Development Scholarship Program, the first joint initiative to be undertaken under the MOU.

I. U.S.-CHILE MOU ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

A. Background

Focus on Summit Objectives: On April 16, 1998, Secretary of State Albright and Chilean Minister of Foreign Relations Insulza signed an MOU on International Development Cooperation. The MOU establishes a new bilateral partnership to promote closer relations between our respective national, regional and local entities involved in international development. Under the MOU, the United States and Chile are to share information on ongoing activities and seek opportunities to undertake joint development programs that support the objectives agreed to during the Summit of the Americas in Santiago, Chile, especially in the areas of 1) poverty alleviation; 2) democracy strengthening; 3) education; and 4) economic integration.

Expanding International Development Cooperation: The MOU provides a basis for broadening our bilateral cooperation by enabling other nations in the hemisphere to participate in development programs designed to carry out the Summit's objectives within the scope of the MOU. The USG and GOC hope that the MOU will serve as a catalyst in getting the more developed nations to work as partners and thus extend the reach of our collaborative efforts. Eight countries with international cooperation programs (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, the United States, and Venezuela) have informally met to discuss collaborating on programs and projects in support of the Summit. Chile has offered to host a meeting of these countries later this year to discuss more fully the possibilities for collaboration.

Agencies Responsible for Implementation: The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the International Cooperation Agency of Chile are charged with the primary responsibility for implementing the MOU.

B. U.S.-Chile Development Scholarship Program

The MOU specifically provides for the creation of a "United States-Chile Development Scholarship Program" to assist with the Latin American and Caribbean human resources development. The Scholarship Program is designed to develop the hemisphere's professional and technical capacities by providing scholarships for individuals to attend training programs in Chile that advance U.S. bilateral programs/objectives in third countries in the region. This Scholarship Program will comprise the first joint initiative under the MOU.

II. IMPLEMENTING THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM -- NEXT STEPS

In order to participate in the implementation of the U.S.-Chile Development Scholarship Program, Missions are to submit training proposals which meet the requirements outlined below.

A. Deadline For Submitting FY 99 Training Proposals -- August 31, 1998

The USAID/LAC Missions are to submit their FY 99 training proposals to USAID/LAC AA by August 31, 1998. The AA/LAC will then coordinate the implementation of the various proposals with the GOC.

B. Training Proposals Must Focus On A Priority Development Area

Proposals must intend to provide training to strengthen professional or technical capacities needed to **support any of the following priority development areas:**

1. **Poverty alleviation;**
2. **Democracy strengthening;**
3. **Education; and/or**
4. **Economic Integration.**

C. Training Proposal Criteria

Proposals must be designed to:

1. **Directly improve human resource capacities**, either professional or technical (i.e., no seminars or conferences);
2. **Impart professional or technical expertise that is sustainable; and**

DRAFT TARGET DEADLINES

UNITED STATES-CHILE DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Timeline</u>
MOU establishing Scholarship Program	4/16/98
Deadline for Submitting Training Proposals	8/31/98
Deadline for making recommendations to the AA/LAC	9/15/98
Meeting with GOC officials	9/15/98 to 10/30/98 (Possibly during the First Ladies visit)
Training Programs Begin	1/15/99

3. Be incorporated as part of a Mission's strategy to **meet one or more of the Mission's Strategic Objectives.**

D. USAID AA/LAC to meet with GOC Officials

The AA/LAC will meet with GOC officials to seek agreement on:

1. Training proposals to be undertaken for joint collaboration contingent on agreement by the benefitting government (if government entity involved);
2. Timeline; and
3. In-kind and/or financial contributions.

III. ATTACHMENTS

- A. ATTACHMENT "A," United States-Chile MOU
- B. ATTACHMENT "B," Survey of Training Capacity in Chile
- C. ATTACHMENT "C," Proposed timeline for implementing the "United States-Chile Development Scholarship Program"

Drafted by EUribe ext. 2-1654
u:\euribe\docs\chilecab.mou

DRAFT

Potential Announcement/Signing for First Lady's Conference

\$5.0 million will be committed for a new regional program towards strengthening local government in Latin America and the Caribbean

Background:

This program is a direct response by the U.S. to the commitment made in Santiago, Chile at the Second Presidential Summit of the Americas to "strengthen the capabilities of regional and local governments, when appropriate, and to foster more active participation in civil society."

The twin trends of democratization and decentralization are being felt throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. In 1980, three countries elected mayors. Today, fifteen do. More and more, municipalities are being looked to for leadership in solving local problems. Nevertheless, because of the strong past tradition of centralization, much remains to be done. Local political power, including control over more resources, is only gradually increasing. Municipalities are only slowly discovering the synergies of working collaboratively at the grassroots with their local communities.

The changing political landscape being shaped by decentralization and democracy offers new opportunities and presents challenges to women in the Americas. Driven by high family values, their concern for safe neighborhoods, the education and health of their youth, and local employment opportunities many women are already accustomed to interaction with government -- an interface with the public sector that is too often frustrating and unfruitful. Democratization and decentralization offers the promise of empowerment by bringing this level of interaction closer to the voter, male or female. Consequently, women have increased potential to influence government decision-making in areas of direct relevance to their greatest concerns.

Women also have increased opportunities to become politically active. We are witnessing throughout the Americas women who are entering into political service through participation in their local governments, either as mayors, council members or other elected positions. The beginnings have been modest. Well under ten percent of mayors in Latin America are women. But there are promising indications. Already, women who first served as local officials have become members of Congress or have emerged as candidates or potential candidates to higher levels of public office.

We fully expect that in these ways women will make important contributions to the strengthening of local governments in the Americas.

This regional program, which supplements USAID's bilateral assistance, will work with the national associations of municipalities, their regional support organizations, and the international donor community over the next five years to:

- increase accountability of local governance by introducing and re-enforcing practices and measures for citizen participation in decision-making, greater transparency in the budget process, and better communications with constituents;
- increase and improve the training of municipal officials and employees in these and other critical areas;
- through the Internet, bring about timely sharing between municipalities throughout the Hemisphere of their successes in solving common problems; and
- establish a Donors Consultative Group to improve the effectiveness of international support for decentralization and local government programs.

g:\flotus\decen.sum

DRAFT

Potential Announcement for the First Ladies Conference in Chile

A \$40,000 Grant to Corporacion Participa (in Chile) for Follow-up work on the Santiago Summit and Civil Society's Participation

This project contemplates five basic activities:

- 1) Design an initial proposal on how to bring together civil society and governments to cooperate in the formulation of a follow-up strategy;
- 2) Hold meetings between civil society organizations and governmental representatives to discuss a strategy for implementing actions under one or more of the following issues: education, the role of women in the eradication of poverty and discrimination, strengthening civil society and transparency as a means of combating corruption;
- 3) Publish and distribute information relevant to the process of promoting civil society-government dialogue in relation to monitoring the Summit agreements through various Summit-related web pages on the Internet as well as through monthly bulletins sent via electronic mail and/or fax;
- 4) Prepare a final document, including information and an evaluation of the process carried out;
- 5) Publish the final document with the results of these meetings and distribute it to approximately 500 civil society and governmental representatives from around the Western Hemisphere to share the results and information obtained.

The challenge faced in this activity is to encourage dialogue between governments and civil society in the context of implementing strategies to concrete the Plan of Action signed by the Presidents during the Santiago Summit in the previously mentioned issues. In order to encourage this dialogue, we believe that it is important to nurture the relationships already established between civil society and government in the preparatory process to the Summit. A clear and consistent connection must be established between the process of preparation and governmental activities to follow-up on the Summit Plan of Action. We will seek to establish this connection through both direct, personal meetings and contact as well as through the distribution of the report compiling the information and results obtained throughout this process.

IIHR

INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO
INSTITUT INTER-AMERICA
INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE
Madeline C. Williams
Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean
U.S. Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.
RM 5.09-093
Washington D.C. 20523, USA

CORREOS DE COSTA RICA
Nº 48
July - September / 1997
Quarterly Newsletter of the IIHR
Editor: Natalia Dobles Trejos
Box 10.081-1000 Tel.: (506) 234-0404
José, Costa Rica Fax: (506) 234-0955
E-mail: ueditorial@iidh.ed.cr

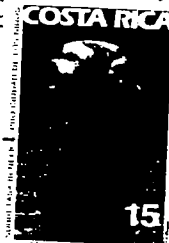
Newsletter of the Costa Rican American Institute of Human Rights

Institutional

Visit to IIHR Headquarters by USAID officials

San José, Costa Rica
August 12-18, 1997

USAID officials Amy Young and Madeline Williams visited San Jose for a series of meetings with all the areas of the Institute. Amy Young is a Senior Specialist at the Center for Democracy, a global division of USAID, where she is responsible for elections and will soon be taking charge of programs related to the Rule of Law. She was anxious to learn more about the IIHR's programs and the lessons we have learned, with a view to implementing them in other USAID-supported programs worldwide. Madeline Williams works for the Regional Office for Latin America and will now be our contact with AID in Washington. The meetings with both officials were very productive.



Visit by the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

San José, Costa Rica, June 30, 1997

José Ramos Horta, from East Timor, who was recently awarded the Nobel Peace Prize (jointly with the Catholic Bishop of East Timor, Monsignor Belo) visited the headquarters of the IIHR. Ramos Horta was a member of the cabinet of his country's short-lived independent government before East Timor was an-

nexed by Indonesia. During his he spoke to the personnel of the IIHR on the situation in Southeast Asia, as part of our staff training program. Mr. Ramos visited Costa Rica at the invitation of the Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress.

Antonio Cançado Trindade elected a member of the *Institut de Droit International*

At its last session in Strasbourg, France, the *Institut de Droit International* elected Antonio Cançado Trindade, a member of the Board of the IIHR and its former Executive Director, as its new member for Latin America and the Caribbean. In the elections on August 27, Cançado Trindade obtained the two-thirds majority required for membership of this institution, which has been in existence for over a century. Created in 1873, the *Institut de Droit International* is the world's leading scientific association devoted to the codification and

gradual development of international public and private law. Its members include the most respected specialists in the subject from every corner of the world, who meet together every two years. Its next session will be held in Berlin, Germany in 1999.

The Inter-American Institute of Human Rights is delighted at the appointment of its good friend Antonio as a Latin American member of the *Institut de Droit International* and wishes him every success in this new undertaking.

CUBA

Preparatory Technical Mission July 9-12, 1997

The IIHR sent its third mission this year to Cuba. The purpose of the mission was to consolidate relations with the National Union of Jurists of Cuba (UNJC) and finalize details of IIHR's activities in Cuba for the rest of 1997. Advantage was also taken of the opportunity to strengthen relations with the Federation of Cuban Women and discuss the possibilities of organizing a joint activity between that institution and the Gender and Human Rights Program.

Official Presentation of the Book *Seminario sobre derechos humanos* September 4, 1997

A ceremony was held on September 4 for the official presentation of the book *Seminario sobre Derechos Humanos*, which contains the proceedings of the first Seminar on Human Rights organized by the IIHR in June 1996, in collaboration with the National Union of Jurists of Cuba (UNJC). The activity was held at the Centro Capitolio La Habana before an audience of over 200 people, including government officials, diplomats stationed in Cuba and

members of the Cuban legal community, as well as members of the UNJC. The UNJC and the IIHR took advantage of the opportunity to hold a round table to discuss the book. This was chaired by Roberto Díaz Sotolongo, Minister of Justice of Cuba, and María de los Angeles Flórez Prida, Vice Minister of Foreign Relations of Cuba, also took part. The IIHR was represented by its President, Pedro Nikken, and Roberto Cuéllar, Director of Research and Development and of the Civil Society Area. The UNJC was represented by its President, Arnel Medina Cuenca, and José Peraza Chapeau, a former student of the IIHR and cur-

Editorial

Children's rights are one of the new frontiers for the protection of human rights and deserve our special attention. As occurs with many other areas of our discipline, in Latin America and the Caribbean it is very easy to obtain rapid consensus on the importance of the issue, but much more difficult to pinpoint the tasks that such recognition requires us to undertake. It is fair to say that in this we are not alone: the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly less than eight years ago, has been ratified by all but two countries (Somalia and the United States). However, the social, and sometimes government, practices that adversely affect children are far from being a thing of the past.

Even more important than the fact that this multilateral treaty was adopted in record time is the actual content of the instrument. Natural skepticism might lead one to think that if the states adopted this treaty so readily, it could be because it neither has much to say nor imposes real obligations on anyone. This is not the case, however: the Convention is a compendium of extremely advanced norms and makes no easy concessions to either national sovereignty or alleged cultural differences where the rights of children are concerned. From its enshrinement of the guiding and interpretative principle of the "best interests of the child," to the right of children to an identity and to be heard in all matters that affect them, this Convention represents a real innovation in the way in which the international community legislates in regard to the inherent rights of the human being.

It is especially encouraging to note that, in regard to rights that are essentially eco-

nomie, social and cultural in nature, the language of this Convention is more strictly binding and better defines the obligations of the State when the beneficiary of the right is a child. Progress has thus been made in overcoming the distinction - dating from the 1950s - made between civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights, and which consigned the latter to the frustrating ambit of those that are "non-actionable" and subject to "gradual realization."

Specialists in the subject contend that this Convention is a radical departure in its approach to children's rights, marking a move away from the doctrine of an "irregular situation" that underpinned the aid-oriented and falsely protective action of our legislation prior to 1989, towards the doctrine of so called "integrated protection" that requires the State to recognize every person who has not reached the age of majority as, first and foremost, a subject of rights, and only then as someone who may require - in order to exercise and enjoy those rights - specialized attention. According to Alessandro Baratta and Emilio García Méndez, this represents a change in the status of minors (i.e. from individuals who are incapable of defending themselves and are the object of protection), recognizing them as citizens (legal persons) and paving the way for a concept that will severely limit the restrictions that States can impose on the exercise of rights on the grounds of the age of the individuals concerned.

But the juridical establishment of this principle will remain incomplete as long as the implementation mechanisms remain largely ineffective. It is in this area that the Convention is disappointing, since the Committee created

thereunder does not have powers to deal with complaints concerning violations of its norms in international judicial, or even quasi-judicial, proceedings. Until this weakness is corrected, it will fall to national courts to demonstrate the legal implications and import of the norms of this Convention, and show that signing and ratifying it was not merely a gesture but a solemn and binding commitment.

We can use this new weapon to combat more effectively the domestic violence that affects children, the brutal persecution of street children, the child labor that continues to grow in our cities and rural areas, and judicial systems that, under the guise of protection, systematically violate the right of every child to due process and a fair trial. Working in conjunction with UNICEF, the IIHR is close to completing a task whose outputs will include a guide to the application of this Convention, complemented by a glossary and a thesaurus. We are convinced that in this way we will be contributing very effectively to training civil society organizations in the use of this instrument. We are also continuing to discuss with UNICEF and CEJIL, the design of a program to foster the use of the different systems for the international protection of human rights, with a view to further developing the doctrine and jurisprudence of children's rights.

Juan E. Méndez

Board of Directors

Honorary President: Thomas Buergenthal

President: Pedro Nikken

Vice-President: Sonia Picado S.

Vice-President: Rodolfo Stavenhagen

Members: Lloyd G. Barnett, Allan Brewer-Carías, Marco Tulio Bruni-Celli, Antônio A. Cançado Trindade, Gisèle Côté-Harper, Margaret E. Crahan, Víctor Ivor Cuffy, Mariano Fiallos Oyanguren, Héctor Fix-Zamudio, Diego García-Sayán, Robert Kogod Goldman, Claudio Grossman, Oliver Jackman, María Elena Martínez, Emilio Mignone, Rafael Nieto Navia, Elizabeth Odio Benito, Nina Pacari, Máximo Pacheco, Mónica Pinto, Rodolfo Piza Escalante, Hernán Salgado Pesantes, Cristian Tattenbach, Edmundo Vargas Carreño

Executive Director: Juan E. Méndez

Articles for publication

Through its Editorial Unit the IIHR supports all those working in the human rights field in the region. Its catalogue of publications includes over 250 titles on important aspects of human rights, ranging from books to newsletters, compilations, manuals, teaching and educational materials, videos and, most recently, compact disks. The IIHR produces five regular publications: the *NEWSLETTER* (quarterly), the *REVISTA IIDH* and the *BOLETIN ELECTORAL* (biannually), and two series, *ESTUDIOS BASICOS DE DERECHOS HUMANOS* and *ESTUDIOS ESPECIALIZADOS DE DERECHOS HUMANOS*. The Editorial Unit of the IIHR will accept unpublished articles in the field of the legal and social sciences with an emphasis on human rights. Articles should be submitted to the Editorial Unit of the IIHR. Rules governing presentation, size, format, etc., are to be found on the back cover of the *Revista IIDH* or may be requested directly from the Editorial Unit of the IIHR.

rently the Legal Director of the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Cuba, Ramón de la Cruz Ochoa, President of the Constitutional and Juridical Affairs Commission, José Luis Toledo Santander, Dean of the Law School of Havana University and a deputy of the Popular National Assembly. In his speech, the President of the IIHR noted that "for us this ceremony has historical significance and is of transcendental importance. We realized that we would not fully attain the goals that the Institute set for itself when it was founded if we failed to establish a presence in every country in the Americas, demonstrating pluralism and a desire to convey a message, and also to learn from the experiences of every country in the hemisphere, with an open mind and a spirit of humility. "Nikken also stressed that "in presenting this book, the IIHR feels that it has fulfilled an ambition, and one which it wishes to repeat: that of being present in Cuba and cooperating, as part of the aims and nature of our institu-



PHOTO BY DANIEL BALDIZON

From left to right: Roberto Cuéllar, Director of Research and Development of the IIHR; Ramón de la Cruz Ochoa, President of the Commission of Constitutional and Juridical Affairs of the Popular National Assembly; Rubén Remigio Ferro, Deputy Head of the Popular Organizations Department of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party; Arnel Medina Cuenca, President of the UNJC; Roberto Díaz Sotolongo, Minister of Justice of Cuba; Pedro Nikken, President of the IIHR; and María de los Angeles Flórez Prida, Vice Minister of Foreign Relations of Cuba.



PHOTO BY DANIEL BALDIZON

Participants in the ceremony held for the presentation of the book. Front row: Michael Fruhling, the Swedish Ambassador to Cuba, accompanied by Mr. Svenungsson, Counselor of the Swedish Embassy.

tion, with the government and civil society organizations in research, education and the advancement of human rights." Finally, he noted that "the presentation of this book is the result of a process and demonstrates one of the fruits of our common effort. It is hopefully also an augury of many other joint achievements in the future... The IIHR has a strong desire and great hopes that the activities that the IIHR and the UNJC have carried out, and continued to carry out this year in several fields, will continue in the future."

The IIHR delegation took advantage of the occasion to meet with the leaders of the UNJC and Michael Fruhling and Gonzalo García Bustillos, the Ambassadors of Sweden and Venezuela to Cuba, respectively, and with His Eminence Jaime Cardenal Ortega, Archbishop of Havana.

Area of Education

EXPODH '97

One of the activities scheduled by the IIHR for implementation this year is the 1997 International Exhibition on Education in Human Rights (EXPODH '97), which is being organized jointly by the Areas of Education, Civil Society and CAPEL. The activity involves an exhibition of materials developed for education in human rights that will be held December 10-12 at the National Center for Science and Culture -CENAC- in San Jose, Costa Rica. Requests to take part have been received from a number of institutions and support has been obtained from the Government of France, through Jean Sylvain Pradeau, Director of the Department of International Relations for Latin America, and Didier Goujaud, First Secretary

of the French Embassy; UNESCO's office in San José will also be participating in the organization and execution of the activity, while Radio Nederland will be collaborating in the workshops. Fernando Cardenal, former Minister of Education of Nicaragua, will present a paper on "Education in Values and Human Development." As part of the activities at EXPODH 97, the IIHR is also planning a human rights film festival, with assistance from the organizers of the International Human Rights Film Festival held annually by Human Rights Watch in New York. Information on EXPODH 97 is being disseminated through the IIHR's home page on Internet. The address is: <http://www.iihr.de.cr/expo>.

Requests to take part have been received from a number of organizations that produce

human rights education materials and from most of the countries in the region. The applications for registration will be analyzed to determine which organizations will be invited to take part in the activity.

Education in Human Rights Workshop Santiago, Chile September 13-14, 1997

In coordination with the local chapter of Amnesty International, the workshop on Education in Human Rights, with emphasis on the gender issue, was held in Santiago, Chile, from September 13-14. The objective, as the title suggests, was to provide training in education in human rights.

**Seminar-Workshop for the Validation
of the Teaching Materials of the CRE**
Buenos Aires, Argentina
September 16-18, 1997

The seminar-workshop for the analysis, evaluation and validation of the materials on "Educating for citizenship and human rights" was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in coordination with the Center for Legal and Social Studies (CELS) and the Government of the City of Buenos Aires. The aim was to validate the Argentine version of the didactic materials prepared by the CRE with educators from that country, as part of the project Education for Human Rights and Democracy. The Education Area, which is responsible for this project, requested technical assistance from the Gender and Human Rights Program to support the group discussions that formed part of the workshop, which was attended by 50 educators from the educational system of Buenos Aires. Emilio Mignone, Dina Rodríguez and Gilda Pacheco participated on behalf of the IIHR.

**Peruvian version of *Diferentes pero
Iguales en Derechos***
Lima, Peru
September 22-23, 1997

The Director of the Education Area, Dina Rodríguez, reviewed and discussed with representatives of the Peruvian Institute for Education in Human Rights and Peace and UNICEF, the Peruvian version of the video *Diferentes pero Iguales en Derechos*, which will soon form part of a permanent human rights exhibit at the Museo de la Nación in Peru. Meetings are also being coordinated with senior officials of the museum to finalize details for the opening of the Hall of Children's Rights.

**Seventh Ibero-American
Conference on Education**
Mérida, Venezuela
September 24-27, 1997

Dina Rodríguez and Lorena González of the Education Area attended the Seventh Ibero-American Education Conference in Mérida, Venezuela, organized by the Ministry of Education and the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture, as part of the preparatory activities for the Ibero-American Summit of Presidents that is to be held on Isla Margarita in November. The subject of the conference was education and the ethical values of democracy and the purpose was to formulate a proposal that will be presented at the summit.

Map of Human Rights

This project, which is being executed by our Documentation Center, aims to generate two

types of products: summaries of documents in a full-text data base created in Microis, and academic reports on the situation in the Latin American and Caribbean countries, for use by our researchers. The most recent information incorporated includes a total of 175 summaries on the political, economic, social and human rights situation in thirteen countries (Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, Paraguay and Venezuela). The latest developments in the political situation in Costa Rica, Panama and Ecuador were also documented. Basic information on each of these countries is now being processed, including data on their population, economy, territory, history, the political system, constitutional rights and other important topics.

**Evaluation of the Fifteenth Interdisciplinary
Course in Human Rights**
"Fernando Volio Jiménez"

This year the organizers of the Interdisciplinary Course decided to evaluate the participants' level of knowledge of the basic topics that were addressed during the activity. The evaluation revealed that most of the students increased their knowledge and their powers of reasoning with regard to the topics covered. A small number failed to earn the minimum six-point grade required to obtain the academic certificate. We have sent letters of congratulation to the institutions whose representatives achieved the highest grades.

Evaluations were also carried out of the academic content, organization and methodologies employed in the Course, in both quantitative and qualitative terms. The data obtained suggests that the participants found the vast majority of the topics addressed during the lectures and modules to be extremely useful. The students also acknowledged that most of the teaching staff had an excellent knowledge of the academic content of the Course.

With regard to the Academic Compilation, 89% of the participants were of the opinion that the information it contained was appropriate, while 100% rated the methodologies employed as very good.

UNESCO Lectures

The Costa Rican Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO presented a request for support with the organization of the UNESCO Lectures, an activity designed to train multiplier agents in aspects and methodologies of human rights education. Efforts are under way to design the academic content, methodology and materials to be used during this activity,

and coordinate the invitations for the event, which is scheduled to be held at IIHR Headquarters on October 28-29.

Other Activities:

On August 27 the IIHR took part in the forum "Education and Knowledge as Factors in Social Development and the Realization of Children's Rights," organized by the National University of Costa Rica and the United Nations' Children's Fund (UNICEF); and in the round table "Reform of the Costa Rican Educational System and its Impact on Children's Rights," organized by PANIAMOR.

International Radio Meeting

The IIHR will be taking part in the International Radio Meeting due to be held October 5-9 in Santiago, Chile. We will be participating in two ways: María Elena Martínez will be presenting a paper entitled "Journalism, ethics and human rights," and there will also be a stand displaying the IIHR's publications.

International Book Fair

The IIHR will be exhibiting its publications at the International Book Fair due to be held at FERCORI in San Jose, Costa Rica, from October 22 to 30. This will be a new experience for us and will enable us to gauge the demand for our publications.

New Publications

At the request of the Ministry of Education of Guatemala, the CRE is preparing two books on education in human rights for publication. These contain 25 fascicles that will contribute to the dissemination of human rights throughout the primary school system of that country.

The Central American Educational and Cultural Commission (CECC), composed of the ministers of education and culture of the region, is preparing a book on Central American history and has asked the CRE/IIHR to contribute a short article on human rights in Central America. The article submitted is entitled *Luces y Sombras de los Derechos Humanos*.

In coordination with the Peruvian chapter of AI, two books are being published for primary school teachers, one on the right to enjoy one's own culture and the other on the natural sciences and human rights.

Program for the Strengthening of Electoral Organizations

Technical Assistance Projects

• Technical Support to the Supreme Electoral Council of Nicaragua

The final version of the proposal entitled Technical Support for the Elections in the Caribbean Region on March 1, 1998 (validated by IIHR/CAPEL with the technical staff of the CSE), was prepared and submitted to the consideration of the Supreme Electoral Council of Nicaragua. Once approved, the proposal will be circulated among the international financial community.

The document "Integrated System for the Civil Registry, the Issuing of Identity Cards, the Permanent Electoral Roll and Elections 1996," prepared by the CSE/Nicaragua, was also analyzed.

• Technical Support to the National Elections Tribunal of Honduras

The IIHR/CAPEL is providing technical support to the National Elections Tribunal (TNE) of Honduras for the general elections scheduled for November 30, 1997. The objectives of this project are to:

- monitor technical aspects of the activities of the electoral process for which the electoral organizations are responsible;
- support officials in identifying aspects or situations that could lead to weaknesses or

problems as regards the correct execution of the technical activities of the electoral process; and

- generate reports for the governing body of the TNE, with pertinent recommendations on the administration of the electoral process.

During August and September 1997, IIHR/CAPEL official Orlando Tapia conducted two technical support missions to collaborate in the various components of the electoral administration system. A series of five activities on the system of financial administration was also carried out by IIHR official Marcelo Prendas. Both officials subsequently submitted the corresponding technical reports to the consideration of the TNE.

This project is being implemented with funds from USAID through IFES, as part of an alliance for collaboration with the electoral organization of Honduras.

At the request of the TNE, the IIHR/CAPEL drafted a proposal for technical support for the training of approximately 99,920 members of the general public and electoral officials, who will be serving as polling station officials, and to provide support in the relaying of electoral results.

• Technical Assistance to the National Electoral Court of Bolivia

The second stage of the project Technical Assistance to the National Electoral Court

(CNE) of Bolivia was concluded in August, covering the period December 1996 through August 1997. This project covered the areas of electoral geography, the Civil Registry and Electoral Registry and citizen education, training and electoral information. It was implemented for the general elections held on June 1, 1997. The technical assistance to the CNE was financed by the mission of the United States Agency for International Development in Bolivia.

A final mission was carried out at the end of August to conclude the technical assistance project, as specified in the cooperation agreement. The members of the mission were: Silvia Meléndez, Ana María Rodino and Susana Ruggiero, Andrés Araya, Coordinator of the Program for the Strengthening of Electoral Organizations, and Juan Carlos Laclé, deputy head of the project. Meetings were held with the Director and Deputy Director of USAID/Bolivia and with officials from USAID's Office for Democratic Initiatives. Working sessions also took place with members of the governing body and unit heads of the electoral organization.

In September, the final report and the report on the evaluation of the indicators of the impact of the activities of the project were prepared by external consultants Silvia Meléndez and María Auxiliadora Protti. As part of their responsibilities under the project, consultants Eduardo Cázares and Ana María Rodino have been preparing specialized reports on each area of work of the electoral geography and citizen education components, respectively.

Observation Missions

• Observation Mission to Mexico

The IIHR/CAPEL dispatched a mission of observers to the federal elections held in Mexico on July 6. The members of the delegation were: Pedro Nikken, President of the IIHR; Luis Alberto Cordero, Director of CAPEL, who were accompanied by relevant persons interested in electoral topics in the region.

The members of the mission met with Carlos Castillo Peraza of the PAN and Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas

of the PRD, Minister José Woldenberg, Counselor President of the Federal Electoral Institute of Mexico (IFE), and members of governing body of the TRIFE. A press conference was held at the headquarters of the IFE, and the delegation also visited the offices of the *La Reforma* and *El Heraldo* newspapers and met with members of the Civic Alliance and the Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights.



Observation Mission to the Federal Elections in Mexico, July 6, 1997. Luis Alberto Cordero, Director of CAPEL; José Woldenberg, Director of the Federal Electoral Institute of Mexico (IFE); Patricio Vivanco, President of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Ecuador; and Eduardo Valdés, President of the Electoral Tribunal of Panama.

It is fruitless to attempt to build peace if a feeling of injustice and impunity prevails in a society, tearing apart the social fabric and undermining the possibilities of true national reconciliation, following an armed conflict of the scale of the one that occurred in Guatemala. Therefore, as part of its Integrated Program for Guatemala 1997-1998, the IIHR has decided to contribute to the current debate in Guatemala on the right of the victims of political violence to truth, redress, compensation and damages, by drawing attention to similar experiences in other countries in the hemisphere such as Chile and Argentina. While it is true that, given the particular characteristics of each country and society, every peace process is unique and experiences with regard to redress and compensation for the victims of political violence cannot be "exported" or transferred, the IIHR believes that, in addition to the principles and criteria outlined by UN experts Louis Joinet and Theo Van Boven, it is appropriate to disseminate in Guatemala the experiences of other countries in the hemisphere in this specific field.

As an initial attempt to understand the complex situation in Guatemala, the IIHR took advantage of the Evaluation of the 1996 Regional Course for Central America and the Caribbean, carried out on July 30 and 31, 1997, to invite Alicia Pierini, Undersecretary for Human and Social Rights of the Interior Ministry of Argentina, to take part. Over the two days of the meeting, Alicia Pierini was able to share with different sectors of Guatemalan society her experience as the head of her government's programs for redress for the victims of human rights violations perpetrated under the *de facto* regimes in Argentina. Ms. Pierini described the different legal and political issues involved in determining which victims were entitled to compensation, how they were divided into different categories, the criteria used in Argentina to fix the amount of compensation, the question of other forms of reparation besides financial compensation, historical truth as part of the redress of grievances, the criteria for determining evidence, the right of survivorship and other issues that are very important in Guatemala at this time.

On August 1, representatives of the IIHR also met with the members of the Commission for Historical Clarification who had been sworn in the previous day. The meeting was attended by Christian Tomuschat, Coordinator, Fernando Castañón, Executive Secretary, Daniel O'Donnell, Director of Research, and Fabrizio Feliciani of UNOPS, who will be acting as the Director of Operations of the Commission. The representatives of the IIHR who accompanied Ms. Pierini were the President of the Board of the IIHR, Pedro Nikken, and Roberto Cuéllar, Director of Research and Development.

That afternoon, Ms. Pierini presented a paper entitled "South American Experiences regarding Compensation, Redress and Recovery of Damages for the Victims of Political Violence" to a gathering of members of Guatemalan human rights NGOs, including the Human Rights Office of the Archbishopric (ODHA), the Institute for Education in Sustainable Development (IEPADES), the Myrna Mack Foundation, the Association of Relatives of Detainees and *Desaparecidos* of Guatemala (FAMDEGUA), the Program to Salvage the Memory of the Past (REMHI), the Office of the National Coordinator of Widows of Guatemala (CONADEHGUA) and the Alliance Against Impunity. The meeting provided an opportunity to share with Guatemalan NGOs the experience of Argentina in regard to redress

for victims and hear Ms. Pierini's opinion on the value of eye-witness evidence in the case of massacres, the possibilities of collective redress, the relationship between Programs for Redress and the use of ordinary proceedings under the judicial system, and the possible use of social programs (scholarships for the children of victims of political violence, housing programs, etc.) instead of granting financial compensation. The participants were thus able to assess the outlook for programs for redress and compensation for victims of political violence that are currently under discussion in Guatemala.

Parallel to its contribution to the analysis of the complex issue of redress in Guatemala, the IIHR continued with its efforts in the field of human rights education at the university level and with the military and the judicial system, completing its work through several evaluation and assessment missions, details of which are given below:

Education

Master's Degree Course in Human Rights

Following the First Specialized Regional Course in Human Rights for Mexico and Central America, the question arose of the need to provide permanent training in human rights at the highest level in Guatemala. Efforts were therefore undertaken to coordinate actions with the Rafael Landívar University of Guatemala, which was already planning to institute a masters' degree program in human rights, with a view to providing support with three specific tasks: 1. academic support for the design of the study program; 2. collaboration for a meeting with university professors from the region; and 3. preparation of the basic textbook to be used for the course.

To this end, the Executive Director of the IIHR, Juan E. Méndez, and the Chancellor of the university, Gabriel Medrano Valenzuela, signed a framework agreement for academic cooperation in Guatemala on September 11, under which the two institutions will collaborate in developing a masters' degree program in human rights.

Administration of Justice and Human Rights

Development of Constitutional Justice and Human Rights in Guatemala

Second Training Workshop for Officials of the Constitutional Court of Guatemala

August 12-14, 1997

The Program sent a technical mission to Mexico August 12-14 to hold the Second Training Workshop for Officials of the Constitutional Court of Guatemala, on the compilation and systematization of jurisprudence. The first workshop was held in Guatemala City in May, and the second in Mexico since the system used to compile jurisprudence in that country is similar to the one used in Guatemala. While in Mexico five decisions containing the same interpretation of the law are necessary for a legal precedent, in Guatemala three are required. By holding this

workshop in Mexico, Guatemalan officials were able to observe and study the process used in that country for the systematization of jurisprudence.

Working meetings were held with experts from the Office for the Coordination of the Compilation and Systematization of Jurisprudence of the Supreme Court of Justice, and from the Center for Legislation and Jurisprudence of the Legal Research Institute of the Autonomous National University of Mexico. The IIHR mission was composed of Aylín Ordóñez Reyna, María Elena Méndez Anzueto and Martín Ramón Guzmán, officials of the Constitutional Court of Guatemala.

Compilation and systematization of the jurisprudence of the Constitutional Court

One of the principle modules of the project during this quarter involved the compilation and systematization of the jurisprudence of the Constitutional Court of Guatemala. The detailed study of all the decisions contained in the Court's 39 Gazettes of Jurisprudence (in which judgments are compiled) was completed. This led to the production of approximately 5000 abstracts containing the criteria and interpretations established by the Court in each judgment.

The next step in the process will be to systematize and identify the jurisprudence or legal doctrine of the Court by identifying the third judicial decision on a given matter containing the same opinion or interpretation. Those opinions that do not yet constitute legal doctrine will be kept as possible sources of future jurisprudence (i.e. until such time as further judgments convert them into such).

Parallel to this process, a specialized computerized system has been created on forensic matters for the Constitutional Court, containing the following data bases: 1. gazettes of jurisprudence and the complete text of judgments; 2. abstracts of cases; 3. legal doctrine; 4. jurisprudence of the Constitutional Court of Spain; 5. jurisprudence of the Constitutional Chamber of Costa Rica; and 6. jurisprudence of the Federal Supreme Court of Justice of Mexico.

Security Forces, Democracy and Human Rights Program

Training in Human Rights for the Guatemalan Army

As part of the IIHR's activities in Guatemala, and with a view to promoting knowledge of and respect for human rights within the military of that country, the Institute has designed a special human rights training project for 280 Guatemalan army officers.

The project is being backed and supported by the Ministry of Defense and the Chiefs of Staff of the National Defense Forces of Guatemala, which, together with the IIHR, will be coordinating the execution of the activities planned. A visit was carried out July 1 to meet with Héctor Mario Barrios Celada, Minister of Defense and thus give continuity to the relationship established with his predecessor and reaffirm the Institute's interest in the project.

Then, on September 4-5, the IIHR hosted an official visit from Gen. Marco Tulio Espinosa, Head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the National Defense Forces, who was accompanied by Navy Captain Julio Yon Rivera, Col. Douglas Barrera Guerra and Lt. Col. Roberto Rivera Martínez. The members of the delegation from the Joint Chiefs of Staff of Guatemala were able to acquaint themselves thoroughly with the work of the four Areas of the IIHR and meet with Juan E. Méndez, Executive Director. Agreement was reached on the types of assistance that the IIHR is to provide to the Guatemalan Army and various details ironed out to ensure the smooth execution of the project.

Evaluation Missions

Evaluation of the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman August 20, 1997

The IIHR was asked by the Governments of Sweden, Denmark (through PRODECA) and Norway to evaluate some of the programs of the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman of Guatemala. Led by Pedro Nikken, the President of the IIHR, the team conducted the evaluation from June 30 to July 13, 1997 in Guatemala City. The members of the team were Irene Aguilar, an officer of the Ombudsman and Human Rights Program, Renato Zerbini, an officer of the Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights Program, and three external consultants - Elías Rogent Albiol, former Deputy Ombudsman of Catalonia; María Muñoz, advisor to the Ombudsman of Peru; and Salvador Sánchez, former advisor to the Presidential Commission for the Creation of the Office of the Ombudsman of Panama.

The principal objective was to analyze whether the institution's mandate, the strategy that it employs and the means available to it for carrying out its mandate, take sufficient account of the displaced population and indigenous peoples.

The IIHR presented its final evaluation report on August 20 at a meeting with Peter Hellmers, Coordinator of Denmark's Pro Human Rights Program for Central America, Ingemar Cederberg, Counselor of the Embassy of Sweden, and Jon Otto Brodholt, acting Chargé d'Affaires of the Royal Embassy of Norway. During the visit to Guatemala, the IIHR took advantage of the opportunity to meet with the recently appointed Human Rights Ombudsman of Guatemala, Julio Arango.

Evaluation of the Programs of MINUGUA

As reported in Newsletter #47, the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) requested technical assistance from the IIHR in conducting three ten-day evaluations of the progress of the programs being implemented by the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA). The second phase of the evaluation examined the MINUGUA programs related to indigenous peoples and technical cooperation for the National Civil Police (PNC). It was carried out September 21-27, 1997.

Associations of Electoral Organizations

• Seventh Conference of the Association of South American Electoral Organizations (Quito Protocol)

[The Seventh Conference of the Association of South American Electoral Organizations (Quito Protocol) took place August 28-29, 1997 in the city of Santafé de Bogotá. It was attended by senior officials of the electoral organizations of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Some of the most important points on which agreement was reached included the decisions to:

- * further modernize electoral systems in order to ensure greater efficiency and transparency in all phases of the planning, organization and execution of electoral processes.
- * strengthen links with political and civil society organizations linked to the electoral system, and with the electorate and the mass media, so as to foster and facilitate greater participation in the execution of future electoral processes.
- * entrust to CAPEL, in its capacity as the Executive Secretariat of the Association, the efforts to organize academic activities related to the study of and research on political parties, so as to enable the latter to better perform their functions as regards policies, organization, programming and representation. To the same end, it was recommended that electoral

organizations organize and encourage activities of this kind.

- * foster and promote education and civic promotion programs, preferably in collaboration with other entities, in particular the mass media and national educational systems, for the construction of a strong political culture; in particular, programs designed to teach democratic values to children and young people.
- * emphasize the desirability of mounting permanent efforts to encourage the participation of the electorate in electoral processes, through programs for the dissemination of the virtues of the democratic system.
- * cooperate with political parties, in order to foster their competitiveness, equality and sustainability through the promotion of innovative ways of securing financing, and by guaranteeing transparency and legality in the use of their resources.
- * recommend to political organizations that they allocate funds for the promotion of life under a democratic system and citizen education, emphasizing democratic values.
- * urge the electoral organizations that are signatories to the Quito Protocol, within their sphere of competence, to establish procedures, customs and guidelines for the due supervision, verification and control of the financial resources of political organizations, so that management of same be made increasingly efficient and effective and a matter of public record.
- * strengthen cooperative links with parliaments in the region, in order to facilitate plans for the reform of electoral legislation, political parties and their financing, and citizen partici-

pation, in order to improve the structure and functioning of the democratic system.

- * support the efforts of the Executive Secretariat to create an Integrated Ibero-American Information System, incorporating data bases that will contain:

- a) all the electoral legislation of the Ibero-American countries, in the respective original language;
- b) information taken from the statistical electoral records of Ibero-American countries, supplied by the electoral organizations themselves, through a network that would make it possible to disseminate it and conduct academic research on the subject;
- c) information on political and electoral, social and economic issues and human rights, with emphasis on political rights, available for consultation by electoral organizations.

- * foster and promote the permanent updating of the information contained in the data bases of the Integrated Ibero-American Information System. To this end, the electoral organizations will furnish CAPEL, as the Executive Secretariat, with any changes in national legislation, political and electoral information and electoral statistics, via electronic means.

- * support the Executive Secretariat's efforts to create an institutional home page on the World Wide Web to disseminate the latest information available in the different data bases of the Integrated Ibero-Americana Information System.

- * support the Executive Secretariat in its efforts to secure the technical and financial resources needed to consolidate and strengthen the Integrated Ibero-Americana Information System.

Program for the Strengthening of Democratic Governability

Technical Assistance in the Administrative Reform of the National Congress of the Dominican Republic

Two missions were carried out to the Dominican Republic in connection with the technical assistance project for the administrative reform of the National Congress. The first mission was used to gather the final information needed to prepare the report, while the purpose of the second was to give a presentation on the contents of the report to deputies and senators and administrative and technical officials of the Congress. The comments and suggestions made during the Seminar will be used to fine-tune the final document prior to its presentation.

Letter of Understanding with the Central American Parliament

The IIHR signed a Letter of Understanding with the Central American Parliament to provide technical assistance with its modernization process. The document in question authorizes the IIHR/CAPEL to seek funds on behalf of PARLACEN to finance the activities required.

Letter of Understanding with the Presidential Commission for the Reform and Modernization of the State in the Dominican Republic (COPRME)

A letter of understanding was signed with COPRME with a view to supporting a series of tasks aimed at the modernization of the Dominican political system. These include the

modernization of political parties, the design of civic education campaigns for the 1998 elections, promotion of the ombudsman and education in human rights.

Regional Project for Technical Assistance and Legislative Training

A working meeting was held with Rubén Perina, Deputy Director of the OAS's Unit for the Promotion of Democracy, at which we presented a proposal for a new regional assistance and legislative training project that would include PARLACEN. The OAS has agreed to fund activities during 1997 in the amount of US\$60,000. The OAS will also be contributing to efforts to secure funds from the World Bank for two projects requested by the President of the National Assembly of Nicaragua, Iván Escobar Fornos.

Participation in the First Exhibition of Computerized Systems for Elections

Caracas, Venezuela
September 15-17, 1997

Andrés Araya Montezuma, Coordinator of the Program for the Strengthening of Electoral Organizations, took part in the First Exhibition of Computerized Systems for Elections, organized by the Supreme Electoral Council of Venezuela. On display were the latest technological developments in support of electoral processes, including voting and vote-counting machines.

Working Meeting between the Supreme Electoral Council of Guatemala and the IIHR/CAPEL

Antigua, Guatemala
September 25-26, 1997

A working meeting was held on the above dates between the IIHR/CAPEL and the following members of the governing body of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) of Guatemala: Félix Castillo, Gabriel Medrano, Mario Roberto Guerra, César Conde and Osmundo Villatoro, as well as Jorge Rosales, Secretary General of the TSE. The IIHR/CAPEL was represented at the meeting by: Roberto Cuéllar, Director of Research and Development and of the Civil Society Area; Luis Alberto Cordero,

Director of CAPEL, Eduardo Núñez, Coordinator for the Strengthening of Democratic Governability; Andrés Araya, Coordinator of the Program for the Strengthening of Electoral Organizations; and consultant Gonzalo Brenes. The outcome of the meeting was that the IIHR/CAPEL offered to provide the TSE with support in preparing draft legislation on the legal and technical aspects of the proposed single identity document.

Program for the Strengthening of the Right to Political Participation

Seminar on the mass media and democratic society

As a continuation of the Seminar on the Mass Media and Democratic Society held in Cartagena de Indias in March of this year, and as part of the IIHR's plan to implement a permanent program on freedom of expression, two seminars were held recently on this subject.

The first, which took place in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, from August 25-26, at the Ibero-American Training Center of the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI), was attended by some forty participants from Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Bolivia, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador and Paraguay. The Board of Directors of the IIHR was represented by Monica Pinto and María Elena Martínez, and the IIHR by the director of CAPEL, Luis Alberto Cordero. Juan Ignacio Pita, Director of the Ibero-American Training Center of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, attended on behalf of the AECI.

The second seminar, held in Antigua, Guatemala, from September 11-12, also at the AECI's Ibero-American Training Center, was attended by some fifty people from Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, the United States and Puerto Rico. The IIHR's Board of Directors was represented by María Elena Martínez, and the IIHR by its Executive

Director, Juan E. Méndez, Luis Alberto Cordero, Director of CAPEL, and Roberto Cuéllar, Director of the Civil Society Area.

The AECI was represented by Javier Triana, from Spain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Pilar Parra, Director of the Ibero-American Training Center in Antigua. Manuel Montobbio attended on behalf of the Spanish Embassy.

The same topics were addressed at both seminars. These were: *Freedom of expression and the right to information as human rights; limits and controls on freedom of expression; the role of the mass media in strengthening the democratic culture; and the mass media, civil society and political control.* Both seminars also involved case studies conducted in groups and the drafting of final conclusions.

Training for IIHR Officials

The 28th Human Rights Session of the *Institut*



Participants in the Seminar on the Mass Media and Democratic Society, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, August 25-26, 1997, at the Ibero-American Training Center of the Spanish International Cooperation Agency.

International des Droits de l'Homme was held from June 30 to July 25 in Strasbourg, France. The study sessions focused on the different international systems for the protection of human rights, namely those of the United Nations and the inter-American, European and African systems. The participants also studied the projects aimed at creating a similar system in Asia and international humanitarian law. The IIHR officials who attended were María Lourdes González of CAPEL and Soraya Murillo of the Education Area.

Area of Public Institutions

Administration of Justice and Human Rights Program

Special Training Project to Improve the Administration of Justice

Paraguay
July 27-29, 1997

As part of the special training project for the Judiciary, a preparatory mission was carried out that included the first meeting of the

Coordinating Committee of this project, which is composed of Oscar Paciello and Elixeno Ayala, Ministers of the Supreme Court of Justice, and Gonzalo Elizondo and Luis Francisco Cervantes, Director of the Public Institutions Area and Program officer of the IIHR's Administration of Justice Program, respectively.

The first steps were taken to define the thematic content of the training activities planned and of the public opinion polls called for under the project. The logistical and administrative processes required for the smooth execution of activities were also begun.

This first meeting was followed by a visit
see next page

by Oscar Paciello to IIHR Headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica on September 11 and 12. Advantage was taken of the opportunity to finalize the details of the opinion polls scheduled to be carried out under the project, including their content and mode of execution. Further progress was also made with the definition of the thematic content of the training activities and the establishment of the policies for the compilation and preparation of the teaching materials for the courses.

Preparatory Mission

Buenos Aires, Argentina
July 30-August 2, 1997

The Administration of Justice Program plans to hold a training and promotional course in Argentina entitled "Implementation of the International Law of Human Rights in the Domestic Jurisdiction." An agreement for the organization of the activity was signed recently in Buenos Aires between the Federal Board of Courts and Higher Tribunals of Justice of the Argentine Provinces (JUFEJUS) and the IIHR. Other sectors of the Argentine legal community will also be involved.

To this end, a delegation composed of Gonzalo Elizondo, Director of the Area of Public Institutions of the IIHR, and Luis Francisco Cervantes, an official of the Administration of Justice Program, held meetings with Emilio Mignone and Mónica Pinto, both members of the IIHR's Board of Directors, the Board of Directors of JUFEJUS, Martín Abregú, Executive Director of CELS, and Julio Maier, a university professor and senior official of the Institute for Studies in the Criminal Sciences (INECIP).

The various parties agreed to pool efforts in carrying out the proposed event, which has

been provisionally scheduled for the first half of March 1998. Links were also strengthened with the institutions mentioned with a view to facilitating the execution of future activities by this and other IIHR Programs, both in Argentina and elsewhere.

Draft Basic Law of the Judiciary of Nicaragua

The Draft Basic Law of the Judiciary of Nicaragua produced by Nicaraguan experts, with the coordination, cooperation and technical assistance provided by the National Assembly and Supreme Court of Justice of Nicaragua and the IIHR, was approved by the National Assembly in June of this year. The process involved in creating this legislation was financed by the Royal Dutch Ministry for Development and Cooperation and the United States Agency for International Development.

There is now a need to disseminate this new law among the different operators of the justice system of Nicaragua. A proposal for the continuation of the project was therefore presented to USAID-Nicaragua. This will be implemented with close, continuous coordination between the Supreme Court of Justice and the IIHR.

The proposal has since been approved and calls for training modules on the changes in the judicial system under the new form of organization, for which the corresponding academic guides will be developed. It also entails



Alexis Panehal, Director for Democratic Initiatives of USAID-Nicaragua and Juan Méndez, Executive Director of the IIHR, are pictured during the signing of the extension to the funding agreement between the IIHR and USAID-Nicaragua, for the work in support of the implementation of the Basic Law of the Judiciary of that country.

support for the creation of the new institutions established under the new judicial setup, such as the professional career structure, the office of the public defender and the judicial police.

Technical Cooperation Costa Rica

At the request of the Judicial Investigation Agency, the Administration of Justice Program coordinated the IIHR's role as a facilitator at the Thirty-sixth Basic Course on Criminal Investigation, held August 29 and September 5 this year.

At these one-day seminars judicial investigators were trained in the basic theory of human rights, the inter-American protection system and the role of the judicial police in a democratic society. Ricardo Valverde and Renato Zerbini participated on behalf of the IIHR.

Security Forces, Democracy and Human Rights Program

Preparatory Missions

Nicaragua
September 8-9 and 23-26, 1997

Two preparatory missions were carried out to prepare and coordinate the creation of a project for the modernization, development and training of the National Police (PN) of Nicaragua, the implementation of which is planned for the medium term and will be coordinated by the PN and the IIHR. The principal objective will be to contribute to the consolidation of democracy, social

well-being and citizen security in Nicaraguan, supporting the consolidation of an efficient, professional and modern police force that is respectful of the law and human rights. The project will promote the integrated development of the members of the National Police, through training, instruction, practical assistance and updating training in technical, police and humanistic matters.



From left to right: Pernilla Tragardh, Third Secretary of the Embassy of Sweden; Goran Holmqvist, Head of Swedish Cooperation in Nicaragua; Commissioner Francisco Bautista, Director of the Police Training Academy; Commissioners Franco Montealegre and Edwin Cordero, Director and Deputy Director of the National Police of Nicaragua; Juan E. Méndez, Executive Director of the IIHR; and Gonzalo Elizondo, Director of the Area of Public Institutions.

Ombudsman and Human Rights Program

Meeting: "Mental Health Care Models under the Principles of Human Rights"

San José, Costa Rica
September 9, 1997

With the joint sponsorship of ILANUD, the Costa Rican Social Security Agency (CCSS) and the National Council for Rehabilitation and Special Education, the IIHR, through its Civil Society and Public Institutions Areas, organized this activity at its Headquarters. The main speaker was Vincenzo Scalfari, a psychiatrist and the director of the Mental Health Center in Parma, Italy. He has participated actively in the movement for the reform and modernization of the mental health care system in Italy and in the initial attempts to bring about similar changes in Latin America.

This activity formed part of the ongoing training activities for the staff of the IIHR. The IIHR's Gilda Pacheco, Guaria Vargas of ILANUD and Francisco Montero of the CCSS, provided commentaries at the event.

Participation of the Executive Director in the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen

Zaragoza, Spain
September 22, 1997

For the principal purpose of providing follow up to the decisions taken at the Second Congress of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen (FIO), a meeting of the Federation's Executive Committee was held in which the Executive Director of the IIHR took part. The meeting was called to discuss the possibilities of modifying the bylaws of the FIO so as to permit city and municipal ombudsmen to join. It was decided that an *ad hoc* committee should be set up to draft a document setting out the different proposals on the matter, which will be considered at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

Recent Publications

Estudios Básicos de Derechos Humanos, Tomo VIII

In fulfilling the Institute's mandate of disseminating and promoting respect for human rights in the hemisphere, it is important to underscore the existence of public institutions that oversee the protection and dissemination of human rights. The IIHR therefore has devoted Volume 8 of the series *Estudios Básicos de Derechos Humanos* to a detailed treatment of the subject of the ombudsman and the protection of human rights in Latin America.

This publication was produced by the IIHR in its capacity as the Technical Secretariat of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen, and contains the fruits of the work carried out in 1995 and 1996. It is a compilation of the legislation enacted to create and set up this institution in Latin America, Spain and some Caribbean countries. To facilitate understanding of the contents and optimum use of the book, a general thematic index of the legislation is included.

Area of Civil Society

Gender and Human Rights Program

Women's Human Rights

San José, Costa Rica
July 8, 1997

Line Bareiro, a consultant in gender issues, and Gilda Pacheco of the Gender and Human Rights Program gave a lecture at the Supreme Court of Justice on women's human rights and the need to incorporate their specific needs into public policies. This activity was coordinated by the Vice President of the Court, Rodrigo Montenegro, and was attended by officials from different agencies.

The IIHR and National Chapters of Amnesty International

The Area of Education, through the Center for Educational Resources (CRE), asked the Gender and Human Rights Program to participate in activities organized by the national chapters of Amnesty International in Mexico, Chile and Puerto Rico.

The Mexican Chapter of Amnesty International organized the Third Week of Education in Human Rights and Gender, which was held in Querétaro, Mexico, from July 25 to August 1. The Program made the inaugural presentation at the activity, which dealt with the importance of incorporating a gender focus into human rights' defense work. The activity brought together around 200 participants, mainly from Mexico and several other Latin American countries.

A two-day workshop was held in Santiago, Chile from September 13-14 with 20 volunteers from the Chilean chapter of Amnesty International. The activity included an exhibition on the gender issue and training in the use of teaching materials on women's rights, which were distributed among the participants.

A meeting also took place at the Vicaría de Solidaridad in Chile to present the main activities of the Gender and Human Rights Pro-

gram and discuss the interest of both parties in strengthening cooperation links.

Pan American Conference on "Transforming Women's Legal Status: Overcoming the Barriers in Legal Doctrine and Legal Education"

Washington, D.C.
July 14-18, 1997

The Program took part in the meeting organized by American University and ILANUD with a view to setting up a team of specialists to organize the Pan American Conference on "Transforming Women's Legal Status: Overcoming the Barriers in Legal Doctrine and Legal Education" which will be held in Washington from November 3-6. The activity is being organized by the Law School of American University and will bring together senior officials, professors and students from universities in the region to discuss legal systems in Latin America from a gender perspective and

exchange experiences with regard to the challenge of incorporating this perspective and human rights into the legal doctrine and curricula of law schools.

Second Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean: Human Rights Pastoral Chosica, Peru

August 27-31, 1997

The objective of this activity, convened by the Latin American Episcopal Council

(CELAM) and the Social Pastoral Department and organized by the Episcopal Commission for Social Action (CEAS), was to discuss and share the Church's experiences in human rights education. Some 50 people participated, representing social pastoral offices, archbishoprics and vicariates in 23 Latin American and Caribbean countries. There were also representatives from North America, Europe and the Vatican. The IIHR was asked to make a presentation on its work, specifically in the field of education and on the work of the Gender

and Human Rights Program related to education and the advancement and defense of women's human rights. Copies of the Program's latest publications were also distributed among the participants.

Program for the Prevention of Torture

Seminar for the Staff of the Prison System

Panama City, Panama

July 8-10, 1997

The First Seminar for Staff of the Prison System was attended by 70 prison officials and members of NGOs working in this area. The main objective was to ensure that education in human rights is provided to the staff of the prison system.

The activity included a presentation by the Director of Correction Facilities of the Ministry of the Interior and Justice, and others concerning the work of doctors, psychologists and social workers in the prison system.

The Center for the Prevention of Torture and the Treatment of Victims of Torture (CPTRT) in Honduras shared its experiences in relation to the prison system in that country, while the IIHR gave a presentation on its efforts to combat torture at the international level and on its work with prison systems.

Third Seminar on Human Rights

Panama City, Panama

July 24-25, 1997

The Third Seminar-Workshop, entitled "Human Rights, Organized Violence and Professional Ethics" was held at Santa María La Antigua University (USMA) in Panama City. The objective was to introduce the teaching of the prevention of torture into the curricula of the different universities. The Seminar, organized by the IIHR in coordination with the Office of the People's Human Rights Coordinator in Panama (COPODEHUPA) and the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences of the University of Panama, was attended by 60 professors and students from different universities in Panama and local NGOs.

The book "Professional Ethics, Human Rights and the Prevention of the Torture," published by the IIHR, was presented and distributed among the participants.

BELIZE

August 18-19, 1997

The IIHR organized the First Seminar for the Staff of the Prison System in Belize, which was attended by 50 officials (approximately 40% of the total number of prison staff). The primary objective was to give the staff of the prison system in Belize a grounding in human rights.

The speakers included the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of National Security and the Director of the Central Prison. There were also presentations by a medical examiner, the representative of the ICRC, the Human Rights Commission of Belize and the IIHR. The role of psychologists and social workers was discussed and details of a new special program for first-time offenders were outlined.

Program for the Strengthening of Civil Society Organizations

In March of this year, the IIHR, through its Program for the Strengthening of Civil Society Organizations and the Center for Electoral Promotion and Assistance (CAPEL) and with the sponsorship of the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI), initiated a process aimed at creating a permanent program on the promotion and protection of freedom of expression

As part of these efforts, the Second and Third Ibero-American Seminars on the Mass Media and Democratic Society were held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, and Antigua, Guatemala, respectively. The objective of these activities was to disseminate the basic principles of human rights in general, and of freedom of expression and information in particular, so as to help reinforce the role of social communicators as agents in strengthening democratic values and culture.

The second seminar, held August 25-26, was attended by 25 representatives of media enterprises, academics, politicians and civil society organizations in South America. The 35 participants in the third seminar were drawn from the same sectors in Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean (see information on page 9).

Both seminars provided an opportunity for an in-depth analysis and discussion of the legal means of defending freedom of expression and the right to information as human rights, the limits and controls on same, and the role played by the mass media in strengthening democracy.

The IIHR will be producing a publication on the results of this process in the first quarter of 1998.

Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights Program

Indigenous Peoples in Central America and the Scope and Limitations of International Law

San José, Costa Rica
July 15-19, 1997

The Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights Program took part in a seminar organized by the Ministry of Youth, Culture and Sport and the TSOCHOK Foundation. Renato Zerbini presented a paper on the demands of indigenous peoples and provided a commentary on the draft version of the Inter-American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



Declaration of Principles

Summit of the Americas Declaration of Principles

Partnership for Development and Prosperity: Democracy, Free Trade and Sustainable Development in the Americas

The elected Heads of State and Government of the Americas are committed to advance the prosperity, democratic values and institutions, and security of our Hemisphere. For the first time in history, the Americas are a community of democratic societies. Although faced with differing development challenges, the Americas are united in pursuing prosperity through open markets, hemispheric integration, and sustainable development. We are determined to consolidate and advance closer bonds of cooperation and to transform our aspirations into concrete realities.

We reiterate our firm adherence to the principles of international law and the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and in the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), including the principles of the sovereign equality of states, non-intervention, self-determination, and the peaceful resolution of disputes. We recognize the heterogeneity and diversity of our resources and cultures, just as we are convinced that we can advance our shared interests and values by building strong partnerships.

To Preserve and Strengthen the Community of Democracies of the Americas

The Charter of the OAS establishes that representative democracy is indispensable for the stability, peace and development of the region. It is the sole political system which guarantees respect for human rights and the rule of law; it safeguards cultural diversity, pluralism, respect for the rights of minorities, and peace within and among nations. Democracy is based, among other fundamentals, on free and transparent elections and includes the right of all citizens to participate in government. Democracy and development reinforce one another.

We reaffirm our commitment to preserve and strengthen our democratic systems for the benefit of all people of the Hemisphere. We will work through the appropriate bodies of the OAS to strengthen democratic institutions and promote and defend constitutional democratic rule, in accordance with the OAS Charter. We endorse OAS efforts to enhance peace and the democratic, social, and economic stability of the region.

We recognize that our people earnestly seek greater responsiveness and efficiency from our respective governments. Democracy is strengthened by the modernization of the state, including reforms that streamline operations, reduce and simplify government rules and procedures, and

undertakings of each of our nations and the subregional trade arrangements in our Hemisphere. We will build on existing subregional and bilateral arrangements in order to broaden and deepen hemispheric economic integration and to bring the agreements together.

Aware that investment is the main engine for growth in the Hemisphere, we will encourage such investment by cooperating to build more open, transparent and integrated markets. In this regard, we are committed to create strengthened mechanisms that promote and protect the flow of productive investment in the Hemisphere, and to promote the development and progressive integration of capital markets.

To advance economic integration and free trade, we will work, with cooperation and financing from the private sector and international financial institutions, to create a hemispheric infrastructure. This process requires a cooperative effort in fields such as telecommunications, energy and transportation, which will permit the efficient movement of the goods, services, capital, information and technology that are the foundations of prosperity.

We recognize that despite the substantial progress in dealing with debt problems in the Hemisphere, high foreign debt burdens still hinder the development of some of our countries.

We recognize that economic integration and the creation of a free trade area will be complex endeavors, particularly in view of the wide differences in the levels of development and size of economies existing in our Hemisphere. We will remain cognizant of these differences as we work toward economic integration in the Hemisphere. We look to our own resources, ingenuity, and individual capacities as well as to the international community to help us achieve our goals.

To Eradicate Poverty And Discrimination In Our Hemisphere

It is politically intolerable and morally unacceptable that some segments of our populations are marginalized and do not share fully in the benefits of growth. With an aim of attaining greater social justice for all our people, we pledge to work individually and collectively to improve access to quality education and primary health care and to eradicate extreme poverty and illiteracy. The fruits of democratic stability and economic growth must be accessible to all, without discrimination by race, gender, national origin or religious affiliation.

In observance of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, we will focus our energies on improving the exercise of democratic rights and the access to social services by indigenous people and their communities.

Aware that widely shared prosperity contributes to hemispheric stability, lasting peace and democracy, we acknowledge our common interest in creating employment opportunities that improve the incomes, wages and working conditions of all our people. We will invest in people so that individuals throughout the Hemisphere have the opportunity to realize their full potential.

and organizations in both our national and regional efforts, thus strengthening the partnership between governments and society.

* * * * *

Our thirty-four nations share a fervent commitment to democratic practices, economic integration, and social justice. Our people are better able than ever to express their aspirations and to learn from one another. The conditions for hemispheric cooperation are propitious. Therefore, on behalf of all our people, in whose name we affix our signatures to this Declaration, we seize this historic opportunity to create a Partnership for Development and Prosperity in the Americas.



Plan of Action

Plan of Action

Table of Contents

I. Preserving and Strengthening the Community of Democracies of the Americas

1. Strengthening Democracy
2. Promoting and Protecting Human Rights
3. Invigorating Society/Community Participation
4. Promoting Cultural Values
5. Combating Corruption
6. Combating the Problem of Illegal Drugs and Related Crimes
7. Eliminating the Threat of National and International Terrorism
8. Building Mutual Confidence

II. Promoting Prosperity Through Economic Integration and Free Trade

9. Free Trade in the Americas
10. Capital Markets Development and Liberalization
11. Hemispheric Infrastructure
12. Energy Cooperation
13. Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure
14. Cooperation in Science and Technology
15. Tourism

III. Eradicating Poverty and Discrimination in Our Hemisphere

16. Universal Access to Education
17. Equitable Access to Basic Health Services
18. Strengthening the Role of Women in Society
19. Encouraging Microenterprises and Small Businesses
20. White Helmets—Emergency and Development Corps

IV. Guaranteeing Sustainable Development and Conserving Our Natural Environment for Future Generations

21. Partnership for Sustainable Energy Use
22. Partnership for Biodiversity
23. Partnership for Pollution Prevention.

Summit of the Americas

Plan of Action

The heads of state and government participating in the 1994 Summit of the Americas in Miami, Florida, desirous of furthering the broad objectives set forth in their Declaration of Principles and mindful of the need for practical progress on the vital tasks of enhancing democracy, promoting development, achieving economic integration and free trade, improving the lives of their people, and protecting the natural environment for future generations, affirm their commitment to this Plan of Action.

I. PRESERVING AND STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES OF THE AMERICAS

1. Strengthening Democracy

The strengthening, effective exercise and consolidation of democracy constitute the central political priority of the Americas. The Organization of American States (OAS) is the principal hemispheric body for the defense of democratic values and institutions; among its essential purposes is to promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect to the principle of non-intervention. The OAS has adopted multilateral procedures to address the problems created when democratic order has been interrupted unconstitutionally. In order to prevent such crises, the OAS needs to direct more effort toward the promotion of democratic values and practices and to the social and economic strengthening of already-established democratic regimes.

Governments will:

- Give expeditious consideration to ratifying the Cartagena de Indias, Washington and Managua Protocols to the OAS Charter, if they have not already done so.
- Strengthen the dialogue among social groups and foster grass roots participation in problem solving at the local level.
- Support efforts by the OAS to promote democracy by:
 - ◊ Encouraging exchanges of election-related technologies and assisting national electoral organizations, at the request of the interested state.
 - ◊ Strengthening the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy so that it can provide assistance at the request of the interested state on such matters as legislative and judicial processes, government reforms (including administration of justice, technical modernization of

national legislative bodies, simplification of government regulations and promotion of participation by community organizations in local democracy), and other institutional changes.

- ◊ Encouraging opportunities for exchange of experiences among member states' democratic institutions, particularly legislature-to-legislature and judiciary-to-judiciary.
- ◊ Fostering understanding, dialogue and political reconciliation, at the request of the affected state and bearing in mind that national reconciliation comes from within.
- ◊ Requesting the OAS to promote and follow up on these commitments.

2. Promoting and Protecting Human Rights

Great progress has been made in the Hemisphere in the development of human rights concepts and norms, but serious gaps in implementation remain. While courts ultimately have the responsibility for enforcing legal rights and obligations, reforms in other institutions are needed to contribute to the further development of a climate of respect for human rights. There must also be universal access to justice and effective means to enforce basic rights. A democracy is judged by the rights enjoyed by its least influential members.

Governments will:

- Give serious consideration to adherence to international human rights instruments to which they are not already party.
- Cooperate fully with all United Nations and inter-American human rights bodies.
- Develop programs for the promotion and observance of human rights, including educational programs to inform people of their legal rights and their responsibility to respect the rights of others.
- Promote policies to ensure that women enjoy full and equal legal rights within their families and societies, and to ensure the removal of constraints to women's full participation as voters, candidates and elected and appointed officials.
- Review and strengthen laws for the protection of the rights of minority groups and indigenous people and communities to ensure freedom from discrimination, to guarantee full and equal protection under the law, and to facilitate active civic participation. Support a process to review and enhance the protection of indigenous rights in OAS member states and to develop promptly an effective United Nations declaration on indigenous rights.

- Review national legislation affecting people with disabilities, as well as benefits and services for them, and make any changes needed to facilitate the enjoyment by these individuals of the same rights and freedoms as other members of society.
- Undertake all measures necessary to guarantee the rights of children, and, where they have not already done so, give serious consideration to ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Guarantee the protection of the human rights of all migrant workers and their families.
- Take the necessary steps to remedy inhumane conditions in prisons and to minimize the number of pretrial detainees.
- Review training curricula for law enforcement agents to ensure that they adequately cover proper treatment of suspects and detainees as well as relations with the community.
- Exchange experiences on protection of human rights at the national level and, where possible, cooperate in the development of law enforcement and security force training or other programs to reduce the potential for human rights violations.
- Call on the OAS and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to establish or to reinforce programs, as appropriate, to support national projects for the promotion and observance of human rights in the Western Hemisphere.
- Further strengthen the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

3. Invigorating Society/Community Participation

A strong and diverse civil society, organized in various ways and sectors, including individuals, the private sector, labor, political parties, academics, and other non-governmental actors and organizations, gives depth and durability to democracy. Similarly, a vigorous democracy requires broad participation in public issues. Such activities should be carried out with complete transparency and accountability, and to this end a proper legal and regulatory framework should be established to include the possibility of obtaining technical and financial support, including from private sources.

Governments will:

- Review the regulatory framework for non-governmental actors with a view to facilitating their operations and promoting their ability to receive funds. This review will emphasize the management and oversight of resources as well as transparency and the accountability to society of said actors.

- Take steps to improve the participation in social activities and initiatives of groups traditionally marginalized, including women, youth, indigenous people and the extremely poor.
- Exchange progress reports on activities in the civil society area at the 1996 Summit Conference on Sustainable Development in Bolivia.
- Consider the development by the IDB of a new Civil Society Program to encourage responsible and accountable philanthropy and civic engagement in public policy issues.

4. Promoting Cultural Values

Cultural development is a fundamental and integral component of development in the Americas and has an inherent capability to enrich our societies and to generate greater understanding among our countries.

In order to promote cultural values, governments will:

- Encourage more dynamic relations among public and private institutions and organizations, including universities, museums, and centers of art and literature, as well as among individual cultural actors. Such exchanges emphasize our cultural diversity, recognize the value of our local cultures and contribute to improving hemispheric understanding.
- Request that the OAS and IDB reinforce their plans and programs to facilitate these cultural exchanges and the flow of cultural and historical information within and among our nations.

5. Combating Corruption

The problem of corruption is now an issue of serious interest not only in this Hemisphere, but in all regions of the world. Corruption in both the public and private sectors weakens democracy and undermines the legitimacy of governments and institutions. The modernization of the state, including deregulation, privatization and the simplification of government procedures, reduces the opportunities for corruption. All aspects of public administration in a democracy must be transparent and open to public scrutiny.

Governments will:

- Promote open discussion of the most significant problems facing government and develop priorities for reforms needed to make government operations transparent and accountable.
- Ensure proper oversight of government functions by strengthening internal mechanisms, including investigative and enforcement capacity with respect to acts of corruption, and facilitating public access to information necessary for meaningful outside review.

- Establish conflict of interest standards for public employees and effective measures against illicit enrichment, including stiff penalties for those who utilize their public position to benefit private interests.
- Call on the governments of the world to adopt and enforce measures against bribery in all financial or commercial transactions with the Hemisphere; toward this end, invite the OAS to establish liaison with the OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions.
- Develop mechanisms of cooperation in the judicial and banking areas to make possible rapid and effective response in the international investigation of corruption cases.
- Give priority to strengthening government regulations and procurement, tax collection, the administration of justice and the electoral and legislative processes, utilizing the support of the IDB and other international financial institutions where appropriate.
- Develop within the OAS, with due regard to applicable treaties and national legislation, a hemispheric approach to acts of corruption in both the public and private sectors that would include extradition and prosecution of individuals so charged, through negotiation of a new hemispheric agreement or new arrangements within existing frameworks for international cooperation.

6. Combating the Problem of Illegal Drugs and Related Crimes

The problems of illegal drug and related criminal activities pose grave threats to the societies, free market economies, and democratic institutions of the Hemisphere. Drug use imposes enormous social costs; drug money and income are net drains on economic growth; and drug lords and criminal organizations endanger the security of our people through corruption, intimidation, and violence. While drug trafficking continues to be a significant source of illegal funds, the money laundering industry increasingly deals with the proceeds of all types of criminal activity. An integrated and balanced approach that includes respect for national sovereignty is essential to confront all aspects of these problems. For these reasons, a broad coordinated hemispheric strategy to reduce drug use and production, including new enforcement methods that can disrupt drug trafficking and money laundering networks and prosecute those engaged in such activities, is required. In this context, governments note the work of the 1992 San Antonio Summit, endorse the efforts of the Inter-American Commission on Drug Abuse Control, and agree to work together to formulate a counter-narcotics strategy for the 21st Century.

Governments will:

- Ratify the 1988 United Nations Convention Against the Illicit Traffic of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances and make it a criminal offense to launder the proceeds of all serious crimes.

- Enact legislation to permit the freezing and forfeiture of the proceeds of money laundering and consider the sharing of forfeited assets among governments.
- As agreed by ministers and representatives of Caribbean and Latin American governments in the Kingston Declaration, November 5-6, 1992, implement the recommendations of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering and work to adopt the Model Regulations of the Inter-American Commission on Drug Abuse Control (CICAD).
- Encourage financial institutions to report large and suspicious transactions to appropriate authorities and develop effective procedures that would allow the collection of relevant information from financial institutions.
- Work individually and collectively to identify the region's narcotics trafficking and money laundering networks, prosecute their leaders, and seize assets derived from these criminal activities.
- Adopt programs to prevent and reduce the demand for and the consumption of illicit drugs.
- Adopt effective and environmentally-sound national strategies to prevent or reduce substantially the cultivation and processing of crops used for the illegal drug trade, paying particular attention to national and international support for development programs that create viable economic alternatives to drug production.
- Pay particular attention to the control of precursor chemicals and support comprehensive drug interdiction strategies.
- Strengthen efforts to control firearms, ammunition, and explosives to avoid their diversion to drug traffickers and criminal organizations.
- Hold a working-level conference, to be followed by a ministerial conference, to study and agree on a coordinated hemispheric response, including consideration of an inter-American convention, to combat money laundering.
- Convene a hemispheric-wide conference of donors, including multilateral development banks and UN agencies, to seek resources for alternative development programs aimed at curbing the production, trafficking, and use of illicit drugs, and the rehabilitation of addicts.
- Support the discussion the OAS has initiated with the European Union on measures to control precursor chemicals.
- Support the convening of a global counter-narcotics conference.

7. Eliminating the Threat of National and International Terrorism

National and international terrorism constitute a systematic and deliberate violation of the rights of individuals and an assault on democracy itself. Recent attacks that some of our countries have suffered have demonstrated the serious threat that terrorism poses to security in the Americas. Actions by governments to combat and eliminate this threat are essential elements in guaranteeing law and order and maintaining confidence in government, both nationally and internationally. Within this context, those who sponsor terrorist acts or assist in their planning or execution through the abuse of diplomatic privileges and immunities or other means will be held responsible by the international community.

Governments will:

- Promote bilateral and subregional agreements with the aim of prosecuting terrorists and penalizing terrorist activities within the context of the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- Convene a special conference of the OAS on the prevention of terrorism.
- Reaffirm the importance of the extradition treaties ratified by the states of the Hemisphere, and note that these treaties will be strictly complied with as an expression of the political will of governments, in accordance with international law and domestic legislation.

8. Building Mutual Confidence

The expansion and consolidation of democracy in the Americas provide an opportunity to build upon the peaceful traditions and the cooperative relationships that have prevailed among the countries of the Western Hemisphere. Our aim is to strengthen the mutual confidence that contributes to the economic and social integration of our peoples.

Governments will:

- Support actions to encourage a regional dialogue to promote the strengthening of mutual confidence, preparing the way for a regional conference on confidence-building measures in 1995, which Chile has offered to host.

II. PROMOTING PROSPERITY THROUGH ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND FREE TRADE

9. Free Trade in the Americas

1) While pursuing economic integration and free trade in the Hemisphere, we reinforce our strong commitment to multilateral rules and disciplines. We endorse full and rapid implementation of the Uruguay Round, active multilateral negotiations in the World Trade

Organization, bilateral and subregional trade agreements, and other trade arrangements that are consistent with the provisions of the GATT/WTO and that do not raise barriers to other nations.

2) Extraordinary achievements have been made by countries of the Hemisphere in trade liberalization and subregional integration. Free trade and increased economic integration are key factors for sustainable development. This will be furthered as we strive to make our trade liberalization and environmental policies mutually supportive, taking into account efforts undertaken by the GATT/WTO and other international organizations. As economic integration in the Hemisphere proceeds, we will further secure the observance and promotion of worker rights, as defined by appropriate international conventions. We will avoid disguised restrictions on trade, in accordance with the GATT/WTO and other international obligations.

3) We will strive to maximize market openness through high levels of discipline as we build upon existing agreements in the Hemisphere. We also will strive for balanced and comprehensive agreements, including among others: tariffs and non-tariff barriers affecting trade in goods and services; agriculture; subsidies; investment; intellectual property rights; government procurement; technical barriers to trade; safeguards; rules of origin; antidumping and countervailing duties; sanitary and phytosanitary standards and procedures; dispute resolution; and competition policy.

4) We recognize that decisions on trade agreements remain a sovereign right of each nation. In addition, recognizing the importance of effective enforcement of international commitments, each nation will take the necessary action, in accordance with its own legislation and procedures, to implement the agreements in the areas covered by this Plan of Action.

5) As we work to achieve the "Free Trade Area of the Americas," opportunities such as technical assistance will be provided to facilitate the integration of the smaller economies and increase their level of development.

Immediate Action Agenda

We direct our ministers responsible for trade to take the following concrete initial steps to achieve the "Free Trade Area of the Americas."

6) With the objective of ensuring full and complete discussion among the parties to the various trade agreements in the Hemisphere, we direct that meetings be held under existing trade and investment fora. Members of these fora will determine areas of commonality and divergence in the particular agreements under review and should consider the means of improving disciplines among them and bringing them together. We further direct that members of these fora inform ministers of the status of their discussions and make recommendations for achieving the "Free Trade Area of the Americas."

7) Transparency in, and a clear understanding of, the subregional and bilateral agreements achieved to date among the nations in the Hemisphere are critical for advancing trade and investment integration in the Americas. We will direct the OAS Special Committee on Trade,

with the support of the IDB, ECLAC, and other specialized regional and subregional organizations, to assist in the systematization of data in the region and to continue its work on studying economic integration arrangements in the Hemisphere, including brief comparative descriptions of the obligations in each of the Hemisphere's existing trade agreements. We will further direct the Special Committee on Trade to prepare a report of its work by June 1995 for the meeting of ministers.

8) We direct our ministers responsible for trade to: (a) review the progress of work undertaken in the fora noted in paragraphs 6 and 7; (b) provide guidance with respect to further work; and (c) consider areas for immediate attention--such as customs facilitation and product testing and certification with a view to mutual recognition agreements--that could be taken up in the appropriate fora.

9) Therefore, today we launch the "Free Trade Area of the Americas" by initiating the following process. We will direct the OAS to assist the host country in arranging the ministerial meetings.

January 1995 o Initiation of work programs and establishment of schedules in the fora in paragraph 6 and in the Special Committee on Trade.

June 1995 o Meeting of Ministers responsible for trade.

- preliminary report on status of work in the fora described in paragraph 6.
- preliminary Special Committee on Trade report.
- areas for immediate consideration.

March 1996 o Meeting of Ministers responsible for trade.

- final report to ministers by the Special Committee on Trade.
- final reports to ministers from the fora described in paragraph 6.
- timetable for further work.

10. Capital Markets Development and Liberalization

The availability of capital at competitive rates is essential to finance private sector investment--a vital ingredient in economic development. Developing, liberalizing and integrating financial markets domestically and internationally, increasing transparency, and establishing sound,

comparable supervision and regulation of banking and securities markets will help to reduce the cost of capital by enhancing investor and depositor confidence.

Governments will:

- Form a Committee on Hemispheric Financial Issues to examine steps to promote the liberalization of capital movements and the progressive integration of capital markets, including, if deemed appropriate, the negotiation of common guidelines on capital movements that would provide for their progressive liberalization.
- Prepare, in cooperation with the Inter-American Development Bank, a comprehensive list of national capital regulations in order to promote transparency and support the discussions in the Committee on Hemispheric Financial Issues.
- Support the cooperative endeavors of the Association of Latin American and Caribbean Bank Supervisors and the Council of Securities Regulators of the Americas to provide sound supervision and regulation that support the development and progressive integration of markets.

The Committee on Hemispheric Financial Issues should also review problems of debt in the Hemisphere, taking account of ongoing work and drawing, as appropriate, on a broad range of expertise.

11. Hemispheric Infrastructure

Development in this Hemisphere depends on urgent infrastructure measures, including the priority allocation of financial resources, in accordance with national legislation and with the participation of both the public and private sectors. Strengthening the flow of private productive capital to economically and environmentally sound projects has become increasingly vital to countries throughout the Hemisphere as the growth of official sources of capital has failed to keep pace with the area's needs.

Governments will:

- Charge multilateral development banks to work with governments and, as appropriate, private concerns, to develop mechanisms to deal with lending and investment issues.
- Draw on other regional and sub-regional experiences within the Hemisphere to support infrastructure development.
- Governments that so wish will develop suitable mechanisms, including multilateral and bilateral commitments on regulatory and legal rules and practices, to encourage private investment, both domestic and foreign, in national and transboundary infrastructure projects.

12. Energy Cooperation*

The nations of the Hemisphere have begun a new era of economic growth. This new era is based on greater economic cooperation, freer trade, and open markets. Sustainable economic development requires hemispheric cooperation in the field of energy.

Governments will:

- Convene a follow-up hemispheric officials' meeting in the first semester of 1995 to encourage cooperation to study ways to develop the energy industry within the Hemisphere, consistent with the least cost national energy strategies and the activities described in the "Partnership for Sustainable Energy use" in the following areas:
 - ◊ Consideration of ways to use the energy sector to promote sustainable economic growth.
 - ◊ Cooperation to study ways to optimize and facilitate the financing mechanisms of international financial institutions to support the development of projects in the energy sector, especially including those pertaining to the enhancement of efficiency in the use of energy and to non-conventional renewable energy.
 - ◊ Cooperation to promote capital investment and to foster the use of innovative financial mechanisms to increase investment in the energy sector and the enhancement of efficiency in the use of energy and non-conventional renewable energy, in accordance with each country's legislation and developmental needs.
 - ◊ Promotion of the use of efficient and non-polluting energy technologies, both conventional and renewable, leading to a higher degree of knowledge and technical expertise in this area.
 - ◊ Consideration of the enhancement of ongoing efforts to establish electric and other energy facilities in accordance with domestic regulatory frameworks and, where appropriate, under sub-regional agreements.

* This initiative is integrally linked with the Partnership for Sustainable Energy Use item.

13. Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure

A country's information infrastructure--telecommunications, information technology, and broadcasting--is an essential component of political, economic, social and cultural development. The information infrastructure development needs in the Americas are immense. The governments of the Americas intend to meet these needs by engaging in multiple actions, where consistent with their respective governing laws, such as: encouraging private sector investment to increase participation in the telecommunications and information infrastructure sectors;

promoting competition; implementing flexible regulatory regimes; stimulating diversity of content, including cultural and linguistic diversity; providing access to information networks for service and information providers; and ensuring universal service, so that the benefits of the information infrastructure will be available to all members of our societies.

Governments will:

- Engage in ongoing discussions at the international level of the actions referred to above and endeavor to take those actions in their own countries, taking account of domestic conditions and circumstances.
- Undertake efforts to make government information more publicly available via electronic means.
- Review the availability and interoperability of connections to international networks that facilitate trade, improve education and improve access to health care.
- Encourage major universities, libraries, hospitals and government agencies to have access to these networks, building on the work of the OAS Hemisphere-Wide Inter-University Scientific and Technological Information Network.
- Via the OAS Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), and in coordination with the sub-regional telecommunications organizations, develop and carry out a work program to:
 - ◊ Evaluate regulatory, technical and legal means to promote liberalization, common standards, interoperability of networks and compatible use of the radio spectrum.
 - ◊ Examine ways to promote greater consistency of the certification processes for telecommunications equipment among member countries.
 - ◊ Develop regional guidelines for the provision of international value-added network services.
- Support a meeting by 1996, coordinated by CITEL, of senior telecommunications officials to conduct further discussions of the above actions.

14. Cooperation in Science and Technology

There is a need to re-assess the on-going interaction among the region's science and technology (S&T) infrastructure and cooperative mechanisms; to provide impetus for improved cooperation; to reduce barriers to collaboration; to augment the demand for technology; and to disseminate information about technological opportunities using new advances in information technology;

and generally to improve communications among the key S&T organizations, researchers in the region, and growing technology-based small and medium-sized enterprises.

The commitment of the countries of the Americas to non-proliferation has gained new momentum with the acceptance of the international safeguard regime by some of our countries. The outstanding progress achieved in this field is to be commended and should contribute to enhanced opportunities for cooperation in the area of advanced goods and technologies.

Governments will:

- Convene a meeting of ministers responsible for science and technology in the Hemisphere within the next year to assess progress and to promote the Bolivar Programme and the OAS Common Market of Scientific and Technological Knowledge (MERCOCYT) program, to provide the necessary support to improve scientific partnerships and technological ventures in the region, and to explore the possibility of establishing a council on science and technology.
- Use existing multilateral mechanisms in the region to address a wide number of common S&T interests, including enhanced professional technical training, development and implementation of national policies and regional programs, dissemination and standardization of science and technology (including metrology and other technical norms), environmental technology development, and more effective partnerships to promote learning and competitiveness.
- Stimulate greater S&T interaction in the Hemisphere and support efforts already undertaken in other fora, including the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, and the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction. Governments will serve to advance and communicate new initiatives such as the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) program.
- Confirm their interest in participating in new initiatives driven by a demand from private sector and non-government interests in technological opportunities.
- Confirm their national commitments to share S&T information with others in the Hemisphere, in accord with their respective laws, and to expand cooperation in scientific and environmental research.

15. Tourism

Tourism is important to our economies and valuable in promoting understanding among the people of the Americas.

Governments will:

- Undertake initiatives to stimulate tourism in the Hemisphere.

III. ERADICATING POVERTY AND DISCRIMINATION IN OUR HEMISPHERE

Large segments of society in our Hemisphere, particularly women, minorities, the disabled, indigenous groups, refugees and displaced persons, have not been equipped to participate fully in economic life. Nearly one-half of the Hemisphere's population still lives in poverty. Expanded participation of the poor in the region's economies, access to productive resources, appropriate support for social safety nets and increased human capital investments are important mechanisms to help eradicate poverty. In pursuit of these objectives, we reaffirm our support for the strategies contained within the "Commitment on a Partnership for Development and Struggle to Overcome Extreme Poverty" adopted by the OAS General Assembly.

The World Summit for Social Development to be held in Copenhagen in March 1995, as well as the United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing in September 1995, will provide unique opportunities to define strategies to promote social integration, productive employment and the eradication of poverty.

16. Universal Access to Education

Universal literacy and access to education at all levels, without distinction by race, national origin or gender, are an indispensable basis for sustainable social and cultural development, economic growth and democratic stability.

Governments will:

- Guarantee universal access to quality primary education, working with public and private sectors and non-governmental actors, and with the support of multinational institutions. In particular, governments will seek to attain by the year 2010 a primary completion rate of 100 per cent and a secondary enrollment rate of at least 75 per cent, and to prepare programs to eradicate illiteracy, prevent truancy and improve human resources training.
- Promote, with the support of international financial institutions and the private sector, worker professional training as well as adult education, incorporating efforts to make such education more relevant to the needs of the market and employers.
- Improve human resources training, and technical, professional and teacher training, which are vital for the enhancement of quality and equity of education within the Hemisphere.
- Increase access to and strengthen the quality of higher education and promote cooperation among such institutions in producing the scientific and technological knowledge that is necessary for sustainable development.

- Support strategies to overcome nutritional deficiencies of primary school children in order to enhance their learning ability.
- Support decentralization including assurance of adequate financing and broad participation by parents, educators, community leaders and government officials in education decision-making.
- Review existing regional and hemispheric training programs and make them more responsive to current needs.
- Create a hemispheric partnership, working through existing organizations, to provide a consultative forum for governments, non-governmental actors, the business community, donors, and international organizations to reform educational policies and focus resources more efficiently.
- Urge the March 1995 World Summit for Social Development and the September 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women to address the issue of universal access to education.

17. Equitable Access to Basic Health Services

Despite impressive gains in the Hemisphere, limitations on health services access and quality have resulted in persistently high child and maternal mortality, particularly among the rural poor and indigenous groups.

Governments will:

- Endorse the maternal and child health objectives of the 1990 World Summit for Children, the 1994 Nariño Accord and the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, and reaffirm their commitment to reduce child mortality by one-third and maternal mortality by one-half from 1990 levels by the year 2000.
- Endorse a basic package of clinical, preventive and public health services consistent with World Health Organization, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and World Bank recommendations and with the Program of Action agreed to at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. The package will address child, maternal and reproductive health interventions, including prenatal, delivery and postnatal care, family planning information and services, and HIV/AIDS prevention, as well as immunizations and programs combating the other major causes of infant mortality. The plans and programs will be developed according to a mechanism to be decided upon by each country.
- Develop or update country action plans or programs for reforms to achieve child, maternal and reproductive health goals and ensure universal, non-discriminatory access to basic services, including health education and preventive health care programs. The plans and programs will be developed according to a mechanism to be decided upon by each country.

Reforms would encompass essential community-based services for the poor, the disabled, and indigenous groups; stronger public health infrastructure; alternative means of financing, managing and providing services; quality assurance; and greater use of non-governmental actors and organizations.

- Strengthen the existing Inter-American Network on Health Economics and Financing, which serves as an international forum for sharing technical expertise, information and experience, to focus on health reform efforts. The network gathers government officials, representatives of the private sector, non-governmental institutions and actors, donors and scholars for policy discussions, analysis, training and other activities to advance reform; strengthens national capabilities in this critical area; and fosters Hemisphere-wide cooperation.
- Convene a special meeting of hemispheric governments with interested donors and international technical agencies to be hosted by the IDB, the World Bank and PAHO to establish the framework for health reform mechanisms, to define PAHO's role in monitoring the regional implementation of country plans and programs, and to plan strengthening of the network, including the cosponsors' contributions to it.
- Take the opportunity of the annual PAHO Directing Council Meeting of Western Hemisphere Ministers of Health, with participation of the IDB and donors, to develop a program to combat endemic and communicable diseases as well as a program to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, and to identify sources of funding.
- Urge the March 1995 World Summit for Social Development and the September 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women to address the issue of access to health services.

18. Strengthening the Role of Women in Society

The strengthening of the role of women in society is of fundamental importance not only for their own complete fulfillment within a framework of equality and fairness, but to achieve true sustainable development. It is essential to strengthen policies and programs that improve and broaden the participation of women in all spheres of political, social, and economic life and that improve their access to the basic resources needed for the full exercise of their fundamental rights. Attending to the needs of women means, to a great extent, contributing to the reduction of poverty and social inequalities.

Governments will:

- Recognize and give full respect for all rights of women as an essential condition for their development as individuals and for the creation of a more just, united and peaceful society. For that purpose, policies to ensure that women enjoy full legal and civil rights protection will be promoted.

- Include a gender focus in development planning and cooperation projects and promote the fulfillment of women's potential, enhancing their productivity through education, training, skill development and employment.
- Promote the participation of women in the decision-making process in all spheres of political, social and economic life.
- Undertake appropriate measures to address and reduce violence against women.
- Adopt appropriate measures to improve women's ability to earn income beyond traditional occupations, achieve economic self-reliance, and ensure women's equal access to the labor market at all employment levels, the social security systems, the credit system, and the acquisition of goods and land.
- Cooperate fully with the recently-appointed Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its Causes and Consequences, of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.
- Support and actively work to secure the success of the United Nations World Conference on Women that will take place in Beijing in September 1995.
- Encourage, as appropriate, ratification and compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women.
- Further strengthen the Inter-American Commission on Women.
- Call upon regional and international financial and technical organizations to intensify their programs in favor of women. Encourage the adoption of follow-up procedures on the national and international measures included in this Plan of Action.

19. Encouraging Microenterprises and Small Businesses

Microenterprises and small businesses account for a large percentage of the employment of the poor, particularly women, and contribute a considerable percentage of the gross domestic product of our countries. Strengthened support for microenterprises and small businesses is a key component of sustainable and equitable development.

Governments will:

- Further pursue or initiate programs of deregulation and administrative simplification.
- Increase efforts to enable enterprises to obtain information on appropriate technologies (especially those that are environmentally sound), markets, processes, raw materials and management systems that will permit them to be more competitive in the global economy.

- Develop programs of financial deregulation to reduce costs in credit transactions and strengthen the institutional capacity of the financial sector servicing microenterprises and small businesses; and encourage the active participation by multilateral and bilateral agencies, development banks, commercial banks and other intermediary credit organizations, consistent with strict performance standards.
- Strengthen the institutions and programs that supply services and facilitate access to training and technical assistance to make possible this sector's participation in the global economy through export of its products and services.
- Encourage cooperation among businesses in this sector to enable them to benefit from the advantages of economies of scale without losing their distinctive characteristics.
- Promote the strengthening of relations among the public, private and mixed (public/private) institutions that support the microenterprise and small business sector through programs of information, training, technical assistance, financing and association-building, enabling this sector to thrive over the long term.
- Recommend to the multilateral development organizations, especially the World Bank and the IDB, the establishment or fortification of funds and other mechanisms to support microenterprises and small businesses.

20. White Helmets—Emergency and Development Corps

The "White Helmets Initiative" is based on the conviction that a concerted international effort of developing and developed countries can facilitate the eradication of poverty and strengthen the humanitarian rapid response capability of the international community to emergency humanitarian, social and developmental needs.

The countries of the Americas could pioneer this initiative through the creation of national corps of volunteers that could respond to calls from other countries in the region. These national corps could eventually be put at the disposal of the United Nations.

Governments will on a voluntary basis:

- Establish, organize and finance a corps of volunteers to work at the national level and, at the same time, be at the disposal of other countries of the Hemisphere and, eventually, the United Nations system, on a stand-by basis, for prevention, relief, rehabilitation, technical, social and development cooperation, with the aim to reduce the effects of natural disasters, social and developmental needs and emergencies.
- Through the creation of a national corps of volunteers, be responsible for the following:

- ◊ Selection and training of its national volunteer corps;
 - ◊ Financing of its national corps of volunteers, encouraging the involvement of the private sector;
 - ◊ Preparedness to send specialized volunteers, on short notice and at the request of the United Nations, to cope with situations generated by or to prevent the effects of natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies.
- Contribute to the formation of this corps and invite private enterprises, foundations and regional financial institutions to do so.
 - Contribute to the development of an international roster of volunteers to be maintained in a master plan in the United Nations to be drawn upon to complement the activities of existing UN mechanisms. The IDB, OAS, and PAHO should be invited to participate and assist in developing this corps.

IV. GUARANTEEING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVING OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

21. Partnership for Sustainable Energy Use*

Consistent with Agenda 21 and the Framework Convention on Climate Change, sustainable energy development and use promote economic development and address environmental concerns. Governments and the private sector should promote increased access to reliable, clean, and least cost energy services through activities and projects that meet economic, social, and environmental requirements within the context of national sustainable development goals and national legal frameworks.

Governments will:

- Pursue, in accordance with national legislation, least cost national energy strategies that consider all options, including energy efficiency, non-conventional renewable energy (i.e., solar, wind, geothermal, small hydro, and biomass), and conventional energy resources.
- Emphasize market-oriented pricing, which discourages wasteful energy use.
- Identify for priority financing and development at least one economically viable project in each of the following areas: non-conventional renewable energy, energy efficiency, and clean conventional energy.

- Promote, in cooperation with the private sector and rural and isolated communities, rural electrification programs which take into account where appropriate the utilization of renewable energy sources, in accordance with the domestic regulatory framework.
- Seek to ratify and begin implementation of the provisions of the Framework Convention on Climate Change which entered into force on March 21, 1994.
- Encourage the World Bank and IDB to increase promptly and substantially, as a portion of energy lending, financing of projects in energy efficiency and renewable energy and financing to improve the environmental sustainability of conventional energy sources, in accordance with economic rationality.
- Call on the multilateral financial institutions and other public and private financial institutions to finance regional and national programs in support of this action plan, such as training and exchange programs as well as technology cooperation, in accordance with the needs and conditions of receiving countries.
- Assist with coordination and technical cooperation between countries, using existing regional organizations, including project identification and implementation, training programs, and personnel and information exchanges to increase capacity.
- Promote the identification and implementation of private sector projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Convene a Sustainable Energy Symposium in the first half of 1995 to discuss follow-up activities relative to this initiative. In the spirit of cooperation countries will share their experiences and discuss progress on implementing this action plan.

*This initiative is integrally linked with the Energy Cooperation item.

22. Partnership for Biodiversity

Our Hemisphere contains over half the world's biodiversity. To sustain the Hemisphere's social and economic development, we must intensify efforts to understand, assess, and sustainably use this living resource base. We must act now to increase the technical and management capacity and public awareness of national and international efforts in this area. Agenda 21, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and other related international instruments recognize these needs and call for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources.

Governments will:

- Seek to ensure that strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are integrated into relevant economic development activities including forestry, agriculture, and coastal zone management, taking into account the social dimension and impact of these activities.

- Develop and implement the policies, techniques, and programs to assess, conserve, and sustainably use terrestrial, marine, and coastal biodiversity resources.
- Seek to ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity and pursue opportunities for collaboration under it, and, as appropriate, other international and regional environmental instruments.
- Support democratic governmental mechanisms to engage public participation, particularly including members of indigenous communities and other affected groups, in the development of policy involving conservation and sustainable use of natural environments. The forms of this participation should be defined by each individual country.
- Develop national plans and programs to establish and strengthen the management of parks and reserves, seeking links to economic, social, and ecological benefits for local people.
- Build capacity for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, through programs on management of parks and protected areas, forests and wetlands management, the Small Islands Developing States Action Plan, the Coral Reef Initiative, CITES support projects, and the Caribbean Regional Marine Pollution Action Plan, among others.
- Launch a "Decade of Discovery" to promote hemispheric technical and scientific cooperation and to facilitate the exchange of information relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
- Increase support of training and education initiatives addressing sustainable use of biodiversity resources and foster activities by universities, non-governmental actors and organizations and the private sector to assist in the training of managers and to empower local communities.
- Call on multilateral financial institutions, including the IDB and the Global Environment Facility, to support eligible regional and national projects.
- Discuss progress on implementation of national and international activities described above at the 1996 Summit Conference on Sustainable Development in Bolivia, and at subsequent annual sustainable development ministerials.

23. Partnership for Pollution Prevention

As recognized in Agenda 21, sound environmental management is an essential element of sustainable development. Cooperative efforts are needed to develop or improve, in accordance with national legislation and relevant international instruments: (1) frameworks for environment protection; and (2) mechanisms for implementing and enforcing environmental regulations. To achieve this goal, a new partnership will promote cooperative activities for developing environmental policies, laws, and institutions; increasing technical capacity; promoting public

awareness and public participation; continuing to pursue technological, financial and other forms of cooperation; and facilitating information exchange, including on environmentally sound technologies. The activities of the partnership will build on and advance the implementation of international agreements and principles including those agreed to at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the 1994 Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, in areas identified as priorities by countries of the Hemisphere.

Governments will:

- Strengthen and build technical and institutional capacity to address environmental priorities such as pesticides, lead contamination, pollution prevention, risk reduction, waste and sanitation issues, improved water and air quality, access to safe drinking water, urban environmental problems, and to promote public participation and awareness.
- Develop and implement national action plans to phase out lead in gasoline.
- Strengthen national environmental protection frameworks and mechanisms for implementation and enforcement, and include sustainability criteria and objectives in national and other development strategies.
- Undertake national consultations to identify priorities for possible international collaboration.
- Support democratic governmental mechanisms to engage public participation, particularly from members of indigenous and other affected communities, in the consideration of policies regarding the environmental impact of development projects and the design and enforcement of environmental laws.
- Convene a meeting of technical experts, designated by each interested country, to develop a framework for cooperative partnership, building on existing institutions and networks to identify priority projects. These projects will initially focus on (1) the health and environmental problems associated with the misuse of pesticides, and (2) the impacts of lead contamination from gasoline and other sources. Subsequent activities could address waste, air, water quality, marine pollution from ships and other sources, and problems associated with urbanization.
- Promote the participation of organizations, such as the IDB, MIF, the World Bank, PAHO, the OAS, and non-governmental actors and organizations, as appropriate, to finance, develop and implement priority projects.
- Develop environmental policies and laws with the goal of ensuring that economic integration of the region occurs in an environmentally sustainable manner.

- Establish mechanisms for cooperation among government agencies, including in the legal and enforcement areas, to facilitate environmental information exchange, technology cooperation and capacity-building.
- Develop compatible environmental laws and regulations, at high levels of environmental protection, and promote the implementation of international environmental agreements.
- Discuss progress on implementation of international and national activities described above at the 1996 Summit Conference on Sustainable Development in Bolivia and at subsequent annual sustainable development ministerials.

Appendix

The primary responsibility for implementing this Plan of Action falls to governments, individually and collectively, with participation of all elements of our civil societies.

Existing organizations or institutions are called upon to implement the package of initiatives that has emerged from this Summit of the Americas. In many instances we have proposed that specific issues be examined by meetings of ministers, senior officials or experts. We are also proposing that some of these initiatives be carried out in partnerships between the public and private sector. Wanting to benefit from existing hemispheric mechanisms, and considering the various proposals included in this Plan of Action, we offer the following recommendations, which shall not impede any government from approaching other institutions not cited herein, as appropriate.

I. Principal Initiatives in Which International Organizations and Institutions Will Be Involved

A) The OAS will have a paramount role in following up on the various decisions of this Summit meeting. Regarding the Plan of Action, the OAS has a particularly important supporting role in connection with the following:

- Strengthening Democracy
- Promoting and Protecting Human Rights
- Combating Corruption
- Eliminating the Threat of National and International Terrorism
- Building Mutual Confidence
- Free Trade in the Americas
- Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure

The Action Plan also envisages roles for the OAS in the following areas:

- Promoting Cultural Values
- Combating the Problem of Illegal Drugs and Related Crimes
- Cooperation in Science and Technology
- Strengthening the Role of Women in Society

- Partnership for Pollution Prevention

B) We call on the Inter-American Development Bank to support the activities specified in this Plan of Action. The policies agreed in the recently completed augmentation of its capital and replenishment of the Fund for Special Operations already move in the directions identified and should receive special emphasis. The IDB has a particularly important role in connection with the following:

- Universal Access to Education
- Equitable Access to Basic Health Services
- Encouraging Microenterprises and Small Businesses
- Partnership for Sustainable Energy Use
- Partnership for Biodiversity
- Partnership for Pollution Prevention

In addition, the Action Plan envisages roles for the IDB and its affiliates in the following areas:

- Promoting and Protecting Human Rights
- Invigorating Society/Community Participation
- Promoting Cultural Values
- Combating Corruption
- Combating the Problem of Illegal Drugs and Related Crimes
- Free Trade in the Americas
- Capital Markets Development and Liberalization
- Hemispheric Infrastructure
- Cooperation in Science and Technology
- White Helmets--Emergency and Development Corps

C) Other international organizations, notably ECLAC and PAHO in the Hemisphere, as well as the World Bank and all agencies of the UN system active in the Hemisphere, are called upon to assist in the implementation of the action items where appropriate.

II. High-Level Meetings

The following high level meetings and conferences are called for to carry out the mandates emanating from the Summit:

- Summit Conference on Sustainable Development (Bolivia, 1996) with follow-on Annual Ministerials
- Ministerial Conference on Combating Money Laundering (preceded by working level meeting)
- Conference of Donors for Alternative Development Programs to Curb Narcotics Trafficking
- Global Counter-Narcotics Conference
- Special OAS Conference on Combating Terrorism
- Regional Conference on Confidence-Building Measures (Chile, 1995)
- Meetings of Ministers Responsible for Trade (June 1995, March 1996)
- Meeting of Committee on Hemispheric Financial Issues
- Hemispheric Meeting on Development of Energy Industries (first semester 1995)
- Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Science and Technology (1995)
- Meeting Between Governments and Donors/Technical Agencies to Establish Health Reform Mechanisms
- Sustainable Energy Symposium (first half of 1995)

III. Initiatives in Which Public and Private Sector Partnerships Play an Important Role

- Strengthening Democracy
- Promoting and Protecting Human Rights
- Invigorating Society/Community Participation

- Promoting Cultural Values
- Combating Corruption
- Hemispheric Infrastructure
- Cooperation in Science and Technology
- Universal Access to Education
- Equitable Access to Basic Health Services
- Encouraging Microenterprises and Small Businesses
- White Helmets--Emergency and Development Corps
- Partnership for Sustainable Energy Use
- Partnership for Biodiversity
- Partnership for Pollution Prevention