



CHILE

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President Ricardo Lagos receives Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian National Authority, at La Moneda Palace during his official visit to the country. May 12, 2005.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ★ Composer and guitarist Roberto Parra – brother of the multifaceted artist Violeta and “antipoet” Nicanor – was awarded the first posthumous Pablo Neruda Medal, a recognition reserved “only for the great,” according to Minister of Culture José Weinstein. Parra’s *Cuecas Choras* and *Jazz Guachaca* are examples of his ability to combine high culture with its most popular expressions.
- ★ El Teniente – the world’s largest underground copper mine – and Sewell, the mining camp which for decades housed the mine’s workers, have commemorated their 100th year of existence. Nestled within the Andes, 100 kilometers south of Santiago, the town’s colorful buildings and dozens of stairways bear witness to its glorious past. Arising in 1905, it expanded into a bustling city of 15,000 inhabitants, including North American executives, professionals, and office workers as well as thousands of Chilean miners and their families. It is currently under consideration as a World Heritage Site.

A Chilean to head the OAS

His political skill and talent as a negotiator – and above all, his deep sense of mission and years of dedication to public service – have carried José Miguel Insulza to the office of Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS). After the withdrawal of Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Ernesto Derbez, 31 out of 34 countries supported the Chilean Interior Minister as their consensus candidate on May 2.

“I believe that the votes obtained by Minister José Miguel Insulza at the OAS demonstrate the overwhelming endorsement of the region, and we must be proud of this tremendous achievement on Chile’s part,” declared President Ricardo Lagos. The endorsement also signaled the firm agreement of the region’s foreign ministers with the objectives set forth by the Chilean candidacy. The great majority of them offered statements of confidence to Minister Insulza, pledging their solid and enthusiastic support.

The new Secretary General expressed his appreciation to Mexico and to Minister Derbez for their generosity on behalf of hemispheric unity: “His gesture once again gives testimony of the inter-American commitment of the noble Mexican people, to whom I am bound by the deepest ties and feelings.” He also assured Bolivia – which had not supported his candidacy – that his actions as Secretary General would never prejudice the country’s interests, either objectively or subjectively.

After his election, Insulza stated that the OAS “has a key role to play in establishing rules which will lead a global world toward fairer and more mature forms of integration, projecting a regional perspective which is rich in its diversity.” His proposal calls for an organization that can look within the region, take its priorities and attitudes into account, and represent them in a global order characterized by inclusion and solidarity.

The Chilean Minister intends to work to increase the body’s political relevance as well as its capacity for action. He is convinced of the need to operate on the basis of shared principles: “Consolidating a democratic culture; strengthening governance; promoting and protecting human, civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights; and achieving integral development and multidimensional security.”

The new Secretary General asked for support in the quest to “forge areas of consensus that permit us to overcome the mistaken perception of irrelevance that hinders our hemispheric endeavors.” His candidacy reaffirmed Chile’s commitment to strengthening the OAS and its efforts to promote democracy, human rights, and the region’s comprehensive development.

Strengthening democracy

On April 29 and 30, Santiago hosted representatives of 106 countries and more than 40 foreign ministers from diverse regions of the world who came to participate in the Third Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies.



FACTS

Chile vaulted from 26th to 19th place in the world competitiveness ranking prepared by the Swiss institute IMD. The new position places the country in the lead within Latin America and ahead of countries such as Germany, Great Britain and Japan.

Santiago was named the best business center in Latin America in the ranking prepared by the periodical *América Economía*. The publication cited the Chilean capital as Latin America's leading city for the creation of commercial value, offering the best combination of quality of life, business potential, and professional development opportunities. For the second consecutive year, Santiago displaced Miami from the ranking's top position.

The European Union has rescinded the limits imposed on Chilean salmon imports in January. During the past five years, salmon shipments to that market have reached an average of 67 million dollars per year, comprising approximately 9% of Chile's total exports of this product.

Chile moved up three places in the 2005 globalization ranking compiled by the consulting firm A.T. Kearney. The report, which placed the country 34th in a field of 62, emphasized the government's efforts to construct a digital economy and develop the services sector, as reflected by its nearly 50% increase in Internet users. The evaluation also stressed the rise in direct foreign investment during the past five years and the country's participation in the UN Security Council.

Nearly 1.1 billion dollars were contributed by the National Copper Company, Codelco, to Chile's national treasury during the first quarter of 2005. This historic figure is 71% greater than that registered during the same period in 2004.

As Foreign Minister Ignacio Walker explained, the objective of the conference was to assess, increase and reinforce the value of democracy, in order to strengthen its exercise and carry out a collective reflection on the topic of governance.

Parallel to the foreign ministers' meeting, more than 30 civic leaders and representatives of non-governmental organizations met with the governmental delegates. The activity of NGOs is an important element promoted by the Community, as reflected by these organizations' attendance at the various forums. It was further demonstrated in the Conference's final document, the Santiago Ministerial Commitment for Democracy, which included the perspectives of NGOs and supported the creation of closer ties between governments and civil society.

Another distinctive aspect of the conference was its treatment of the topic of cooperation not only from a global perspective, but also from a regional point of view, thus permitting the interchange of experiences applied in different parts of the world.

As part of her agenda in Santiago, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice met for nearly an hour with President Lagos at La Moneda Palace. During the meeting, topics of bilateral interest were reviewed, such as the successes of the Free Trade Agreement signed in 2003, the situation in Haiti, and the important role played by Chilean forces in the peacekeeping mission to that country. On the subject of Latin America, Rice affirmed that the United States views the other countries of the region as necessary partners for the achievement of a common vision. "That is why I am so pleased to be here with President Lagos," she stated, underlining the importance placed by Washington on her visit. She added that the U.S. would continue to work "with our friends and allies such as Chile to help bring the benefits of democracy to all of the countries of the hemisphere."

Rapid pace toward future agreements

April was a busy month for the Foreign Ministry's negotiating teams. Numerous meetings and working sessions were held in Santiago with delegations from the countries with which Chile is considering the implementation of free trade accords and strategic association agreements.

After intense days of work, negotiators concluded the Sixth Negotiation Round for a Strategic Economic Association Agreement between Chile, New Zealand, and Singapore, known as the Pacific Three Strategic Economic Partnership, or P3. Brunei Darussalam has been incorporated into the agreement, further strengthening the trans-Pacific nature of the Association, now called P4. The addition of this new partner will improve the four economies' ability to compete in global markets, particularly within Asia.

A second round of negotiations was also held to evaluate a possible FTA with China, which would be that country's first with a Latin American nation. The talks formalized the negotiating methods and initiated discussions of specific tariff reduction proposals. The working groups analyzed a range of areas, including market access, rules of origin, customs procedures, legal issues, dispute resolution, fair trade, and cooperation.

The Second Session of the Joint Study Group for an FTA between Chile and Japan concluded with an agreement to hold the third and final meeting in July, in Los Angeles, California. During two-days, meetings were held among more than a hundred officials of both governments as well as academics and private sector



QUOTATIONS FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Chile values the search for political solutions that permit the creation of a viable Palestinian state as well as coexistence with the State of Israel, within secure and internationally-recognized borders."

During the visit of the President of the Palestinian National Authority, Mahmoud Abbas. May 12, 2005

"We have a high level of investment, a high level of trade, important conversations in the energy sphere – and, why not say it — agreement about political matters with respect to the international agenda. These are the substantive issues which inspire us to look forward. This is why it is so important to define a future-oriented agenda."

On the multiple topics of common interest between Chile and Peru. Brasilia. May 10, 2005

The consensus reached at the OAS "implies a new cooperative connection among us in our search for answers to the concrete demands of our populations" (...). "The countries of Latin America have the duty to look toward the future, so that we do not remain anchored in the past. When a region moves ahead while continuing to look backward, it runs the risk of losing its perspective and neglecting the main issues of the present time."

After meeting with Honduran President Ricardo Maduro during his official visit to Santiago. May 5, 2005

"We are experiencing a recovery based on solid foundations, and this has to do, in great measure, with our management of the economy, building upon the efforts of previous administrations, and our responsible fiscal management, thanks to the structural surplus rules which permitted us to spend more when we had less."

Regarding the country's economic indicators. May 5, 2005

It is necessary "to make the Free Trade Area of the Americas a tool for facilitating trade, but also one which includes elements to ease the transition, especially for the smallest countries, with regard to taxation and the decreases in fiscal revenue as a result of lowered tariffs."

After meeting with U.S. Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice. Santiago. April 28, 2005

representatives. The delegations analyzed areas of particular impact on the strengthening of bilateral economic relations and the economic effects of a possible FTA, while also discussing the two countries' perspectives on trade regulations.

India is another country with which Chile is working to negotiate a limited-scope agreement, which would include tariff reductions, rules of origin, customs procedures, and fair trade measures. In April, the Inter-Ministerial Foreign Affairs Committee reviewed and approved an evaluation study for the agreement. Currently, preparations are being made for the first round of negotiations, which is expected to take place during the second half of this year.

Celebrating the arts

A wide-ranging agenda of celebrations was kicked off in Chile with the Day of the Book on April 23. The aim is to dedicate festivals to culture in its diverse manifestations, thus providing publicity for them and bringing them closer to the people. The National Council of Culture and the Arts has planned public activities and events throughout Chile to celebrate reading, dance, the visual arts, cinema, handicrafts, music, and the country's heritage.



The Day of the Dance – held on April 29, when it is also celebrated internationally – was commemorated on a grand scale, with more than 100 activities held at universities, cultural centers, institutes, and theaters as well as the central plazas of most cities. There were also opportunities to pay tribute to outstanding figures in the field, such as choreographer and dancer Hernán Baldrich, who received the Pablo Neruda Order of Merit from the hands of the President's wife, Luisa Durán, for his highly creative and innovative work during a career spanning more than 50 years.

On May 13, the visual arts were celebrated in an unprecedented manner, through projects aimed at bringing artists together with the community. The idea was to create collective works of art, such as murals, urban paintings, and public happenings. There were also guided tours, led by scholars, of museums, galleries, and artists' workshops. The country will celebrate Heritage Day on May 31, with La Moneda Palace serving as the center of the activities, in recognition of its 200th anniversary.

Completing the yearly calendar are the Day of the Cinema, held on October 18, and the festivals dedicated to handicrafts and music, which will be celebrated on November 7 and 28, respectively.

Five years of adventure

The Mirador Interactive Museum (MIM) may be the closest thing to a great adventure that can be experienced indoors. The museum invites adults and children of all ages into the world of science and technology, which is not explained in an abstract, theoretical manner, but through empirical, hands-on learning. There is only one rule: look, touch, and explore!

The modern, 7,200-square-meter building first opened its doors in 2000, and the museum is now celebrating its fifth anniversary. Its popularity has not declined since its inauguration: nearly three million visitors have come to gain a closer view of physics, biology, chemistry, mathematics or the plastic arts. And although the museum covers only 15% of its annual financing needs through the sale of admission tickets, a modern public-private management system has been successful in attracting the remaining resources.

OVERHEARD

“Chile has done well because it is applying the fundamental principles of democracy, democratic opportunity, free trade, and assisting others, which has provided a firm foundation for Chile’s enormous leadership in this region.”

Condoleezza Rice, U.S. Secretary of State. Santiago. April 28, 2005

The decision of the Presidents of Chile and China to study a free trade agreement “shows political wisdom and provides motivation for the future development of the two countries’ economic relations.”

Zhu Hong, deputy director for International Economic Agreements of China’s Ministry of Commerce. Santiago, April 28, 2005

The Japanese government “will undertake all of the necessary efforts” to move forward with negotiations for a free trade agreement with Chile. “This can serve as a symbol of the long relationship of friendship between one State and another, so that it also has a symbolic meaning, and politically it is very important from a diplomatic point of view, because it is an association which will link the two countries in a very profound sense. With Chile, we already have more than 100 years of friendship.”

Kazuhiro Fujimura, director for Latin America and the Caribbean for the Japanese Foreign Ministry. Santiago, April 23, 2005

CHILEANS AROUND THE WORLD

The U.S. National Academy of Sciences has incorporated Chilean physicist Claudio Teitelboim, winner of the 1995 National Award for the Exact Sciences, as a foreign associate member, in recognition of his “distinguished and continuing achievements in original research.”

Alicia Scherson, director of *Play*, was chosen as Best New Narrative Filmmaker at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York. More than 250 films from 45 countries were presented at the competition, which awarded a prize of 25,000 dollars for the Chilean feature film.

Philosopher Roberto Torretti, author of *Filosofía de la Naturaleza*, received an honorary doctorate from the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB). The university’s rector, Lluís Ferrer, referred to the “eminence” of the academic, who serves as Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at the universities of Puerto Rico and Chile.

At the MIM, science is literally within reach, as well as being a lot of fun. The museum’s more than 300 exhibits are divided among 14 thematic halls, through which children and teenagers freely roam, joined by equally enthusiastic parents and teachers. The attraction lies in the diverse methods used to impart knowledge, all of them ingenious and fascinating. There are telescopes; workshops on recycling, fabric dyeing and construction; special 3-D and robotics rooms; an exhibit that takes visitors into the mysteries of the brain; a piano that makes music when walked upon; and a bed of nails inviting passers-by to lie down on it. There is even an enormous aquarium, that contains Chilean species such as the dogfish shark and manta ray. The tank’s most popular inhabitants are the fish of Easter Island, including the puffer fish, triangle fish, and cowfish.



In keeping with its mission of inspiring creativity and the skill of learning among children and young people, the museum has presented shows and exhibits in 50 communities throughout Chile, from the extreme north to the far south. In April, it even crossed the border to participate in Expo-Ciencia, an event associated with the Fourth World Congress of Science Centers, held in Rio de Janeiro. In the near future, museum representatives will travel to the Dominican Republic on an invitation from the office of that country’s First Lady.

The museum’s program has been honored by the Network for the Popularization of Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean, better known as Red-POP, which presented it with the highest recognition offered in the region, citing the creativity, originality, scientific rigor, impact, and contributions of the MIM’s exhibits on both the national and international levels. The MIM follows in the footsteps of San Francisco’s Exploratorium, whose director, Goéry Delacôte, traveled to Santiago to help celebrate the anniversary of his institution’s Chilean counterpart.

Archipelago of treasures

From the first glimpse of Robinson Crusoe Island, amid the solitude of the Pacific Ocean, 667 kilometers west of Valparaíso, it is hard to avoid feeling immersed in the history of the famous shipwrecked character of literature. The best-known island of the Juan Fernández Archipelago – which also includes Alejandro Selkirk and Santa Clara Islands – , Crusoe is a breathtaking sight with its dense vegetation and mountainous geography.

The island’s ravines, steep cliffs, and rugged mountains shelter an incredible diversity of plants and animals, the object of fascination for naturalists and biologists. In 1977, it was declared a World Biosphere Reserve. A true natural laboratory, its ecosystem is unique on the planet. Seventy percent of its flora is endemic, including, for example, its 45 species of ferns and the Juan Fernández apple tree, sandalwood, cabbage, cinnamon and chondra palm. Other important species include the *coralillo*, the *luma de masafuera*, the *juan bueno*, the mountain sophora, the terebinth shrub, and the *madera dura*.



Species previously unknown to science have been discovered on the Juan Fernández Archipelago. This is the case with *Lactoris fernandeziana*, unique among Robinson Crusoe Island’s endemic plants as the sole remaining representative of the Lactoridaceae family, which is believed to have originated on the ancient supercontinent known as Gondwana or Pangaea. Botanist Phillippe Danton of the Paris Museum of Natural History, a member of the Botanical Society of France, has spent eight years studying the archipelago. Currently, with UNESCO sponsorship, he is carrying out an inventory of its original flora: approximately 640 species have already been registered.

PEOPLE OF CHILE

José Miguel Insulza

"We will miss him," stated President Lagos, after describing the Minister of the Interior and new OAS Secretary General as an "essential colleague, a public servant with a great sense of mission," whose skills "will now be applied to other challenges."

His traits as a "political animal" and talented negotiator were repeatedly cited in the national and foreign press, as was his nickname, "The Panzer," bestowed by his colleagues in recognition of his "combative spirit." It was this forceful determination that allowed him to successfully negotiate agreements that were often considered impossible to achieve.

Along with his versatility and dynamism in confronting problems, he is recognized for his ability to build bridges and repair ties. He is considered by many to be one of the key players in achieving the current peaceful coexistence between Chile's government and the opposition, which has promoted the country's stability.

His election as head of the OAS is the crowning accomplishment of an extensive and successful political career in Chile. For many years, his official work was also accompanied by active academic pursuits. After earning a law degree, he undertook postgraduate studies at the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) and later earned a Master of Arts in Political Sciences at the University of Michigan. He entered the teaching field in 1973, becoming a professor of political theory at the University of Chile and of political science at Chile's Catholic University.

He dedicated long hours to academic work during his exile, first in Italy and later in Mexico, where he served as a researcher and director of the United States Studies Institute at the Economic Research and Teaching Center (CIDE).

During his years as a professor at the National Autonomous and Ibero-Americana Universities of México, and at the Matías Romero Institute for Diplomatic Studies, he became acquainted with his current wife, Georgina Núñez from Mexico, with whom he had the third and youngest of his children. Today, two granddaughters round out the family of the 62-year-old Minister – who in his personal life is known as an avid Coca-Cola drinker and fervent follower of the University of Chile's soccer team.

Not only good memories arose from his time in exile. Two of the most painful events of his life occurred while he was outside the country: the loss of one of his children and the death in Chile of his father, whose funeral he was forbidden to attend by the military government.

He showed a strong interest in public service from a young age, serving as vice president of the Chilean Federation of Students and the Union of Chilean University Federations. This dedication was resumed upon his return from exile in 1990, when he became a member of the Chilean Association of Political Scientists and Director of Multilateral Economic Affairs for the Foreign Ministry. While in this office, in March 1994, he was appointed by President Eduardo Frei as Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and six months later as Foreign Minister.

He demonstrated his firmness and diplomatic proficiency in his efforts to return General Augusto Pinochet to Chile after the former leader's detention in London in 1998. Criticized by socialists and other opponents of the dictator, he defended his "struggle for principles and not for individuals," convinced that Chile's courts would be able to judge Pinochet appropriately. Insulza won the admiration of many with the successful return to the country of the man who had persecuted him, incarcerated him, and driven him into exile, and under whose government many of his friends and colleagues had been killed.



In spite of his strong personality, he recognizes himself as a sensitive man. A romantic who enjoys the tango, he is also viewed as being a bit self-assured, although he confesses that he is not as skilled in fighting extra kilograms as he is in politics. During the years when he worked at La Moneda Palace, a woman regularly brought him one of his favorite delicacies: fresh hearth-baked *tortillas*.

Late in the Frei administration he served as Minister Secretary General of the Presidency, and since 2000 he has been President Lagos' Interior Minister, in addition to his right-hand man and leading negotiator of agreements. Last year, government ministers and officials, headed by President Lagos, along with many other friends and colleagues, gathered to celebrate Insulza's ten uninterrupted years as a Minister of State. With this achievement, he has surpassed the record held by Antonio Varas since 1860. The party was also attended by business leaders and representatives of the opposition parties, with whom Insulza has developed close ties.

AGENDA

★ April 25-28: Official visit of the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Patrick Manning. Santiago.

★ April 29 - May 6: Official visit to India of Minister of Defense Jaime Ravinet.

★ May 5-7: Official visit of the President of Honduras, Ricardo Maduro. Santiago.

★ May 10: Participation of President Ricardo Lagos in the Summit of South American–Arab Countries. Brasilia.

★ May 11-13: Official visit of the President of the Palestinian National Authority, Mahmoud Abbas. Santiago.

★ May 13: Official visit of the Foreign Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Ahmed Aboul Gheit. Santiago.

★ May 13-15: Working visit by President Lagos to Durham, United States, where he will receive an honorary doctorate from Duke University.

★ May 16-17: Official visit of the President of Algeria, Abdelaziz Bouteflika. Santiago.

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