



CHILE

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The Presidents convoking the Initiative Against Hunger and Poverty: Ricardo Lagos, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Jacques Chirac, and José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ★ Chilean “anti-poet” Nicanor Parra celebrated his 90th birthday with a new work: *Lear, Rey & Mendigo* (*Lear: King and Beggar*), his own translation and “rewriting” of Shakespeare’s classic. Published by Diego Portales University, it is the poet’s first published book after 20 years of literary silence.
- ★ On September 3, 1939, 2,500 Spanish refugees arrived in Valparaíso aboard an aging French cargo ship, the *Winnipeg*. Sixty-five years after the voyage, nearly 400 of the travelers – who were escaping concentration camps and the civil war in Spain – gathered at the port to commemorate their arrival in Chile and express their appreciation for the efforts of poet Pablo Neruda, who arranged the voyage from Paris.
- ★ In 1558, historian Gerónimo de Bibar described the Diaguitas as tall, good-looking and very liberal, to the point that their women participated in political assemblies. Today, approximately 2,000 of their descendents live in northern Chile, and the government has sent a bill to the Senate proposing the recognition of the Diaguita people as an indigenous group.

A duty to act immediately

“There is no technical justification for an increase in hunger and poverty in today’s world, given humanity’s heritage of knowledge and technological development. Hunger may have existed yesterday, but it should not today, with the production that all of us on this planet have been able to achieve,” asserted President Ricardo Lagos during his address to the gathering for the Initiative Against Hunger and Poverty, held on September 20 at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

President Lagos called upon political leaders to refuse to accept conditions that are within their ability to correct: “If it is possible to change this unjust situation, it is our moral duty to do so, and immediately.” The President spoke in the capacity of co-convoker of the meeting, which was initiated by Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, along with French President Jacques Chirac, Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

President Lagos called for the rapid and resolute implementation of the proposals aimed at collecting 50 billion dollars, the sum required to reach the objective set at the 2000 Millennium Summit: reducing world poverty by half by the year 2015. He also appealed for a concentration of political will on enhancing existing funding mechanisms in order to finance an effective campaign.

The initiative demands a short timeline in order to be effective and opportune, insisted the President. “Failing to act is irrational,” he noted, because this is not merely a task for governments or international organizations, but one that “all of us must confront.”

A shared world order

In his address to the 59th United Nations General Assembly, President Lagos stressed that multilateralism is the only approach to addressing the negative aspects of globalization, such as terrorism and organized crime, adding that the complexity of today’s world obliges countries to unconditionally respect international law and to work toward the construction of a shared world order.

“Chile has been an active participant in the international system, because we believe that governance on a planetary scale is the logical extension of the institutional order which each State has achieved and can display in this world forum.” He noted that “it is a task for every one of our societies to apply the principles of the United Nations and make them a reality,” while also insisting on the need to broaden the Security Council and reform the UN itself.



FACTS

In its 2005 *World Development Report*, the World Bank characterized Chile's business climate as "an exception" within Latin America. The report emphasized the country's responsible tax policies and noted that its sustained economic growth from 1990 to 2003 places it in the lead within Latin America and among the top 14 countries of the world.

The amount of foreign investment entering Chile increased by 58% in 2003, reaching 2.892 billion dollars, according to the 2004 World Investment Report of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Chile's Chamber of Deputies has ratified the Free Trade Agreement between Chile and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), signed in June 2003. The accord will allow more than 90% of Chilean exports to Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein to enter free of tariffs.



On September 30, the theater group La Troppa began a new international tour with their production of *Jesus Betz*, which will take them for six months to France and Belgium. They will also travel to Hong Kong, where performances of the work will be simultaneously interpreted in English and Cantonese.

Chile has signed a Horizontal Air Transport Services Agreement with the European Union. The accord will permit the adjustment of all of the air services agreements held by Chile with EU member states to the new community-wide legislation, as well as opening the possibility of negotiating an Open Skies agreement.

In New York, President Lagos met with a number of Heads of State and Government, including Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo, with whom he agreed to initiate talks for a free trade agreement. This will be added to the economic complementation, double taxation, and investment protection accords already existing between the two countries.

Later, in Mexico City, he and President Vicente Fox jointly announced the start of negotiations aimed at reaching a strategic association agreement similar to that held by each country with the European Union, which would be the first of its kind between two Latin American nations. The objective is to achieve a close working relationship that results in increased trade, improved political coordination, and expanded cooperation to support social development.



A parallel agenda was pursued by the President's wife, Luisa Durán, who met in Salt Lake City with the highest leader of the Mormon Church, Gordon B. Hinckley, whom she thanked for his support of the Chile Solidarity program. She also expressed her appreciation for the donation of 600 computers to the Todo Chilenter Foundation, which recycles surplus electronic equipment for use in low-income primary and secondary schools.

Without forgetfulness or indifference

It was a debt that had remained unpaid for 30 years, and it was settled with a solemn and emotional ceremony. On September 30, the Chilean Army finally rendered the prescribed funeral honors to General Carlos Prats, the former Commander in Chief assassinated by agents of the military dictatorship in Buenos Aires on September 30, 1974, together with his wife, Sofía Cuthbert.

The service, held at the Santiago cemetery, was presided over by the current Commander in Chief, Juan Emilio Cheyre, along with Prats' three daughters. Government officials, politicians, and retired generals also participated. A prayer led by the Archbishop of Santiago, Cardinal Francisco Javier Errázuriz, a riderless horse, military songs, and artillery salvos marked the posthumous homage.



"This ceremony can serve as an example of civic maturity, reconciliation, justice, and reparations, carried out by the institution that has judged the actions of its former Commander in Chief with greatest severity in the past," stated General Cheyre, who also offered a summary of Prats' military career, characterizing it as "brilliant."



The general emphasized that "once more, Chile's Army rejects the extreme cruelty of the perpetrators of this vile crime," saying that "we are closing a wound that remained open due to the unfulfillment of an official duty, because the dignity of the office achieved by General Prats does not deserve the pettiness of forgetfulness or indifference."

QUOTATIONS FROM PRESIDENT LAGOS

“Integration into the international community is a stairway, my friends, one with many steps. The important thing is not to lose sight of the idea of ascending: ascending toward free, but fair trade; toward free capital flows that do not cause depredation; toward cultural expansion without the destruction of local culture, our roots, who we are, our identity; toward the interchange of ideas, but not a single way of thinking; and finally, toward pluralism, so that all can become better.”

**During his address to the
UN General Assembly,
New York, September 21, 2004**

“The way we have been able to continue advancing in these years of work with Mexico is so important to us. It means understanding that Latin America must speak with a single voice in international forums, which implies agreeing among ourselves and also taking on responsibilities. Being coherent if we say ‘no’ to a unilateral intervention in Iraq, or if we say ‘yes’ when the Security Council requests Latin American forces in Haiti.”

**After meeting with President Vicente
Fox. Los Pinos Palace, Mexico City,
September 22, 2004**

“We have (with Peru) an agreement that eliminates double taxation, an investment protection agreement, and a complementation accord. With these three agreements as a starting point, it is natural to say that we will take the next step and advance in exploring the possibility of a free trade agreement (...). It is very important to us to place the accent on a future-oriented agenda, and, as President Toledo has stated, there are other topics that are pending with regard to Peru, which must be addressed at the level of our Foreign Ministries.”

**After meeting with President Alejandro
Toledo. New York, September 20, 2004**

Highly-prized meat

In recent years, Chile has taken great steps toward establishing itself as a net exporter of meat products. For the first time in the country's history, its trade balance for these products showed a surplus in 2003, totaling 51 million dollars. The difference was made by the white meats – poultry and pork – which registered a positive balance of 227 million dollars.

The trend is continuing. From January to July 2004, Chile's meat exports expanded by 59%. According to figures provided by the Office of Agricultural Research and Policy (Odepa), 81,700 tons of meat products were exported, chiefly to Japan, Mexico, and South Korea, generating returns of 207 million dollars. Pork registered the highest sales: 126 million dollars, 40.3% more than in the same period of the previous year. The most spectacular growth was shown by poultry: 229.3% in comparison with 2003.

The attractive opportunities offered by Chile's trade agreements with the United States, the European Union, and South Korea have been key factors in the expansion. In June 2003, Chile exported beef to Europe for the first time, shipping 11 tons to Germany. This is one of the world's most demanding markets, with consumers who are well-informed and active in the defense of their rights.

Promotion and protection for Chilean cinema

The Chilean film industry is getting ready to celebrate: starting next year, the benefits stipulated in the new Audiovisual Promotion Law, approved unanimously by Congress, will enter into force. The arduous work involved in creating movies, short films and documentaries will be protected by a regulatory framework tailored to the industry's needs and requirements, which will even include international promotion mechanisms.

The law calls for the creation of an Audiovisual Arts and Industry Council as well as a Promotional Fund. Together, these institutions will support the production of films and other audiovisual works and strengthen the alliance between the cinema and the public, in an effort especially aimed at reaching the inhabitants of Chile's regions.

Annual prizes will be awarded for the best films, and a funding reward system will be established for the productions earning the highest profits, providing funds to be added to the studio's financing for the following year. In other words, a good year at the box office will lead to a higher budget for new productions.

The two new organizations complete the array of Chile's public cultural institutional structure, which includes the National Council of Culture and the Arts and the National Cultural Development Fund, created in July 2003; the Music Promotion Law, in force since January 2004; and the National Council for the Book and Reading, inaugurated in 1993.

Sharing the sciences

The broad diaspora of Chileans around the world includes approximately 800 men and women dedicated to science and scientific research. These are academics and professionals engaged in projects in countries such as Sweden, the United States, Switzerland, and Spain, as well as other South American nations. A group of them recently returned to Chile to participate in the First Conference of Chilean Academics and Scientists Residing in Chile and Abroad.



OVERHEARD

"We have a very positive agenda with Chile in matters such as the implementation of the FTA, work within the UN, the impressive operation of Chile and other countries in Haiti, and cooperation in regional and global affairs."

Craig Kelly, United States Ambassador to Chile. Santiago, September 26, 2004

"We have had a very productive meeting (with President Ricardo Lagos), which dispels any confusion (...). For the moment we are concentrating on the strength of our relations."

Alejandro Toledo, President of Peru. New York, September 20, 2004

"The first request (to the Spanish government) to go to Haiti, and the most important, was made by the President of the Republic of Chile, Ricardo Lagos, and his international influence, ability and prestige are very worthy of honor. This is an example of the Chilean President's influence in the international sphere."

José Bono Martínez, Minister of Defense of Spain. Santiago, September 21, 2004

"I believe that the (free trade) agreement between Chile and Canada is an excellent model with regard to investment, and we would like to duplicate it with the greatest possible number of countries."

John McCullen, Minister of Finance of Canada. Santiago, September 14, 2004

CHILEANS AROUND THE WORLD

Economist and UCLA professor Sebastián Edwards will serve on the 16-member council of advisors to California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Also taking part will be Nobel Prize winners Milton Friedman and Gary Becker.

José Antonio Prado, former director of Chile's National Forestry Corporation (Conaf), was chosen as the Director of Forestry Resources for FAO Forestry, the leading international body for the preservation and sustainable development of all of the world's forests.

Actress Tamara Acosta was honored with the "Tatú Tumpa a Nuestra Estrella" award at the Sixth Iberoamerican Film Festival in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. She was recognized for her distinguished career in film, television, and the theater, as well as her participation in social and cultural initiatives.

For three days, they met with academic representatives from various regions of the country and participated in workshops focusing on disciplines of the life sciences, physical sciences, mathematics, economics, agricultural, and environmental sciences, education, communications, and computer science. The objectives were to integrate all of the scientists, regardless of their place of residence, into the country's development and the fulfillment of its needs; promote collaboration on the institutional, public and personal levels; and create a network of contacts which will encourage joint projects in a wide range of specialties.

The academics living abroad show a broad spectrum of professional accomplishments. Among those who participated in the conference were economist Carlos Fortín, deputy secretary-general of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); physician Hernán Concha, a researcher at the Center for Infectious Diseases at Sweden's Karolinska Institute, who has worked for 15 years on a system for diagnosing leukemia; Nilda Peragallo, dean of the School of Nursing at the University of Miami; and Sergio Tapia, Doctor of Sciences at the University of Lausanne's Center for Electronic Microscopy.



Many eyes to view the stars

Day after day, more Chileans and foreigners visit the Coquimbo Region, some 400 kilometers north of Santiago, to follow "the route of the stars": five professional and two touristic observatories under transparent skies which delight both scientists and visitors, making the zone South America's most important astronomical center.

In the Coquimbo hills, astronomy comes as naturally as breathing. There is often news of a new sightings, and additional installations have continued to be built in recent years, such as the SOAR (Southern Observatory for Astrophysical Research) telescope on Cerro Pachón, which has been capturing images of the universe as sharp as those of the Hubble space telescope since April. In 2005, Cerro Tololo will place six new telescopes in operation, examining the evanescent gamma rays emitted by powerful stellar explosions. Completing the route are the La Silla, Las Campanas, and Gemini centers.

But not only prominent scientists can discover the universe in the region's skies. Two smaller observatories – Mamalluca and the recently-inaugurated Collawara – offer excellent facilities where visitors can enjoy a window on space and learn about the origins of the universe.



And in 2010, for the bicentennial of Chile's independence, the city of Coquimbo will open Latin America's largest planetarium: the Planetarium Educational Center. The huge building will have the shape of a compass rose with eight points, and its 10,000 square meters will include a 20-meter-high dome with projection and audio facilities, a specialized astronomy library, meeting and conference rooms and, a spectacular view.



Mamalluca Observatory

The huaso

He is a typical figure, an inhabitant of the rural valleys of central Chile, whose costumes and traditions constitute expressions of popular culture. Pride and cunning are among his personality traits. He is famous for his ingeniousness in overcoming obstacles and for his love of the land, country life and its traditions, in addition to his gallantry in conquering women's hearts.



According to some historians, the word *huaso* comes from the Quechua *huasu*, referring to that which is "rustic" or "unrefined." Others argue that it is a term used in both the Quechua and Mapuche languages, meaning "back" or

"haunches," coined by the indigenous peoples to describe men on horseback.

In the 18th century, historians described him as a man of mixed blood, skilled at riding and using the lasso. Since that era, huasos have worn the traditional poncho, which appears on special occasions such as the celebration of Chile's patriotic holiday on September 18, or at rodeos – events that originated in the work of herding and separating cattle, and which today represent the huaso sport par excellence.



The huaso's characteristic costume consists of a wide-brimmed hat, a sash around the waist, a jacket with mother-of-pearl buttons, tight-fitting pants, leather chaps, and medium-heeled boots with spurs. The women wear an elegant suit with a short



jacket and flared skirt. In contrast, the *chinas* or country women stand out with their vividly-colored flowered dresses.

Country life is challenging but also joyful, blessed with the abundance of the valleys, a rich folk tradition and delicious cuisine. The *cueca*, the country's national dance, is animated and flirtatious, accompanied by the strumming of the guitar, rhythmic tapping of the feet, and the roguish or joking voices of the singers. *Empanadas*, *humitas* (corn cakes), *porotos* (beans), and *cazuela* (poultry or beef and vegetable stew) are delectable typical dishes, as well as roasted beef, pork or goat, drizzled with *chicha* (fermented fruit juice) and red wine.

AGENDA

- ★ September 18-22: Working visit of the Spanish Minister of Defense, José Bono. Santiago
- ★ September 25–October 1: 11th International Film Festival in Valdivia.
- ★ October 3-4: Third APEC Senior Officials Meeting, SOM III. Santiago
- ★ October 3-7: 55th National Mining Convention and First International Mining Biennial. Viña del Mar
- ★ October 9-16: 16th Viña del Mar Film Festival.
- ★ October 11: Official Visit of President Lagos to Romania.
- ★ October 12-13: Official Visit of President Lagos to Turkey.
- ★ October 14-15: President Lagos attends the Progressive Governance Summit. Hungary

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Javier Luis Egaña, Director Communication and Culture Secretariat / EDITOR: María Paz del Río, Chief, International Press Department / TEXT: International Press Department / PHOTOGRAPHS: Presidencia de la República, Ministerio de Defensa / COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE SECRETARIAT / MINISTRY GENERAL GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
depreint@segegob.cl / www.segegob.cl / www.gobiernodechile.cl