



GOBIERNO DE CHILE

CHILE

SECRETARÍA DE COMUNICACIONES

NEWS

International Analysis and Press Department • Communication Secretariat • La Moneda Palace

August 7, 2008 • No.95



President Michelle Bachelet receives the President of the Republic of Lithuania, Valdas Adamkus, at La Moneda Palace.

Tours with positive results

Visits with an emphasis on technology, the environment and neighborly relations were part of the intense international agenda pursued by President Michelle Bachelet in June and July.

The first stop was Canada, where the President visited Ottawa, Quebec and Montreal from June 9 to 11, on the invitation of Prime Minister Stephen Harper. The two leaders signed a series of agreements, including a Strategic Energy Accord: “We are assembling a mixed commission to study a realistic plan of action for joint projects of mutual interest,” explained the President. The leaders also agreed on a working plan in the area of innovation, science and technology, including scholarships for talented students to postgraduate and exchange programs, as well as support from Canadian experts to improve preschool programs in Chile.



The President also attended the 14th International Economic Forum of the Americas, where she noted that “one of our main challenges is the need to invest in expanding food production in the region.”



The second stop was California, from June 11 to 13, where President Bachelet worked with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to advance the plan called “Chile-California: An Association for the 21st Century.” The plan aims to strengthen the bilateral relationship in the fields of energy, agriculture, human capital development, education, the environment, communication and trade. The President also met with U.S. entrepreneurs, inviting them to invest in Chile. Along with the 2006 Nobel Prize winner in Physics, George T. Smoot, she participated in a workshop on renewable energy sources at the University of California. Finally, she traveled to Las Vegas to visit “Solar One,” the largest solar energy facility constructed in recent decades.

At the 35th Mercosur Summit, held in Tucumán, Argentina, the President agreed to broaden Chile’s Economic Complementation Agreement (ACE) with the group, adding an agreement on trade in services which will provide a solid and stable legal framework for Chilean investments. President Bachelet expressed shared concern with the other Heads of State over rising food and petroleum prices, and the assembled leaders also pledged to intensify their focus on political and trade integration.

DID YOU KNOW?

★ The expedition “Última Patagonia,” composed of Chilean and French researchers, uncovered millennia-old graves of the Kawashkar people, containing remains some 4,500 years old, on Madre de Dios Island in the Magallanes Region. The discovery will be highlighted in the science documentary *Hunters of Science*, which will also show caverns dozens of meters deep, sheltering hidden ecosystems that have endured for millennia, as well as 3,200-year-old fossils from six great whale species.

★ In the forests of the Araucanía and Los Lagos Regions lives an amphibian species threatened with extinction: Darwin’s frog. Three to four centimeters long, it is known for its striking camouflage that resembles overlapping araucaria leaves and fern fronds. The edges of the frog’s body are irregular, and the tip of its snout even resembles the stem of a leaf. The Botanical Garden of Atlanta has expressed interest in supporting a comprehensive survey of this species in Chile.



★ At La Silla Observatory, in the Coquimbo Region, astronomers and researchers have discovered a star with three orbiting Earth-like planets, 42 light years away. Since their masses range from four to nine times that of our own planet, scientists are calling them “super-Earths.”

QUOTES FROM PRESIDENT BACHELET

"What is important is the conviction standing behind this law, which is that the protection of nature is, and must be, compatible with economic development. That it is not necessary to choose one or the other. That if appropriate incentives are in place, along with a strong dose of citizen responsibility, it is possible to harmonize the two."

At the promulgation of the Native Forest Law.
Santiago, July 11, 2008.

"This is a historic step, and as President of the Republic, I feel extremely proud to be able to guarantee a higher quality of life for people of all ages, and certainly for senior citizens. The idea behind this effort is the kind of country we want to live in – and we want a country that guarantees rights to each one of its inhabitants."

On the entry into force of the Pension Reform.
Santiago, July 2, 2008.

"Chile, in its capacity as host of the 60th Annual Meeting of International Whaling Commission, wants to give the world a clear and very convincing signal of its determination to protect the whales in its jurisdictional waters."

At the signing of the bill declaring a Chile a whaling-free zone. Quintay, June 23, 2008.

"The Chamber of Deputies' approval of the General Education Law is an important step forward for the improvement of education. This has been a historic day, because this vote will allow us to replace the old LOCE developed by the military regime with a law conceived in democracy."

On the approval of the General Education Law.
Santiago, June 20, 2008.



State Visit to Uruguay



In Uruguay, President Bachelet and President Tabaré Vázquez signed a Strategic Association Agreement to further strengthen bilateral ties, as well as an Additional Protocol to the Chile-Mercosur ACE, which will accelerate tariff reductions between the two countries. They also agreed to create a Binational Commission to promote the exchange and coordination of social policies.

"This is a historic step we have taken, because an agreement of this type not only facilitates and reinforces bilateral dialogue, but also helps strengthen the foundation of our relationship and all of its institutions," asserted the President.

President Bachelet was also received by the National Assembly, where she spoke of the need to "have a unitary voice throughout the region and maintain a vision of Latin American integration above all." In her remarks at a seminar entitled "Women's Participation in the New Latin American Context," she declared that "the integration of women into the diverse spheres of social, political and cultural life is the true revolution of the 20th and 21st centuries." The President stressed that public policies aimed at women are a priority for the Chilean government, pointing to the country's gender-related advances, such as the attempt to eradicate all forms of violence against women, greater representation of women in decision making, and the reconciliation of family life and paid work.

A "star" among reforms

"Chile won it!": the Pension Reform, the most significant transformation of the pension system during the past three decades, entered into force on July 1. "This effort has been made for the sake of all of our fellow citizens who have dedicated their lives to making this country great," declared the President.



More than 1,800 pension applications were received on the first day alone – 1,400 of them from women.

The program is expected to reach 600,000 individuals this year, rising to 1,300,000 by 2012. The target beneficiaries during this first stage are men and women over age 65 from families among the poorest 40% of the population – expanding to 60% by 2012 – who were unable to make pension contributions during their working years or accumulate insufficient funds to retire with dignity.

Starting in 2009, the reform will also include a bonus to mothers over age 65 for each biological or adopted child, thus increasing pensions for those who have dedicated their lives to caring for their families. Young people aged 18 to 35 will also receive a subsidy for their contributions, which will promote youth employment as well as augmenting the recipients' capital during their first working years. Furthermore, one of the guarantees provided by the reform is that support is provided on an individual basis, so that married couples, for instance, can add their pensions together, which continue for life.

"The Pension Reform will mean that in Chile, we can put an end to indigence and poverty among older adults. We will no longer allow any of our senior citizens to be left to their own fate," stressed the President.

FACTS

In Canberra, Chile and Australia signed a Free Trade Agreement which will enter into force on January 1, 2009. Considered one of the most advanced agreements of its kind, it will immediately eliminate tariffs on 99% of Chilean goods exported to that country, while also addressing trade in services, investments and public purchasing.

Chile offers the best conditions for trade in Latin America, according to a study by the World Economic Forum. Trade liberalization and improvements to the business environment were seen as essential factors for Chile's economic success, placing the country 27th out of 118 nations.

The *International Journal of Cardiology* published the results of a study by a team of doctors from the Cardiology Department at the Catholic University's Clinical Hospital in Santiago, in which the beneficial effects of Chilean wine were demonstrated among patients with pre-existing heart conditions. Another positive effect was the enhancement of the patients' antioxidant reserves, which help protect against the development of arteriosclerosis and cardiovascular disease.

On June 20, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) launched its 2008 campaign to raise funds and promote assistance for refugees around the world – and this year, Chile is an active participant. The organization pointed to Chile's status as an asylum country, as reflected in the April arrival of 117 Palestinians in the Metropolitan (Santiago) Region and Valparaíso as refugees from the war in Iraq.

Chile is the best place in Latin America to invest in services, according to an analysis by PriceWaterhouse. It also holds second place in the region for the manufacturing sector. The study analyzed 20 emerging economies and their most attractive sectors for investment.

More and better education

With an overwhelming majority – 96 votes to 12 – the Chamber of Deputies approved the bill establishing a new General Education Law (LGE), to replace the old Organic Constitutional Law on Instruction (LOCE) established by the military regime. The new law lays a strong foundation for expanded and higher-quality education in Chile.

The LGE arose from proposals presented by the Presidential Advisory Council, made up of representatives from a range of sectors, including both teachers and students. It seeks to ensure that “quality and equity are no longer simply aspirations, but conditions that are guaranteed through legal mechanisms,” as the President asserted. The new law provides for a Superintendency of Education to oversee the resources allocated for education; a Quality Assurance Agency; and a new National Council on Education, which will approve the standards of learning. The legislation will also modify school calendars; apply stricter requirements for school administrators, who must concentrate full-time on this task; and promote greater participation on the part of the student community.

Some of the most noteworthy initiatives which have already been implemented are the Law to Ensure Quality in Higher Education and the Preferential Student Subsidy Law, which provides enhanced support to children from low-income backgrounds through expanded financial aid.

Since Chile's return to democracy, the Concertación coalition administrations have succeeded in broadening educational coverage, establishing 12 years of compulsory schooling, introducing teacher evaluations, modernizing the curriculum, expanding the school day and improving the country's educational infrastructure. In addition, scholarships, child care centers, preschools, and – above all – budgetary resources have been significantly expanded. Now, the government's efforts will be concentrated on enhancing the quality of education in Chile.

Investing in human capital

Chile is increasing its emphasis on developing its human resources, thanks to the Bicentennial Fund for Human Capital, unveiled by President Bachelet on May 21. Its aim is to provide scholarships to outstanding students in areas such as technology and English language education, allowing them to pursue postgraduate studies at the world's best universities. The fund represents a highly significant capital investment – but an investment in people, rather than infrastructure or technology.



The financing for this initiative, which will begin this semester, will be drawn from a fund created using the surplus from copper exports and maintained abroad. In total, some six billion dollars will be dedicated to covering 100% of the educational expenses of a 1,000 students this year, expanding to 6,000 by 2010. The number of scholarships awarded this year is already five times greater than it was two years ago.

The Chilean students will be able to pursue higher education in France, Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Australia or New Zealand, as well as some Asian countries. Areas of study to be emphasized include various branches of the sciences, mining and aquiculture, as well as the arts and humanities. The initiative also includes a program to attract 100 outstanding foreign scientists each year to contribute their knowledge and experience to the advancement of science at Chile's regional universities.

OVERHEARD

“Twenty-four hours have been sufficient for me to fall in love with this country and its people ... I pledge to serve as an unpaid travel agent in promoting your country.”

Valdas Adamkus, President of Lithuania, during his State Visit to Chile. Santiago, July 24, 2008.

“We congratulate Chile and its President for taking this initiative. This will add more energy to the International Whaling Commission’s discussions, serving as a positive example for other nations.”

Peter Garrett, Australian Minister for the Environment. Quintay, June 23, 2008.

“The contribution of the policies of Bachelet’s government, the construction of an inclusive society with full respect for minorities, has without a doubt a clearly beneficial effect on coexistence and respect, two values that are widely reflected in Chilean society, an example for pacific coexistence between minorities.”

Claudio Epelman, Director of the Latin American Jewish Congress. Santiago, June 17, 2008.

“She is a member of a very select club of women who have become president. We have some 190 countries in the world, but very few women have achieved the presidency. Her biography is mind-blowing. It reads like a script to a Hollywood blockbuster – except that people might not believe it is all true; but the fact is that it is all true.”

Arnold Schwarzenegger, governor of California. Sacramento, June 13, 2008.

Describing this program, *The Washington Post* columnist Marcela Sánchez wrote that “Unlike most other Latin American countries experiencing similar windfalls, Chile is investing for the long term and seeking to diversify into a knowledge-based economy.”

Protecting the giants of the sea



Whales are respected in Chile – and a clear demonstration of this respect emerged within the framework of the 60th gathering of the International Whaling Commission, held in Santiago from June 23 to 27, which brought together representatives of 78 countries.

At the former processing facility in Quintay, where whales were slaughtered until 1967, President Michelle Bachelet signed a bill – already being processed in Congress – declaring Chile a “whaling-free zone.” The measure will be applied within Chile’s 200-mile maritime limit, thus establishing an area of 5.3 million square kilometers as a cetacean sanctuary.



Furthermore, through two additional executive decrees, 43 types of whales found in Chile’s waters – half of all globally recognized species – were declared national monuments. Their capture, slaughter or sale is permanently prohibited, thus indefinitely extending the whaling moratorium previously set to expire in 2025.



Rescuing historic Chile

The Valdivia defense complex in the Los Ríos Region, 840 kilometers south of Santiago, was known during the colonial period as the “Key to the Southern Sea”. It includes a series of forts on Corral, Niebla and Mancera Bays, constructed in 1645 by the viceroy of Peru, Antonio Toledo, to defend

the city from foreign colonies, pirates and privateers. Although the forts were declared historic monuments in 1950, they are currently in a state of decay, due to damage from rain, seawater and earthquakes. The idea now is to rescue and restore them.

A new program called “Valuing Our Heritage” aims to conserve and recover the country’s existing historic and cultural patrimony – and has already begun to do so. As cultural and historic assets are protected and restored, socioeconomic benefits will be generated which contribute to sustainable development. The main objective, however, is to advance understanding and appreciation of Chile’s heritage among the local communities themselves.



Cultural assets addressed by the program include religious architecture, railroad constructions, military heritage sites, historic industrial facilities, civic works and archeological finds. The restoration work is carried out jointly by the Ministry of Public Works and the Undersecretariat for Regional Development. The funding, totaling some 100 million dollars, derives from a loan of 80 million dollars financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), with the Chilean government contributing the remaining \$20 million.



Besides the Valdivia forts, other notable projects include the Church of San Francisco; the Lircunlauta Museum of the O’Higgins Region, which will be expanded and restored; the churches of the Andean altiplano; the saltpeter mining towns of Humberstone and Santa Laura in northern Chile; and

CHILEANS AROUND THE WORLD

The Latin American Jewish Congress (LAJC) presented President Michelle Bachelet with the Shalom Prize, awarded to those it considers “the builders of peace between peoples.” The institution pointed to the President’s “tireless political support for the values of democracy and human rights.”

The World Bank has selected economist Isabel Guerrero as its vice president for southern Asia. With a 26-year career at the international body, she is the first Latin American woman to be named to this post. She will work toward achieving the 15 Millennium Development Goals in the region by 2015, such as reducing poverty, achieving universal primary education, decreasing infant mortality and expanding literacy.



Athlete Natalia Ducó won a gold medal at the World Junior Championships for track and field, held in Poland. Ducó achieved a shot put throw of 17.23 meters.

Chilean explorer Rodrigo Jordán has become the first foreigner to receive the Medal for Distinguished Service to Education in Geography and the Environment, awarded each year by the Gilbert M. Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education in Texas, United States. Until now, only U.S. citizens have been honored with the prize.

AGENDA

- ★ **July 15:** Visit of the President-elect of Paraguay, Fernando Lugo. Santiago.
- ★ **July 23-24:** State Visit of the President of Lithuania, Valdas Adamkus. Santiago.
- ★ **July 29-30:** Visit of the President of the UN General Assembly, Srgjan Kerim. Santiago.
- ★ **August 15:** President Michelle Bachelet attends the presidential inauguration ceremonies for Fernando Lugo in Paraguay. Asunción.

Fort Bulnes and the King Don Felipe Historical Park in the Magallanes Region, which require emergency protection as well as comprehensive restoration efforts.

The local gastronomic route

The Regional Council of Culture and the Arts offers the following list of traditional Santiago restaurants and pubs, along with their specialties and colorful histories. Together, they make up a flavorful tour for those who would like to immerse themselves in a uniquely Chilean environment.

“La Piojera,” in downtown Santiago near the Mapocho River, is one of the country’s oldest and most venerable bars. Its interior resembles a *ramada* – a typical construction of palm fronds and eucalyptus branches, traditionally erected for celebrations of Chile’s national day. Every day, to the sound of the *cueca*, Chile’s national dance, guests can enjoy a good *pipeño* – a sweet wine made from non-noble grapes; the best *chicha* – a homemade beverage brewed from fermented apples or grapes; or *borgoña* – red wine with strawberries. Customers include notable personalities as well as local “regulars.” The story is told that former President Arturo Alessandri Palma (1868-1950) exclaimed, after drinking a *pipeño*: “Why did you bring me to such a *piojera*?” (a term for a downscale, informal place), giving the bar its name.



During its more than eight decades of history, “El Quitapenas” (“Sorrow-Eraser”) has helped countless customers through difficult times. Located near the General and Catholic Cemeteries, it began as a place where mourning relatives could ease their hunger and thirst after bidding farewell to a loved one, taking their minds off the pain of their loss for a moment with a savory homestyle meal. The specialty of the house is the *arrollado huaso*: assorted cuts of pork rolled in pork skin.



During the military dictatorship, customers could only enter “El Rincón de los Canallas” after an exchange of secret phrases: *¿Quién vive, canalla? ¡Chile libre, canalla!* (Who lives, you scum? Free Chile, you scum!) Many opponents of the regime met there to discuss politics. For old times’ sake, the passwords are still exchanged today. Dishes such as ribs or pork leg bear “combative” names, such as “el Vietnamita,”

“Punta Peuco” (a military prison), or “Vitalicio,” referring to the “lifetime” Senate seat held by Augusto Pinochet.

Poet Pablo Neruda was a regular guest at “El Venezia,” and an enthusiastic fan of its specialty, the *malaya* – a beef roll stuffed with egg and carrot. Founded in 1936, this small restaurant is located in the Bellavista neighborhood, considered the “bohemian” zone of the nation’s capital. Office workers, tourists, young people, artists, intellectuals, and politicians can all be found here, attracted by its casual and typically Chilean atmosphere.

“El Hoyo,” in the Estación Central neighborhood, has been in operation since 1912. The obligatory aperitif here is the famous “earthquake” – a large glass of *pipeño* with pineapple ice cream – followed by the “aftershock”, a smaller version of the same drink. It is said that a foreigner once came into the place on a hot day and asked the waiter to put a scoop of ice cream in his wine; since then, the recipe has remained unchanged. The restaurant’s *prietas* – sausages filled with cooked pork blood, onion and spices – are said to be the best in Chile.

PEOPLE OF CHILE

Salvador Allende

The figure of former President Salvador Allende Gossens (1908-1973) has symbolically returned to La Moneda Palace – the place where he died during the 1973 coup d'état – in the form of a grand exhibition to commemorate the centennial of his birth. After



35 years, his legacy is reflected in a country which has recovered democracy and is moving forward in unity, leaving divisions behind. It is a country which values and respects liberty, and one which is making decisive progress toward ensuring a dignified standard of living for all its inhabitants – just as he dreamed.

Salvador Allende was born in Santiago on June 26, 1908, to a middle-class family with a grandfather who was a doctor, Senator and Freemason – roles which he would also assume as an adult. Because of the work of his father, Salvador Allende Castro – an attorney who held a range of public offices – the family lived in various cities: Iquique, Tacna (Peru), Valdivia and Valparaíso. Allende studied medicine at the University of Chile, where he also began his political career as a student activist. He received his degree in 1932. Later – in a statement that presaged his own future – he would declare that performing over 1,500 autopsies had given him insight into “the mystery of life and the drama of death.”

At the age of 25, he became one of the founders of the Socialist Party, and at 29, he was elected as a deputy representing that party in Valparaíso and Quillota. He left that position two years later to serve as Minister of Health, Pensions and Social Assistance under then-President Pedro Aguirre Cerda. However, his legislative career continued during an additional three decades, with election to the Senate in 1945 and reelection every eight years from various parts of the country up to 1970. He also served as President of the Senate from 1966 to 1969.

In 1940, he married Hortensia Bussi, a student at the Pedagogical Institute. The couple had three daughters: Beatriz, Isabel and Carmen Paz.

He was a candidate for the Presidency in 1952 and 1958.

The perseverance of “*el pije*” (“the dandy”) – as his best friends called him because of his impeccable style of dress – led him to stand a third time for the

Presidency in 1964, only to lose to Eduardo Frei Montalva. Yet everything changed in 1970, when he won a plurality of 36.6% of the vote, thanks to support from the Unidad Popular, an alliance between the socialists and communists, along with some other parties. Since fellow candidates Jorge Alessandri and Radomiro Tomic also failed to achieve an absolute majority, Congress installed him as President of the Republic in October of that year, as the world's first democratically elected



socialist leader. During his administration, he tried to revolutionize society with social programs to protect the dispossessed, nationalizing copper production and fighting for State control of other areas of the economy. He also accelerated the country's agrarian reform process.

However, various social groups were unhappy with these developments, and oppositional and protest movements arose. In spite of his attempts to restore stability in Chile, Salvador Allende was unable to avoid intervention from the Armed Forces, and on September 11, 1973, the coup d'état occurred which put an end to his government. As soldiers surrounded La Moneda Palace, he addressed the people one last time by radio before sacrificing his life in defense of his convictions: “Placed in this historical transition, I will pay with my life for the loyalty of the people – and I tell you that you can be certain that the seed we have planted in the conscience of thousands of Chileans cannot be permanently prevented from growing ...”

Know that, much sooner than later, the great avenues will be opened on which free men will stride forward to build a better society. Long live Chile, long live the people, long live the workers!”

In remembrance of Allende, Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero wrote: “Thirty-five years after his death and a century after his birth, we reach the overwhelming conclusion – nothing rhetorical about it – that neither his life nor his sacrifice were in vain.” President Bachelet observed that Allende “has the political will to unite socialism with democracy. To unite the rule of law with social change. And this is, without a doubt, one of his greatest political legacies.”

The celebration was worldwide

The 100th anniversary of Allende's birth was commemorated in diverse countries: in Australia, Venezuela, Brazil, Mexico, and China. In Cuba, an event will be held on August 8. In Uruguay, President Tabaré Vazquez inaugurated the Dr. Salvador Allende Civic Center in the Department of Canelones, where various institutions will offer services to the community.



In Chile, a range of activities took place.



Representatives and supporters of the foundation bearing Allende's name along with the Concertación coalition parties gathered on the Plaza de la Constitución near to his monument,

for commemorative speeches and a variety of artistic expressions. The Senate paid homage to him as a former Senator and President of the Senate. President Michelle Bachelet inaugurated an exhibition entitled “Homage and Memory: Works from the Museum of Solidarity for the Centennial of Salvador Allende” in the La Moneda Palace Cultural Center. Some 100 artists – including Pablo Picasso, Chilean painter Roberto Matta and Oswaldo Guayasamín – donated works to the Museum of Solidarity, created in 1971, to support his cause, in the so-called “Operation Truth.” By 1972, within scarcely six months, some 700 artworks had been assembled. Today, they number over 3,000, of which 140 are on exhibit for this occasion. And the Chilean post office unveiled a new stamp: “100 años Salvador Allende.”



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TRANSLATION: Patricia Linderman

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depreint@msgg.gov.cl / www.msgg.gov.cl / www.gobiernodechile.cl