



GOBIERNO DE CHILE

CHILE

SECRETARÍA DE COMUNICACIONES

NEWS

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

November 6, 2007 • No.89



President Michelle Bachelet with Pope Benedict XVI, in Rome.

Full schedule in Italy

“Above all, I would like to express to you the sympathy and respect merited by your personal history.” With these words, Italian President Giorgio Napolitano warmly welcomed President Michelle Bachelet during her State visit to Italy, from October 14 to 17.

The two Presidents discussed topics of bilateral interest, including cultural cooperation and Italy’s experiences with decentralization and the promotion of small and medium-sized industries.



President Bachelet also met with the President of the Council of Ministers, Romano Prodi. The leaders signed a joint declaration expressing shared views on UN Security Council reform, Chile’s support for European Union participation in the Kosovo peacekeeping mission, the need to confront globalization as both a challenge and an opportunity, and support for regional and inter-regional integration processes, among other issues.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ★ The Southern Andes Temperate Rain Forest Reserve in Chile has been declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Located in the Los Lagos Region and covering an area of more than 2,000,000 hectares, it includes high mountain ecosystems, significant water resources, tremendous biodiversity, and species found nowhere else on the planet.
- ★ This year’s skiing season – which lasted from June to October – was the most successful in recent memory. Some 575,000 people visited Chile’s leading ski centers, an increase of 11% over the previous year. According to the National Tourism Service (Sernatur), 150,000 Brazilians traveled to Chile to ski this year.
- ★ In conjunction with the Anglo-Chilean Society, the Chilean Embassy in the United Kingdom presented an exhibition at Canning House in London entitled “Flavors from the Mapuche Land.” The offerings included photographs of traditional food preparation techniques and samples of Mapuche cuisine.



With Prodi, President Bachelet later inaugurated the Third National Conference on Latin America, “Italy–Latin America, together toward the future,” which was attended by the Foreign Ministers of 20 countries and representatives from multilateral organizations. In her address, the President maintained that social cohesion must be among the focal points

for relations between the two regions, pointing to the need to “join forces to bring about a globalization process that can integrate, not marginalize – one imbued with our highest values, and one which can create a world with more dignity for all.”

The President’s schedule also included visits to the President of the Senate, Franco Marini; the President of the Chamber of Deputies, Fausto Bertinotti; and the mayor of Rome, Walter Veltroni.

She also attended the closing ceremony of a Chilean film festival, noting that the event exhibited “a part of what democratic Chile is today, the part of Chile reflected in the paths our cinematography and arts have taken.”

At the Third University of Rome, she inaugurated the academic year with an address entitled “Human Rights, Social Inclusion and Democracy.” At the University of Siena, she was awarded an honorary doctorate in



QUOTES FROM PRESIDENT BACHELET

"I am extraordinarily happy to have delivered, in the name of the Chilean people, a message of Chile's appreciation for the Catholic Church, because of the important role it played during our most difficult moments, when we lost our liberties."

After her audience with
Pope Benedict XVI.
Vatican City, October 18, 2007.

"Italy is an important partner for Chile; we have great political affinities, and this visit is helping to deepen them. We also seek to strengthen our economic ties; trade between our countries is expanding, and we can increase Italian investments in Chile."

During her official visit to Italy.
Rome, October 16, 2007.

"Introducing a gender perspective into the concept of social cohesion means promoting the well-being of all men and women, on the assumption that perspective is as central as democratic participation and the elimination of social inequity in our regions."

At the First Ibero-American Conference on
Gender and Social Cohesion.
Santiago, October 11, 2007.

"The choice of social cohesion and corporate social responsibility as the two focal points for this event correctly points to the root of the challenges confronting Latin America: the need to consolidate our democracies by developing cohesive and integrated societies, rich in social capital."

At the inauguration of the
Eighth Biarritz Forum.
Santiago, October 8, 2007.

"When I took office as Head of State, I did so with the conviction that changes must be made to benefit those without protection, those without power – and everything we are doing is aimed at moving toward a more just, more inclusive, more democratic Chile."

At the signing of a bill modifying
domestic violence laws.
Santiago, October 3, 2007.



Medicine and Surgery. "My commitment to public health and social medicine has been lifelong, and these issues are among the main focal points for my administration today," stated the President in her acceptance speech.

Lengthy papal audience

President Michelle Bachelet later paid an Official visit to the Vatican, where she was received in a private audience with Pope Benedict XVI. The meeting – lasting 39 minutes – was one of the longest held by the Pope with a Head of State. The President delivered greetings from the people of Chile and communicated Chile's feelings of appreciation toward the Catholic Church.

The President arrived at the Holy See with an entourage which included representatives from the three branches of government, businesspeople, workers, young people and members of indigenous groups. As she noted, these diverse figures symbolize the spirit of reconciliation among Chileans, as well as the country her administration is continuing to strive toward, under the motto "We all are Chile."

Regarding her dialogue with the Pope, she stated: "We share a point of view on how to work toward a better world, in which the human essence, the human spirit is what inspires us; how to continue working for a more just country and a more just world; and how we are all involved in and committed to this task." She added that she asked the Pope to make a statement "for our men and women, our children and grandparents, because it would bring a great light of hope and peace to hundreds and thousands of Chileans, who will feel that Your Holiness remembers them and thinks of Chile."



Biarritz Forum in Chile

"Social Cohesion and Corporate Social Responsibility" was the central theme of the Eighth Biarritz Forum, held for the first time in Chile on October 8 and 9. The event brought together 150 prominent participants, including former Presidents from Latin America, government officials, academics, and representatives of civil society and the communications media. For the first time, a significant contingent from the world of labor was also included.

The Biarritz Forum is one of the most important opportunities for dialogue between Europe and Latin America. With periodic meetings at which participants debate key current issues and analyze bilateral relations, it aims to contribute to a better understanding of shared circumstances and challenges.

At the end of the event, the President asked the participants to submit their conclusions, which will be used to enrich the debate at the upcoming Ibero-American Summit, to be held in Santiago this week.



FACTS

Since 1935, Chile has participated in 20 peacekeeping operations, either as an observer or with a military contingent. At present, 507 Chilean troops are deployed in UN peacekeeping missions in Haiti, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Cyprus, the Middle East, Pakistan and India.

The National Environmental Commission, Conama, has signed on to a cooperative program financed by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), aimed at measuring the ozone layer and ultraviolet radiation in southern Patagonia. Extending over four years, the project is intended to promote research into the ozone layer, improve monitoring mechanisms and establish channels for informing the public about developments in this area.

October 1 marked the one-year anniversary of the entry into force of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Chile and China. Compared to the same period of the previous year, Chile's exports to the Chinese market increased by 140%, making the country the leading destination for Chilean exports, with 15% of total shipments. Over the same period, Chile's imports from China increased by 40%.

In 2008, the Chilean government will offer scholarships to Latin American students studying for master's and doctoral degrees at Chilean universities. During the 2008 academic year, 100 students will receive scholarships of 10,000 dollars at the master's level and 14,000 for a Ph.D. The aim is to strengthen cooperative ties between the nations involved, while also offering a reciprocal gesture to countries that sheltered young Chilean exiles during the 1970s.

Chile is the world's eighth leading producer in the aquaculture industry, which includes the cultivation of oysters, shrimp and tilapia, among other species. The country is the second leading global producer of salmon, only slightly behind Norway.

Chile leads the competitiveness ranking among South American countries. According to the latest report from the World Economic Forum, the country is number one in the region, thanks to its sophisticated financial system.

Among the proposals raised was the establishment of a Digital Agenda, with support from the private sector, to close the gap between Latin American countries and the developed nations in this area.

A second proposal called for strengthening the Social Bank and microfinance programs for low-income individuals in developing countries.

A new social model for migration was also recommended. The idea is to understand the reasons behind migratory movements, so that social and economic conditions can be improved in the migrants' countries of origin through international cooperation.

In addition, participants pointed to the need to ensure that foreign workers enjoy the same safeguards against economic contingencies as host-country workers.

Finally, a proposal was made to promote social inclusion for disabled persons, including the creation of a new Social Cohesion Commission to monitor developments in this area.

Tourism, a developing industry

Tourism is not only a pleasant pastime for the thousands of visitors who enjoy Chile's natural beauty each year. It is also a full-fledged industry, generating a rising income stream and bringing jobs and profits to large, medium-sized and small businesses.

According to the National Tourism Service (Sernatur), 2,300,000 foreign visitors entered Chile in 2006 – 11.1% more than in 2005. In total, they spent some 1.5 billion dollars in the country. A Sernatur study based on 2003 figures concluded that the sector generates 3.2% of Chile's GDP.



Because of its dynamism and rising economic weight, tourism has been identified by the government as a priority sector for a range of promotion initiatives. This was stressed by Minister of Economy Alejandro Ferreiro at the celebration of World Tourism Day on September 27. He reported that a bill would soon be submitted to Congress aimed at altering Sernatur's institutional structure, reinforcing its ability to offer policy leadership in this area. Other announcements from the Minister included the creation of a committee with undersecretary rank tasked with tourism policy; more effective measures to promote Chile as a tourist destination; expanded quality control programs; and improved management of protected forest areas.

Culture door to door

Libraries have long been a feature of prominent institutions and wealthy homes – but starting next year, they will also be a reality for thousands of less-privileged Chilean families. The reason for this is "Library in a Box," (*Maletín Literario*), a new program announced by President Michelle Bachelet in her address to the nation on May 21. During its first phase,



OVERHEARD

"Chile is a very important member country. I am highly proud and appreciative of Chile for its active participation in a range of UN activities, especially in peacekeeping missions."

Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General.
New York, November 6, 2007.

"The way in which Chile has pursued its international policies ensures that its economy will continue to develop, while at the same time, its independence in conducting its foreign relations has made it a well-respected nation on the global stage."

Ségolène Royal, former candidate for the Presidency of France.
Paris, October 21, 2007.

"Over the course of the years, even in the most difficult times, our peoples have been united by a sincere and loyal bond, as well as by their shared defense of causes as noble as democracy and human rights."

Giorgio Napolitano, President of Italy.
Rome, October 15, 2007.



"Chile is a democracy which is playing a significant role in international peacekeeping efforts. The country is a serious actor on the international stage, and we have an excellent opportunity to seek additional ways to strengthen our relationship."

Robert Gates, U.S. Secretary of Defense.
Santiago, October 3, 2007.



"Chile can hold the banner of human rights high, and it can help many others in this area. I am returning from this beautiful country with great joy."

Cardinal Angelo Sodano, former Vatican Secretary of State.
Santiago, September 26, 2007.



starting in April 2008, the program will deliver sets of selected books to 133,000 low-income families with children between the ages of 6 and 9. By 2010, the initiative will reach a total of 400,000 families.

The aim of the program is to increase access to quality reading material for Chile's least advantaged groups, raising their quality of life. The country will invest some 11 million dollars in the home libraries.

The titles were selected by a 13-member panel – made up of teachers, writers and representatives from the social and cultural spheres – who deliberated from August to October. Each specialist was asked to submit a list of 20 titles, and works appearing more than once were sent on for final evaluation. A list of 49 works emerged from this phase, chosen for their literary quality, relevance and potential effects on the target readers.



The "Library in a Box" will be made up of classic and contemporary works from Chile and abroad, including prose, poetry, graphic novels, an encyclopedic dictionary and even a popular cookbook.

Monte Verde: an archaeological treasure

The location of the oldest known human settlement in the Americas is now certain: southern Chile. The archaeological site of Monte Verde – dating back over 12,000 years before the present – lies 38 kilometers southwest of Puerto Montt, in Chile's Los Lagos Region.

In a session held in Chiloé in September, the National Monuments Council designated the site as a historical monument, reinforcing its candidacy to be named as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

The revelation of the site's prehistoric past emerged between 1977 and 1987, when archaeologist Tom Dillehay and geologist Mario Pino investigated the area where a villager had found a fossilized bone years earlier. Their excavation uncovered hundreds of organic and manmade artifacts, giving evidence of an ancient encampment. Carbon-14 analysis later dated the human presence at Monte Verde to some 12,500 to 13,000 years in the past.



The find sparked vigorous debate among researchers, since it overturned the so-called "Clovis paradigm," which had placed the first known Americans in the present-day U.S. state of New Mexico, some 11,500 years ago. Monte Verde's primacy was finally accepted by the scientific world in 1998, and this year, the prestigious journal *Science* recognized it as the oldest evidence of humanity in the Americas.

CHILEANS AROUND THE WORLD

Eva y su Tan, by author Andrea Maturana, was chosen as best book in the author category by the Chilean division of IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People). The work was placed on the organization's 2007 List of Honor.

The Minister of Mining, Karen Ponjachik, was the featured speaker at this year's annual Copper Banquet, held in London. Some 3,000 people attended the dinner, at which companies are able to sell more than 50% of their production for the coming year. The Minister's participation

marked a milestone for the event, since it was the first time that a woman delivered the keynote address in the 130-year history of the London Metal Exchange.



Filmmaker Raúl Ruiz was honored with the Masters of Cinema Campidoglio award, presented every two years by *Filmcritica* magazine to outstanding figures in the field who are able to combine style, poetry and popularity. He received the award during the Rome Film Fest.

The city of Petropolis, Brazil, awarded a posthumous medal to Chilean Nobel prize winner Gabriela Mistral. The award, which was sent to the Foundation bearing her name, was announced during celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the city's founding.

AGENDA

- ★ **November 7:** Official Visit of the President of Portugal, Aníbal Cavaco Silva. Santiago.
- ★ **November 7-8:** Third Ibero-American Business Conference. Santiago.
- ★ **November 8-10:** Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government. Santiago.
- ★ **November 21-24:** State Visit of Grand Duke Henri of Luxembourg. Santiago.



The reinvention of Puerto Natales

Puerto Natales' frigid landscape contrasts with the warm welcome it offers to visitors. Located in the Magallanes Region, in Chile's extreme south, the town has identified the tourism industry as a promising opportunity for economic revitalization. Currently, 25% of its 20,366 inhabitants work in this sector.

Although the area was explored by Juan Ladrillero's expedition in 1558, its population by European immigrants and settlers from Chiloé began only in the late 19th century, with the development of the sheep ranching industry. Some decades later, the appearance of synthetic fibers reduced the demand for wool on the international market, and the inhabitants of Puerto Natales were forced to emigrate or seek work in fishing or in the coal mines of Río Turbio, in neighboring Argentina.



Today, the rise of the tourism industry has made itself felt in this isolated bay at the end of the world. Until recently, Puerto Natales was just a stopover point for hundreds of travelers on their way to Punta Arenas or Torres del Paine National Park. Now it has become a destination in its own right, thanks to its natural beauty, luxury hotels, fine dining and a casino.



The town's offerings also include horseback tours; guided visits to nearby ranches which include a traditional local meal; kayaking expeditions across the region's fjords and canals; bicycle trips lasting up to several days; cruises to view glaciers and snow-capped peaks; and shopping tours focused on the work of local artisans.

Puerto Natales also hosts the Patagonia Film Show, held in February. Its opening session takes place in the Milodon Cave, an imposing archaeological site 24 kilometers from the city, along the route toward Torres del Paine National Park.

PEOPLE OF CHILE

Cardinal Raúl Silva Henríquez



They called him “the cardinal of the poor,” thanks to his tenacious social work. One hundred years after his birth – and eight after his death – Chileans paid homage to him as the religious figure who fought tirelessly to defend human rights under the dictatorship. The phrase he chose for his episcopacy, “The charity of Christ urges us,” is still vivid in memory. His humility was as well-known as his projects and his love for the people. His downcast eyes, sheltered by thick eyebrows, reflected the deep commitment that moved him: serving as “the voice of those without a voice” at a time when many could not express their aspirations.

Last September 27, hundreds of people gathered for a mass celebration of the centennial of his birth. President Michelle Bachelet led the homage, recalling that his voice served as a bridge uniting those who sought liberty: “His actions and words – focused on human dignity and human rights – helped bring together Christian and lay humanism, making possible the recovery of democracy.” In his hometown, Talca, in the Maule Region, he has been named an illustrious son of the city. A street there has been rechristened after the prelate, and the first stone has been laid for a plaza bearing his name.

Born in 1907, Raúl Silva was ordained as a priest in 1938. He was named Bishop of Valparaíso in 1959 and Archbishop of Santiago in 1961. Just two years later, he was made a cardinal by Pope John XXIII.

His leadership within the Catholic Church coincided with a period of profound

changes in the Church and the political and social spheres. In keeping with his convictions, he joined with the Bishop of Talca, Manuel Larraín, to turn over five rural estates belonging to the Church to needy farmers in 1962, an initiative which preceded the agrarian reforms promoted by the governments of Eduardo Frei Montalva and Salvador Allende.

Many anecdotes are repeated about him. In 1970, when Salvador Allende was elected President of the Republic, the cardinal presented him with a Bible. The President accepted it, saying “How can I refuse, since it contains the story of the world’s first revolutionary?” The same gesture was made to Fidel Castro when the Cuban political leader visited Chile in 1971: Cardinal Silva Henríquez presented him with 10,000 Bibles.

The cardinal’s call for peace in the search for social justice and political change was characteristic of his pastoral work, which intensified in difficult times such as the period before the breakdown of democracy in 1973 and the harshest years of the military regime.

The Pro-Peace Committee (*Comité Pro-Paz*), created in 1974, which two years later gave rise to the Vicariate of Solidarity (*Vicaría de la Solidaridad*), was his most fundamental contribution. For years, it was the only place where thousands of people could find refuge, counsel and help in the face of torture, executions and disappearances.

In a text called “My Dream of Chile” (*Mi sueño de Chile*), Cardinal Silva Henríquez wrote: “I want everyone in my country to live with dignity. The struggle against misery is a task from which no one can feel excluded. I want there to be no more misery for the poor in Chile. I want every child to have a school to study in. I want the sick to have easy access to health care. I want all heads of household to have stable jobs that let them feed their families.”

On September 29, 1982, Pope John Paul II accepted the cardinal’s resignation

for reasons of age. He died on April 9, 1999. During his funeral, thousands of people poured out into the streets to say goodbye, and then President Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle gave a moving address, referring to the cardinal as “the best of Chile.”



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