

CNR

**NOTES FOR THE SPEECH BY H.E. RICARDO LAGOS,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE FOR THE
CEREMONY AT WHICH HE RECEIVES THE
COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS "GOLD INSIGNE" AWARD**

New York, October 6, 2005

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VOCATIVES

- David Rockefeller, Honorary Chairman
- William Rhodes, Chairman.
- Susan Segal, President of the Council.

I am very thankful for this honor. I feel personally grateful, but also on behalf of Chile. This award confirms that the tasks we undertook at the beginning of the Twenty-first Century are appreciated beyond our borders.

I am grateful, furthermore, because this award is granted by The Council of the Americas on its 40th. anniversary.

If you look back to 1965 you realize how much the hemispheric dimension has changed; today we must develop a project for the Americas in a world that is increasingly more global.

As you well know, the past few generations of Chileans came to understand the profound meaning of democracy through painful circumstances. We had to rebuild the ability to coexist in our country, while we learned to live and work in an increasingly changing world.

The global scenario is different from only two decades ago, when we were struggling to reinstate democracy in Chile. The simultaneousness of the Internet and the evolution of the political reality of nation-states create new conditions within today's interdependent world.

A nation is not the same as a country. Scientific knowledge is not the same as scientific power. Globalization and markets for some —particularly for the North— is not the same as globalization and markets for others, in the South.

My friends,

Tonight, while receiving this award, I believe that transparency is the best way to show my appreciation.

In the Twenty-first Century, I believe it is our moral duty to create the conditions needed for growth. It is only through growth and serious management of the economy that we will be able to generate jobs and funding for public policies in favor of the most disadvantaged sectors of society.

As you know, Chile made a choice: it opened up to the world and sought its place in the international arena as a way to achieve growth and find the resources to allow its people to progress. F + A .

Our task is to make societies more equitable and free, with opportunities to all; societies where respect for human rights is solidly established within the nation's collective conscience.

Men and women in Chile are no different from those of other countries and continents when it comes to essential matters.

They expect solutions to issues such as jobs, health care, education and housing.

They expect guarantees in terms of social welfare by means of solidarian, efficient, and comprehensive social protection systems. The goals are similar, although the methods may differ.

Reaching the goal of development is up to us. But it is an uphill task if world conditions are not fair and if rules do not apply to everyone.

Let me be clear. To have growth + development is a domestic task. Nobody will do for us. But international conditions will help! For my poor country the word is aid plus accountability. For rich countries it is trade plus fair rules. + you know what fair means by fair

If globalization has been a key word pervading the world scenario, in September 2001 a new term burst brutally on the scene: terrorism. Both developments have thrown political, social, economic and cultural matters into uncharted terrains.

While we promote internal cohesion and democratic enhancement, we must face another challenge: we must guarantee citizens' rights in a world that is increasingly integrated, progressively more demanding.

➤ *But terrorism must be a unified effort - after WW1 - League of Nations*
And this is a challenge that American countries — whether Central, North or South— must not evade.

Geography and history determined our coexistence with the greatest power on earth. And together with the United States, Canada forms that huge area of developed countries in the northern part of the continent.

South of the Río Bravo there are many countries —actually 32— that coexist in a very different manner.

Such diversity must be a form of wealth. A wealth regarding the internal dialogue, but also for debating the major world issues. Globalization calls for a clear stand from every world regions.

We must find a better way to think about the hemisphere; about feeling and creating, of coexisting and innovating for these nations that, united in their diversity, stretch from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego.

We nominated one of our own —José Miguel Insulza— for the post of OAS Secretary General because Chile is a country open to all continents. A country that values multilateralism as a strategic option to create stability among nations. A country that wishes to instill a profound meaning to the term “cooperation”.

In our view, the Organization of American States can become a hemispheric organ where the important issues for the hemisphere must be discussed.

I believe it would be a major step forward, a Twenty-first Century step, to redefine what is American and hemispherical.

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& not
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idea*
 We want the whole continent to have a political system where democracy *is the* reigns, where human rights prevail, where poverty gives ground and trust is reborn. Issues such as security, employment and governance must be on our agenda of priorities.

Dear friends,

Chile and the United States have moved towards a modern and mature relationship, one befitting two countries that make friendship and dialogue the components of a permanent relationship.

The soundness of this dialogue springs from common principles and shared values: respect for democracy and human rights, the cry for freedom; the recognition of diversity as part of the wealth of nations. The same diversity that made the American society rich and multicultural.

*) came to the U.S. at the early 60's write me
) arrive to Raleigh - Dech airport. Call me*

As Thomas Jefferson said: "***It is in the power of neighbor nations to contribute to mutual happiness and prosperity by faithfully using their good offices wherever they can procure the peace and advantage of each other***" (Letter to de Viar and de Jaudenes, 1792).

These thoughts perfectly reflect the spirit in which I receive and value the award granted to me today.

Thank you.