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**SALUDO DE S.E. EN PRESIDENTE DE LA REPÚBLICA,
DON RICARDO LAGOS ESCOBAR, EN EL INICIO DEL
PROGRAMA DISCOVER CHILE**

Santiago, 27 de septiembre de 2002

On behalf of more than 15 million Chileans, I welcome you to our cities and valleys.

I invite you to experience the wonders of our country's geography and the friendliness of our people.

Your presence here today, as special guests in our territory, is part of a coordinated effort made by the private and the public sector.

As a nation, we are opening and sharing the beauties of our country with the rest of the world.

What you will see and feel during these days among us, shall be trespassed to your customers and friends back in your respective countries.

Today we officially start our tourism promotion guided tour, the Discover Chile Program. We have put together what we believe is a fairly balanced destination package.

It will allow you to experience the many different alternatives that we can offer to the travelers of the world.

For the next 8 days, we will be proud to show you our country as well as our ways of life.

While being among us, you shall share with a group of people that welcomes fellow foreigners, a group of people that is always opened to exchange a few words with tourists, specially when they are in need of directions.

Socially, we are a country that has learnt to live in peace.

Our people live trusting the future.

Our economic system is known all around the world as an example of stability, and seriousness.

We have been blessed by geographic beauty.

As a nation, we have been able to develop both stable economic and social conditions.

All this is something that fills us with pride, something that allows us to confidently invite people from all possible backgrounds and believes to visit us.

We feel confident enough to recommend it to you.

In a few hours you will start discovering Chile.

- You will see first hand our glaciers, our mountains.
- You will step on the driest desert in the world.
- You'll have the rare chance to see the flight of the Condor, which is part of our national emblem.
- You'll visit our hot springs and enjoy the clearest night sky view on Earth.
- You will experience our lakes, rivers and volcanoes.

- We will share with you our ancient cultural treasures, our history, and invite you to share with us our typical meals.

We expect to provide you with the opportunity to tighten business relations with our country, while experiencing business opportunities first hand.

Allow me now to simply welcome you again to our country, and officially declare our Discover Chile tour initiated. Enjoy.