TOM HARKIN
IOWA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 14, 1988

Ricardo Lagos Escobar
Augusto Leguia 127
Santiago, Chile

Dear Mr. Lagos:

I offer you my congratulations for the victory of the "No" in the presidential plebiscite on October 5. Your victory is a celebration of the rebirth of democracy in Chile. It marks a truly historic moment for all Chileans and represents a triumph for all democratic movements worldwide.

The courage you demonstrated throughout this campaign was matched only by your conviction to orderly, peaceful and democratic procedures. The unity you maintained continues to be based on a shared devotion to the restoration of democracy in Chile.

Your victory on October 5 represents a first but important step toward the return of full democracy to Chile. Equally challenging tasks -- the promotion of national reconciliation through dialogue, the establishment of a representative and truly democratic government, and insurance of respect for individual rights -- await you in the next year.

I pledge my continued support for your future efforts and encourage you to approach the challenges ahead with the same spirit of unity, conviction, and reconciliation that made your triumph in the plebiscite possible. Democratic people worldwide, who are strengthened by your triumph, will devote their resources as well as their prayers to the Chilean people in their struggle to fully restore democracy to Chile in the year ahead.

I look forward to meeting you again -- in a free and democratic Chile!

Sincerely,

Tom Harkin
United States Senate

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