



GOBIERNO DE CHILE

CHILE



NEWS

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

December 3, 2009 • N°106



President Cristina Fernández and President Michelle Bachelet with Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican.

Farewell with an ovation

The 19th Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, held on November 30 in Estoril, Portugal, was the last one for President Bachelet during her time in office.

In her address to the plenary session, “Knowledge and Innovation,” she stressed the need to implement a cooperative program for applied research and technological innovation; to promote medium- and long-term reforms aimed at increasing competitiveness and productivity; and to focus on the topic of early childhood development at the next Summit, to be held in Argentina.

At the end of his speech to the closing session, the President of Portugal, Aníbal Cavaco, paid a moving homage to President Bachelet: “This is your last Summit, and I would like to tell you that you are a very enthusiastic, very charismatic political leader; you defend your convictions, and you are a leader with great human values.” All of the attending Heads of State responded with a long and heartfelt ovation, which visibly moved the President. Later, she noted: “Clearly, I felt very moved by the words of the President (of Portugal), and by the kind applause of the participants; but without a doubt, I understand that this is also a reflection of what Chile has been able to achieve during all of this time.”



Accordingly, the first thing she said to Cavaco as she began her State Visit to Portugal was: “You moved me.” In their meeting, the two Presidents addressed topics such as trade and investment exchanges and ways to take advantage of “all of the opportunities in the bilateral sphere that are also possible under the Association Agreement between the European Union and Chile.”

A new “Embrace at Maipú”

It happened on the plains of Maipú (now a township in the Metropolitan Region), where, 191 years ago, the Liberation Army of the Andes sealed the independence of Chile and Argentina in the Battle of Maipú. In the same place, on October 30, Presidents Michelle Bachelet and Cristina Fernández – on a State Visit to Chile – repeated the embrace exchanged between Chile’s Bernardo O’Higgins and Argentina’s José de San Martín in 1818 after defeating the Spanish army.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ★ In 2003, Chile’s Stadium, inaugurated in 1949, was renamed Víctor Jara Stadium, in honor of the Chilean singer-songwriter who was tortured and murdered there on September 16, 1973. The stadium was recently declared a Historic Monument. A plaque in Jara’s honor commemorates his last poem.
- ★ The Portillo ski center – which recently celebrated its 60th anniversary – was the first in South America to host a world championship. Visitors have included Ted Kennedy (on his honeymoon) and Fidel Castro in 1972. It offers 32 runs, 14 lifts and a hotel.



- ★ The Chilean Navy is constructing the new scientific research vessel “Cabo de Hornos” (Cape Horn), scheduled for completion in 2011. The ship will allow researchers to undertake oceanographic studies while also examining fish stocks, mapping the ocean floor and detecting and investigating gas hydrates. It will be one of the ten most advanced vessels of its type in the world.

QUOTES FROM PRESIDENT BACHELET

"This year, Chile took on a new responsibility with the Pilot Group on Innovative Financing for Development, because we must mobilize more resources – globally, internationally and within our countries – to ensure that resources will be available for small producers and for the fight against hunger."

During her speech at the World Summit on Food Security, Rome, November 16, 2009.

"Let us expand investments from both partners. Let us seek niches in the productive and entrepreneurial sectors where investment initiatives can be focused. We have the opportunity to forge a strategic alliance between South Korea and Chile, between Asia Pacific and Latin America."

At a lunch offered by the South Korean Confederations of Industry, Trade and Finance, Seoul, November 11, 2009.

"This State Visit signifies a tremendous advance in the relationship between our countries, and the central topic of our conversations has been precisely the decision we have made, as governments and as Presidents, to take new steps to deepen and further consolidate the successful process of integration between Chile and Argentina."

During the State Visit of President Cristina Fernández, Santiago, October 29, 2009.

"I send an affectionate greeting to the nearly 2,000 troops of the Air Forces of Argentina, Brazil, the United States and France, who together with the Air Force of Chile have initiated the 2009 Salitre exercise in the Antofagasta Region."

Santiago, October 23, 2009.

"Chile can and must make a voluntary effort to contribute to the international quest to stop global warming, without compromising our development for this purpose."

At the inauguration of Chile's first liquefied natural gas plant, Quintero, October 22, 2009.



During her working meeting with the Korean leader, Lee Myung-bak

The ceremony's symbolism was underscored with the signing of the new Maipú Integration and Cooperation Treaty, aimed at strengthening connectivity and trade exchanges, implementing a joint peacekeeping force, and increasing benefits for the citizens of both countries. The agreement complements the 1984 Peace and



Friendship Treaty – signed thanks to Pope John Paul II – which put an end to the Beagle Channel border dispute that had taken both countries to the brink of war in 1978. The treaty is unprecedented in the region.

On November 28, both Presidents traveled to the Vatican, arriving in a shared car to meet with Pope Benedict XVI in commemoration of the treaty's 25-year anniversary. After the joint encounter with the Pontiff, President Bachelet stated: "We can jubilantly say, with conviction and joy, that peace has borne its fruits, and it has produced them in abundance, since our peoples are living very happily in this atmosphere of concordance and understanding."

Tour of Asia

President Michelle Bachelet traveled to "the antipodes," as she stated in Shanghai, since China is the country farthest from Chile on Earth. The journey was a productive and highly symbolic one.

It began in Seoul, on November 10, with a State Visit aimed at further deepening the excellent relations with South Korea, the first Asian nation to sign a Free Trade Agreement (2004) with Chile. After five years in force, the FTA has produced "splendid bilateral results." The two countries also share affinities in the international political sphere, such as support for multilateralism, free trade and the quest for peace.

At the next stop, Shanghai, her main objective was to celebrate the *tijerales* of Chile's pavilion at the 2010 Shanghai Expo. (*Tijerales*, literally meaning "roof trusses," is a celebration traditionally held in Chile when the final roof beam is put in place in a building under construction.) The President also attended the launch of a business platform for Chilean foods, "The Food Links," as well as a website to promote Chilean contemporary architectural services in China. She was also present at the launch of the web page www.estoeschile.cl in Mandarin Chinese. The site offers informational articles about Chile, focusing on both business and tourism.

Finally, in Singapore, President Bachelet participated in the 17th APEC Summit. At a panel entitled "What APEC can do for business," she called upon the world's leading economies to redouble their efforts to overcome the financial crisis. Afterward, she held a working meeting with the President of China, Hu Jintao, with whom she signed agreements on customs cooperation and air transport between the two countries.

FACTS

The Global Economic Forum's Second Financial Development Report placed Chile first in Latin America and fourth in the world for financial stability. The study analyzed 120 variables in 55 countries.

Chile's Ministry of Agriculture, through its Institute for Agricultural Studies, has established a cooperation agreement with Bolivia's National Institute for Agricultural, Livestock and Forestry Innovation, with the aim of establishing joint projects, programs and activities to promote research and integration in the agricultural field.

Chile holds first place in the Democratic Development Index within Latin America, according to Germany's Konrad Adenauer Foundation. Surveying 18 countries, the study assessed basic democratic conditions; respect for political rights and civil liberties; institutional quality; political efficiency and the effective use of government power.

NASA scientists working together with Chilean experts have initiated flights over the Antarctic to identify and study alterations in the ice produced by climate change. The flights are part of a five-year plan aimed at replacing the ICESat satellite, which is concluding its operations after six years in space.

Two wetlands in the Antofagasta Region, the salt flats of Pujasa and Aguas Calientes IV, have been added to the worldwide list approved by the Ramsar Convention, which codifies the global commitment to the rational use of wetlands. The measure recognizes the territories' "significant value" for all humanity.



Chile at the 2010 Shanghai Expo

Chile has made a special effort for the 2010 Expo, constructing a 2,500-square meter pavilion "because we want to send a very clear message to the Chinese people and government: Chile is a trustworthy and capable partner," as the President noted. The idea is to make the Expo a significant opportunity to strengthen Chile's bilateral economic relationship with China, develop new businesses, and consolidate Chile's position as an entry platform for Chinese investors in Latin America.

Combating hunger

At the World Summit on Food Security at FAO headquarters; in Rome, President Bachelet reiterated Chile's desire to eradicate hunger – currently affecting more than a billion people – and to guarantee the fundamental right to nutrition. She issued a call to adopt measures to avoid "social collapse" in the aftermath of the world economic crisis: "It will be impossible to solve the problem of hunger if we do not also place the problem of inequity, once and for all, in the center of the global debate."

New military justice

Two years ago, President Bachelet ordered the creation of a Study Commission for the Reform of Military Justice, composed of the legal advisors for the Armed Forces, Carabineros (uniformed police) and detective services. From this effort,



a bill has arisen addressing the jurisdiction and authority of military tribunals and proceedings. The bill restricts them to investigating military crimes and excludes civilian matters, which will be judged only by civil courts. It is the first time that the executive branch has proposed a change to the statutes of military justice.

The bill's aim is to modernize military proceedings and ensure respect for fundamental individual rights. At the same time, it reformulates definitions such as "wartime," excluding any invocation arising from internal security problems; improves the system of orders; and eliminates the crime of *desacato* or disrespect of authority. It also applies the country's current Criminal Code to this judicial system, so that military trials will be conducted according to the same principles as those of an ordinary trial.

Referring to this initiative – a commitment she had taken on in her campaign – President Bachelet stressed that "the excessive broadening of military jurisdiction under the military government was continually and sharply criticized both within Chile and abroad, so that when democracy was restored, the need for military justice to operate in accordance with our democracy's standard of guarantees also became a subject for analysis and criticism."

Overheard

"For the force of her convictions, her defense of these convictions and her determination in defending them. A personality singled out by all for its authenticity, its human warmth. President Bachelet, we hope you will continue to visit us for many years to come. Until always, Madam President."

Anibal Cavaco, President of Portugal.
Estoril, December 1, 2009.

"From the OECD side, we have tried to complete the process as quickly as possible, and the idea is to confirm Chile's entry before the end of the year."

Angel Gurría, OECD Secretary-General.
Paris, November 16, 2009.

"China and Chile must take advantage of the upcoming 40th anniversary of their establishment of diplomatic ties to broaden their cultural exchanges, to increase mutual friendship and understanding."

Hu Jintao, President of China.
Singapore, November 13, 2009.

"Our two countries have maintained a relationship that is comprehensive and characterized by cooperation. We can say that South Korea's relationship with Chile has expanded and is deeper than that with any other South American nation."

Lee Myung-bak, President of South Korea.
Seoul, November 10, 2009.

Chilean handicrafts all in one place

The township of Lolol, in the Liberator Bernardo O'Higgins Region, 142 kilometers from Santiago, is a quintessentially Chilean community. In 2003, it was declared a "Typical and Picturesque Zone," thanks to the conservation of its culture, traditions and striking colonial architecture. Thus it was a natural choice to host the new Chilean Handicrafts Museum.



The site of the new museum is a large house built in the 19th century from adobe – a mixture of clay and straw – whose restoration was marked by painstaking care in respecting the original lines and spaces. Some 2,000 pieces are on display in its 2,000 square meters, including

chamantos (traditional rural garments) from Doñihue, basketwork from Hualqui, pottery from Quinchamalí and Pomaire, ceramics from Talagante, stonework from Combarbalá, Mapuche pots and Easter Island handicrafts.

There are also three exhibition halls where visitors can watch artisans in the process of preparing their creations. Among them are weavers from Rari who work with horsehair; indigenous Mapuche weaving ponchos; woodcarvers; hatmakers; and artisans crafting stirrups. A fourth room is dedicated to foreign artisans who arrive on a temporary basis to display their work and help their Chilean counterparts perfect their techniques. The museum also offers a cafeteria, gift shop, storage facilities and an audiovisual center.

At the facility's inauguration, in October, President Bachelet stressed that "our country has won the world's respect in many fields, including the area of human development. We must also win this respect for effectively protecting our cultural heritage, which includes our valuable handicrafts."

Recognition



José Zalaquett, a professor and determined fighter for human rights, was honored on November 12 at La Moneda Palace with the 2009 Notre Dame Award for Distinguished Public Service in Latin America.

Zalaquett participated in the founding of the Vicariate of Solidarity, an organization of the Catholic Church which resisted the human rights abuses after the military coup in 1973.

Upon the country's return to democracy, Zalaquett was named as a member of the National Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and later, in 1999, of the Dialogue Roundtable, both of which sought to ascertain the fate of victims of the military dictatorship and seek justice in the area of human rights. He is recognized as one of the founders of the modern international human rights movement.



CHILEANS AROUND THE WORLD

Academic Arturo Valenzuela has been sworn in as U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs.

Catalina Saavedra, star of the Chilean film *La Nana*, was honored as "Best Actress" at the Gotham Independent Film Awards in the United States.

The **BBC** chose the late University of Chile engineer Arturo Arias as one of the five Latin Americans who "changed the world," with his scale used to measure the intensity of earthquakes. Experts classify it as the most reliable seismic measurement devised to date.

Members of the Chile Battalion in Haiti were decorated with the Parade Medal, a distinction awarded by the United Nations to troops involved in peacekeeping missions, for their "important participation" in the initiative. The battalion includes personnel from the Chilean Army and Navy.

Martín Junge has been named General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, a position he will hold starting in 2010. He is the first Latin American to lead the organization, which has members in 79 countries.

Gymnast Tomás González won the silver medal in the floor event at the World Championship in Stuttgart. In addition, swimmer Kristel Kobrich took second place in the 800-meter freestyle in the Berlin World Cup.

In a 3-2 match, the under-13 soccer team from La Legua defeated their counterparts from Real Madrid in Spain. La Legua is one of Santiago's poorest townships.

At London's Canning House, a book launch was held for *Lejos de casa. Memoria de chilenas en el exterior* (Far from Home: Memoirs of Chileans Abroad) written by members of the Chilean Writers' Workshop in England.

AGENDA

- ★ **November 23-27:** Third Latin American Writers' Encounter. Valdivia.
- ★ **November 30-December 3:** Seventh annual naval and maritime fair, ExpoNaval 2010. Valparaíso and Viña del Mar.
- ★ **December 7-8:** Mercosur Summit. Montevideo, Uruguay.
- ★ **December 9:** Official Visit of the President of Paraguay, Fernando Lugo. Santiago.

Beauty in the far south

After being closed for restoration for an extended period, the churches of the Greater Island of Chiloé – Los Lagos Region – reopened their doors in November to welcome visitors interested in getting to know their beautiful and characteristic architecture.



On a touristic circuit of 187 kilometers, extending from the town of Chacao to the capital, Castro, the local people guide visitors through five of the 16 churches from the time-honored Chiloé School of Religious Wooden Architecture, declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 2000. Four of the structures were restored by the Friends of the Churches of Chiloé Foundation: Colo (17th century), San Juan (1887), Tenaún (1830) and Castro (1918). The church at Dalcahue (1858) will be renovated in the near future.

The restored churches include small exhibitions displaying relics, marriage records from two centuries ago and religious registries. In Ancud, in the former convent of the Immaculate Conception, scale models illustrate the traditional construction techniques used by Chiloé carpenters: for the exterior, larch shingles; inside, local woods such as *coigüe*, cypress and *canelo*, which resist humidity. In most cases, the churches were constructed without using a single nail.



To provide a relaxed, comfortable and unhurried atmosphere for the tour, the local people have developed an attractive tourist infrastructure: charming places to eat, sleep and visit, including a shipyard in Quemchi, one of the places where the traditional Chiloé boats were built.



The construction of the wooden chapels began in the 17th century with the arrival of Jesuit priests from various parts of Europe. The newcomers commissioned constructions that were more solid than the existing ones, using labor provided by the local people and designs inspired by those of their countries of origin. Later, the Franciscans continued the work up to the 19th century.

MARKETS OF CHILE

The best from Chilean lands

A cornucopia of colors, scents and flavors characterizes Santiago's two great wholesale markets. The informality, the friendliness of the vendors, the thousands of fresh products and the wide-ranging variety make these places favored destinations among consumers. Indisputably, these markets bring together the best of the world-renowned fruits of the Chilean soil, and despite competition from the new supermarkets, they show no signs of dying out.



Forty-one years ago, a group of men and women set out to create the country's largest fruit and vegetable market. They were convinced that it would be possible to bring the country's agricultural

production together for sale in one place. And they succeeded: the Lo Valledor Supply Center has become the

country's leading hub for produce supplies. It stands in third place in importance within Latin America in the field.

The market provides work for some one million people, including producers, transportation workers,

merchants, stallholders, cargo handlers and vendors. Some 25,000 people pass through its aisles each day; 1,100 stands fill its 320,000 square meters; some 400 million dollars change hands at the market each year; and it supplies 70% of the traders throughout Santiago.



North of the Mapocho River is La Vega Central, one of the most popular places to buy fresh fruit and vegetables, and one which still clings tenaciously to its unique neighborhood identity. The market, which bustles with commerce, was founded in 1895 by Agustín Gómez García, a wealthy local citizen. At first it was called the "Great City Supply Market," but over time the neighbors began to call it La Vega, after the *vega* or fertile meadow of the Mapocho River valley.



At first it occupied only a single city block, with five great courtyards and countless interlinked passageways where meat, fish,

shellfish, vegetables, fruit and handicrafts were sold. Today, its 9.5 hectares hold 150 warehouses, 800 shops and 2,000 retail vendors.

The products represent a huge range of items, from the traditional to the exotic. Some are new, such as an entire hallway featuring Peruvian goods, which are not exempt from bargaining at the time of purchase. There is also the "Little Vega," renowned for its small restaurants, which, many say, in addition to satisfying hunger also serve to "revive the body" for those suffering from a hangover. Since 2005, the market has included a library, and most recently, a public Internet center.



Although the work is hard and the days are long — trucks are unloaded at night, and sales extend from dawn until 6 p.m. — the "veguinos" are cheerful people with a reputation for generosity. In addition to offering excellent service to their customers, they also do what they can to assist the poor, who find opportunities there as well as a friendly hand to help them survive.

Even Pablo Neruda dedicated a few words to La Vega in his *Canto General*, after a 1938 visit: "I recognize that I gazed long at the illustrious fruits and vegetables at our Vega Central... I had never paid attention to the multitude that picks up sacks and puts them down, that teems and spills together in the cathedral of vegetables."



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