

I know that all of you will support that. What I ask you to do is to do all you can to make sure that everyone with whom you work and anyone with whom you have contact back in the United States understands what we're doing and why.

In 1811, as Chile struggled for its independence, it chose to dedicate its national flag on July 4, which is our Independence Day, at a celebration held by United States citizens in Santiago, long, long ago. On that day, the American flag and the new Chilean banner were raised together in many public places, entwined with one another. At last, our partnership can fulfill the potential of those two entwined flags, for our goals and our dreams are clearly intertwined. We can make them real for tomorrow's generation; we can make the Americas a model of hope and unity for the world. We can do it if we follow the lead that I have seen set by this great President and this great nation. And we're glad to be here.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:50 p.m. in the Teatro Municipal. In his remarks, he referred to Alex Fernandez, president, Chilean-American Chamber of Commerce; Walter Riesco, president, Confederation of Production and Commerce; and Mayor Jaime Ravinet of Santiago.

Exchange With Reporters in Santiago

April 16, 1998

President's Visit to Chile

Q. Do you like Chile?

The President. Very much.

Q. Did you eat something special inside? Did you eat something special?

The President. No, no. I just had lunch, so I just had a Coke. And I was visiting with the people. It was very nice.

Q. Are you tired from all this week, these 2 days here in our country? Are you tired?

The President. Tired?

Q. Yes.

The President. A little, but I'm going to go back and get a little nap, and then I'll be fine tonight.

Independent Counsel's Investigation

Q. [*Inaudible*—Kenneth Starr's going to keep investigating you, and Paula Jones says she's going to appeal—

The President. [*Inaudible*—I've had a great time.

Q. What do you think about Paula Jones appealing, Mr. President? Are you disappointed that she's appealing?

The President. Oh, I don't have an opinion about it. You know, I don't have any comment about it. My comment is, I spent my day today with people who are interested in human problems and human promise and not so interested in politics. And I don't think I ought to be commenting on politics while I'm here. I feel good about what happened before, and I feel good about where we are, and mostly I feel good about the job I'm doing here for the American people in Chile. And that's what I'm interested in. I don't really have any comment on anything that they do.

Q. Will things dragging on hamper that, sir?

The President. No. No. I'm going to—you know, I'm going to do my job. And I'm not—it's an unusual political environment, but I'm just not going to let the politics get into my way. I haven't done it for 4 years; I'm not going to start now.

Q. Do you think Ken Starr should wrap things up?

The President. I don't have any comment on that, either. I just don't—I shouldn't be commenting on domestic politics while I'm overseas. I'm here doing my job, and I'm thrilled by the people I've met and what I've seen, the reception I've received on behalf of the United States. And we're here to do important work, and that's what I'm going to do.

NOTE: The exchange began at 4:22 p.m. outside the Teatro Municipal. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on Tornado Damage in Arkansas and Tennessee

April 16, 1998

I was deeply saddened to learn this morning of the tragic deaths of two small children

in Arkansas, as well as the deaths of two individuals from Dyer County, Tennessee. My heart goes out to their parents and families and to the many who have suffered in both States. The destruction of last night's tornadoes was swift and powerful, and the threat of another storm looms in its wake.

Disaster relief efforts began today at daybreak. James Lee Witt, the Director of FEMA, will provide me with an assessment of the destruction and FEMA is standing ready to respond if appropriate. The burden of recovery is heavy, but it will not be carried by these communities alone. Our thoughts and prayers are with the survivors as they mourn all that was lost and begin the difficult process of healing and rebuilding.

Statement on the Death of Pol Pot

April 16, 1998

The death of Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot has again brought to international attention one of the most tragic chapters of inhumanity in the twentieth century. Between 1975 and 1979, Pol Pot and his Khmer Rouge followers transformed Cambodia into the killing fields, causing the death of an estimated 2 million of their countrymen in a brutal attempt to transform Cambodian society.

Although the opportunity to hold Pol Pot accountable for his monstrous crimes appears to have passed, senior Khmer Rouge, who exercised leadership from 1975 to 1979, are still at large and share responsibility for the monstrous human rights abuses committed during this period. We must not permit the death of the most notorious of the Khmer Rouge leaders to deter us from the equally important task of bringing these others to justice. And equally, we must renew our determination to prevent such atrocities from occurring in the future.

Now is a time to remember the victims of Pol Pot's murderous reign of terror and to underscore our determination to help the Cambodian people achieve a lasting peace based on respect for basic human rights and democratic principles.

Remarks at a State Dinner Hosted by President Frei in Santiago

April 16, 1998

Mr. President, Mrs. Frei, members of the Chilean Government, citizens of this great nation: On behalf of my wife, our administration, the Members of Congress and our entire party, I thank you for the warm welcome we have received. And I understand that I should thank you in advance for your patience because the great gathering of this coming week will probably create the biggest taco in your history. [*Laughter*]

For those in our delegation who don't know, that means traffic jam.

Mr. President, it was just over a year ago that Hillary and I hosted you and Martita for a state visit in Washington. On that trip you delivered a powerful address to a joint session of our Congress. Now I will have the opportunity and the honor of addressing your Parliament tomorrow.

The short time between our visits reflects the growing strength and the growing importance of our relations. Chile is admired in the United States and around the world for its natural beauty, its writers and artists, its athletes, its leadership in seeking peace in volatile regions, its remarkable economic growth and stability, and the bravery of your people in restoring longstanding democracy after two turbulent decades.

That Chile is host to the second Summit of the Americas shows the esteem in which your country is held in this hemisphere. It also demonstrates, Mr. President, the great respect you have earned among your fellow leaders who are proud to be coming here for this meeting.

Some see you, Mr. President, as a man of calm reserve; a civil engineer who, as you just said, expertly builds bridges to improve the lives of your fellow citizens. But it seems to me there may be another side to you. It is said that you love opera and the tango—hardly the stuff of dry engineering. [*Laughter*] And when you addressed our Congress last year, the first person you quoted was not some gray-suited economist, but that great political leader, Don Quixote de la Mancha. The words of the noble Don you selected go to the core of our shared values; so let