The Fulbright Association awarded the 1998 J. William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding to Patricio Aylwin Azócar, president of the Republic of Chile from 1990 to 1994, on October 9 at a ceremony at the U.S. Department of State. The prize, which carries a $50,000 cash award, is made possible by a grant from The Coca-Cola Foundation.

(continued on page 12)
Under Secretary of State Thomas R. Pickering Welcomes Fulbrighters to the Department of State

It is my distinct honor to welcome President Aylwin, Foreign Minister José Miguel Insulza, distinguished members of the diplomatic community, Mr. Timothy Haas, senior vice president of The Coca-Cola Company, the Fulbright Association, colleagues from the United States Information Agency and students to the Department of State. We are here today to honor President Aylwin, a man whose life work embodies the Fulbright spirit.

Woodrow Wilson once said, “Our interests are those of the open door—a door of friendship and mutual advantage. This is the only door we care to enter.”

We open our doors to you today and salute the Fulbright Program for the doors it has opened around the world. For 52 years those who have crossed thresholds thanks to the Fulbright Program have gone on to build bridges between countries, across academic disciplines and generations, and most importantly, among people. The diversity of this assembly is testimony to Fulbright’s achievement and sophistication. The Fulbright Program recognizes that genuine international understanding depends not only on historians, statesmen and economists, but equally on writers, musicians and scientists.

There are some who question the value of exchange programs funded by American taxpayers’ money. They would say that airplanes, telephones and the Internet allow spontaneous connection, so government can get out of the programs that bring people together. However, no virtual reality, chat room or two-week trip abroad can replace the real knowledge that develops over the course of a full year living and studying in a foreign country.

As a former Fulbright scholar, I remain grateful for what was in essence my first diplomatic assignment. It was a period of deep and intensive exposure to an almost foreign land—Australia. As a diplomat I salute the Fulbright Program for its continuing work, especially in newly emerging democracies. In each of my assignments, I have worked with ministers, businessmen, teachers and diplomats who got to know America as Fulbrighters. This contribution to diplomacy is real and enduring. By the same token, I would like to recognize and thank The Coca-Cola Company for its support of the Fulbright Prize.

Human nature is characterized both by healthy curiosity and an instinctual fear of things foreign. When caution wins—which it can in periods of rapid change, such as we live in today—nations and individuals often seek to separate and insulate themselves. Maya Angelou, the American poet and Fulbright scholar, wrote, “We allow our ignorance to prevail upon us and make us think we can survive alone.”

We cannot survive alone, as any poet, businessman, statesman or philosopher knows. Fulbright exchanges have given opportunities to many a scholar, ardent of heart and poor of pocket. Fulbright has acted in pursuit of international understanding and has succeeded to an extraordinary extent. Those of us lucky enough to have met and worked with Senator Fulbright will be eternally grateful to him for his sharp vision and determination to see it implemented. A grateful nation owes him more than it can count for this service alone.

Today we honor Patricio Aylwin Azócar, president of Chile during that country’s remarkable transition to democracy. I can think of no one more deserving of the J. William Fulbright Prize than President Aylwin. Your service to your country and this hemisphere, and your continuing work with the Corporation for Justice and Democracy, demonstrate the Fulbright ideals of increasing mutual understanding and cooperation among peoples. Thank you for your work and your presence here today. It is an inspiration to us all. A warm welcome back to this country and heartfelt congratulations.
It is an honor to join the Fulbright Association in paying tribute to President Aylwin for his many contributions to the cause of democracy in Chile.

President Aylwin has dedicated his life to promoting democracy and human rights. I've admired his courage for many years and his leadership in advancing these great goals for our hemisphere. In 1986 I visited Chile when the land was still under the dark cloud of dictatorship. I learned first hand of the tactics of intimidation practiced by those who have no respect for freedom or conscience. The government actively tried to obstruct my visit.

In a speech to the Chilean Commission for Human Rights during that visit, I asked, "When will the promise of Chile be redeemed? When will the universities be free again? When will the people be free to speak again, without fear of harassment or arrest?"

The answer came in December 1989, when the Chilean people elected President Aylwin and a new Congress to lead the country back into the family of democratic nations. I had the great honor to attend President Aylwin's inauguration in 1990, to witness the transfer of power from General Pinochet to President Aylwin, and to see the pride of the people of Chile in the restoration of their democracy and respect for human rights.

I recall vividly how newly elected members of congress silently displayed photos of the "disappeared," when General Pinochet entered the congress. I recall equally how General Pinochet removed his presidential sash and the freely elected president of the new senate placed a new sash on President Patricio Aylwin. It was an historic act full of symbolism for democracy in Chile and in all nations, a powerful demonstration of the invincibility of the human spirit.

Throughout the dark years of oppression and the hard years of intimidation and the difficult years of suffering, the people of Chile had never wavered in their enduring commitment to freedom.

In the years that followed, President Aylwin skillfully guided Chile into the international community of democratic nations, never wavering from his commitment to fundamental human rights, liberty and democracy. Through his skill and personal intervention, he reduced the excessive power of the military. Because of the foundation he laid, the Chilean military today is fulfilling its constitutional and appropriate role in Chilean society.

President Aylwin also implemented sound social and economic policies to benefit the people. The economy grew, and the poverty rate dropped by 15 percent, in a convincing demonstration that freedom and social justice and economic progress go hand in hand.

President Aylwin performed an indispensable role in promoting reconciliation and supporting the victims of the flagrant human rights violations that had occurred in the past. He established the Commission on Truth and Reconciliation, which investigated and documented the abuses under the Pinochet regime and created a program to provide reparations for victims' relatives. As a result of these impressive activities, reconciliation has been achieved and the future is bright with promise.

Today, as president of the Corporation for Justice and Democracy, President Aylwin continues his great works, and he eminently deserves this Fulbright Prize for International Understanding. Truly, he is a profile in courage for our time and for all time.
Ronald J. Ross, M.D., president of the Fulbright Association, presents the 1998 J. William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding to Patricio Aylwin Azúcar, president of Chile from 1990 to 1994.

Dr. Ross and President Aylwin with Timothy Haas (far left), senior vice president, The Coca-Cola Company, and president, Latin America Group, and Thomas R. Pickering (far right), under secretary of state for political affairs.

Dr. Ross; Donald R. Greene, president of The Coca-Cola Foundation; President Aylwin; Anton Amon, senior vice president, The Coca-Cola Company, and former board member of the Fulbright Association; and Mr. Haas, with the sculpture "Tribute," presented to President Aylwin on behalf of The Coca-Cola Company.

R. Fenton-May, Fulbright Association board member and director of operations development of The Coca-Cola Company; John O'Leary, U.S. ambassador to Chile; President Aylwin; and Sergio Dolfi, the sculptor who created "Tribute."

James T. Laney, former U.S. ambassador to Korea and president emeritus of Emory University, President Aylwin, and Dr. Ross. Ambassador Laney chaired the international Selection Committee that chose President Aylwin to receive the 1998 Fulbright Prize.
Born in Viña del Mar, Chile, on November 26, 1918, to Laura Azócar and Miguel Aylwin, Patricio Aylwin Azócar is the eldest of five children. An excellent student, he enrolled in the Law School of the University of Chile where he earned the degree of Bachelor of Juridical, Political and Social Sciences, with the highest distinction, in 1943. He served as professor of administrative law, first at the University of Chile and then also at the Catholic University of Chile. He was also professor of civic education and political economy at the National Institute of Santiago.

Patricio Aylwin's involvement in politics was motivated by a profound commitment to justice instilled by his father and by a strong social conscience influenced by his mother. He joined the Falange Nacional in 1945. He was elected president of the Falange and later, of the Christian Democratic Party, which he served seven terms as president between 1958 and 1989.

Before his election as president of the Republic of Chile, Patricio Aylwin played key political roles. In 1965 he was elected to the National Congress as senator. During the government of Popular Unity headed by Salvador Allende, he was president of the Senate (1971-1972) and was reelected to the Senate in 1973. Then president of his party, he led the democratic opposition, intending to work with President Allende and others to find a peaceful solution to the country's political crisis. These attempts were brought to a brutal end on September 11, 1973, by the military coup that installed as president army chief of staff, General Augusto Pinochet.

Patricio Aylwin, president of the Christian Democrats until 1976, led his party during one of the most difficult eras in Chilean history. Later he helped establish the “Constitutional Studies Group of 24” to reunite the country's democratic sectors against the dictatorship. In 1980 he served as a spokesman in the contest against the constitution the military government imposed on the plebiscite.

In 1982 Patricio Aylwin was elected vice president of the Christian Democrats. He was among the first to advocate acceptance of the constitution as a reality in order to facilitate the return to democracy. The opposition eventually met the legal standards imposed by the Pinochet regime and participated in the 1988 plebiscite.

In October 1988 the Chilean people made their historic choice. The call of “no to lies and oppression” resounded victorious. As spokesman for the Coalition of Democratic Parties whose grass-roots campaign was carried out under constant surveillance and harassment, Patricio Aylwin was at the center of the movement that defeated General Pinochet.

After the plebiscite, Patricio Aylwin participated in negotiations that led the government and the opposition to agree on 54 constitutional reforms, thereby making possible a peaceful transition from 16 years of dictatorship to democracy. Patricio Aylwin was elected president of the Republic on December 14, 1989. He led with wisdom and compassion, guiding the reconstruction of Chile and the reconciliation of its peoples. Since leaving office in 1994, he has continued his lifelong commitment to promoting justice. In 1995 he was the catalyst for a United Nations summit on poverty. He is now president of the Corporation for Justice and Democracy, a nonprofit organization he founded to develop approaches to eliminate poverty and to strengthen ethical values in politics.

Patricio Aylwin has received the Doctor Honoris Causa degree from universities in Australia, Canada, Colombia, France, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Spain, and the United States and from seven Chilean universities. In 1997 the Council of Europe awarded the North-South Prize to Patricio Aylwin and to Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland, for their contributions to fostering human rights, democracy, and cooperation between Europe and Latin America.

Patricio Aylwin is married to Leonor Oyarzun Ivanovic. They have five children and 14 grandchildren.
I would like to thank the Fulbright Association for the important distinction it has conferred upon me. I receive it as an expression of recognition and appreciation for Chile’s return to its democratic traditions. I understand it as the support for a people that, through love of freedom and in the defense of human dignity, was able to progress peacefully from a dictatorship to a democracy, setting the things that unite us above those that separate us. And I accept it, also, as a stimulus to our efforts to build a future of peace, based on justice and solidarity, for all the peoples of our America.

Democratic Traditions

I come from a country that, within the context of the Latin American nations, had distinguished itself for the stability of its democratic institutions. The ideological polarization that Chile underwent in terms of how to best face the challenges of development tested and finally broke the tradition of the constitutional state in which we had taken such pride.

Many of those who had dreamed of building a fairer and more egalitarian society went so far as to despise the law, and even democratic liberties, as safeguarding liberty was the essential value were reduced to a minority.

Cold War Context

As you know, this drama came about within the context of the cold—or not so cold—war, where, at a global level, there was a confrontation between the strategies of revolutionary subversion and that of the so-called national security doctrine. This confrontation, where the United States was one of the leading contenders, is now a thing of the past; the collapse of communist totalitarianism signaled the triumph of freedom over tyranny.

But it is paradoxical that the dictatorships that arose in Latin America “to defend our democracies” from the communist peril, should all have fallen prior to the Berlin Wall. Also significant is the fundamental role that the defense of human rights—so inherent to the political ideals of America—played in demolishing those dictatorships that had systematically trampled them underfoot.

The historical process of the recovery of democracy in Chile, which began exactly ten years ago—with the victory of the “No” votes in the plebiscite held on October 5, 1988—is what I have ventured to call “the reuniting of the democrats.” This victory was possible because those of us who in the past had disagreed like bitter enemies were capable of understanding and agreeing with each other about the democratic values of freedom, equality and justice, which involve the subordination of all to the law, a respect for our adversaries and the necessary search for basic understandings to achieve the common good.

I believe that the transition toward democracy in Chile, with its achievements and its limitations, would have pleased Senator James William Fulbright, because it has involved a sincere effort to combine idealism and realism in an attempt to govern our relations on the basis of the values that he himself advocated: “humanism, tolerance and reconciliation.”

Return to Democracy

We human beings have a tendency to make absolute judgments, to judge whatever happens in terms of black and white. But life is far more complex: as the Gospel says, wheat and chaff go together. The dictatorship that prevailed in my country has given rise to contradictory judgments: abominable to many, an example to others. The truth is that the human rights violations that took place—arbitrary imprisonment and exile, torture, assassination, disappearances—merit nothing but condemnation and are unpardonable. But the economic reforms and the rehabilitation, liberalization and opening up of the Chilean economy—without detriment to the criticism that is due for the drastic way...
in which they were implemented and the high social cost they involved—responded to a reality that needed to be addressed and opened up a new stage of development for the Chilean economy.

Similarly, Chile's return to democracy was marked by special features. Contrary to what generally occurs when dictatorships start to wear out, that they are brought down by force or collapse under the weight of their own failure, the Chilean dictatorship was vanquished by a plebiscite that the dictatorship itself had established as part of its institutionality. This shaped some of the features of the Chilean transition: the advantage of having been a peaceful process, with no violence or bloodshed, and the drawback of having been limited by that same institutionality, which has only been possible to modify in part through the complex means of constitutional reform. The most ostensible symbol of this limitation was the continued tenure of the former ruler as commander in chief of the army and his subsequent incorporation into the Senate.

**Quest for Equity**

These circumstances have had a strong influence on the profound change that has taken place in the national scenario: from an ongoing confrontation that divided Chileans into friends and enemies, there is now a peaceful coexistence where the political debate between the government and the opposition, and the relationship between entrepreneurs and workers, has developed along institutional channels and, on important issues, with a will to arrive at consensus-based solutions.

Today Chile lives in democracy and freedom. Human rights are respected; the truth has become known and an effort is being made to do justice with regard to past violations. The country is prospering, with over ten years of high rates of economic growth, progressive international integration and lower inflation and poverty rates. Active social equity policies, in particular in terms of housing, health and education, are improving people's lives.

However, even though the situation of the Chilean people has progressed considerably in almost all sectors, reactions are contradictory. While in successful business and professional circles there is a prevalence of optimism, to the point of what Galbraith called "the culture of satisfaction"—muted only recently by the repercussions of the Asian economic crisis—signs of discouragement and insecurity are perceived in the middle sectors of the population, in particular with regard to the issues of unemployment, delinquency, sickness and aging. Parallel to this is a declining interest in politics and in voting, especially among young people.

**The Challenges Ahead**

If we look at what I have said about the Chilean situation from a universal perspective, it is clear that it is only a small part of what is going on in the world. Allow me some brief reflections on what, in my view, are some of the great challenges that should be addressed.

Two hundred and twenty-two years ago, when this great Republic was born, your founding fathers made the following statement: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles."

In this century that is about to end, two types of totalitarianism rose up against these values and put them in grave danger: nazism and communism. In the democratic struggle to defend freedom, the United States committed itself with all its immense power. Its involvement was decisive to achieve victory and ensured the reinstatement in the world of what Lincoln called "a government of the people, by the people and for the people."
Up to now, this form of government has been put into effect by the mechanisms of what is known as representative democracy: authority is based on the will of the citizens, who group together according to their interests, aspirations and ideals and periodically elect their rulers.

**Weakening Community Bonds**

The vast scientific and technological progress of the past decades and the changes that have been imposed on the living and working conditions of men and women, the massification and frantic pace of contemporary existence, the speed with which news circulates through the communications media—especially television—and the enormous influence they exert on people’s opinions, together with the egocentrism that characterizes modern consumer-oriented societies, are destroying, or at least weakening, the community bonds (unions, ideologies, even neighborhoods) that used to be the basis for exercising citizenship.

Parallel to this, the globalization that characterizes today’s economics goes beyond or eludes the sovereignty of individual states and thus, the power of their rulers. It is not they, but rather financial groups in control of vast amounts of capital, who decide upon their vertiginous passage through nations, without taking into account the serious crises they might generate. The fate of the people is frequently determined at the security exchange rather than in parliament.

This explains why ordinary men and women may often feel unmotivated to exert their citizenship, either because they cannot tell the difference between the different alternatives, or because they have lost faith in the political classes, or because they feel that the really important issues are not in their power to decide. This happens especially among young people, who consider themselves to be misunderstood or underestimated by the adult world and tend to feel a generational rejection for the established order. But—contrary to what happened in their parents’ generation—they have neither purpose nor any alternative Utopia.

**Profound Inequalities**

In addition to the two circumstances outlined above which conspire against democratic ideals in these times, another more long-standing one can be mentioned: this is the profound inequalities that separate human beings.

As was indicated in the Declaration of the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen in March 1995, “In many societies, both in the developed and developing countries, the gap that separates the rich from the poor has increased... and although some developing countries are experiencing rapid growth, the gap that separates the developed countries from many developing countries is also greater... Over one billion of the world’s inhabitants live in extreme poverty and a majority goes hungry daily... Over 120 million people in the world are officially unemployed and many more live in a state of underemployment. There are too many young people, even among those who have followed academic studies, who have scant hopes of finding gainful employment.”

Let me add that here, in our continent, in the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean, around 200 million people, almost half the population, live on incomes of less than 60 dollars a month, and of these, over 90 million survive under the poverty line on less than one dollar a day.

These circumstances, which from a moral standpoint are scandalous, represent a serious obstacle to development, an attack against social peace, are incompatible with democracy and pose a dangerous threat to the political stability of nations.

Not even the industrialized nations are free from this tragedy. According to the United Nations Report on Human Development for 1998, there are over 100 million poor people in the OECD countries and at least 37 million of them are unemployed. The same report indicates that even in the United States, the richest nation in the world, poverty affects 16.5 percent of its population.

**Dehumanization**

All these are symptoms, in my opinion worrying symptoms, of a serious process of dehumanization in which men and women are increasingly enslaved by consumer goods, more self-centered, less supportive of others and less capable of loving their fellow men.

I believe that these issues, together with the theme of environmental sustainability which was addressed in the Earth Summit of 1992, would cause J. William Fulbright special concern if he were among us, because they are issues that affect human coexistence and compromise fundamental ethical values such as justice and solidarity. An equitable development organization that generates abysmal disparities in its midst and denies a large part of its members access to goods that it offers profusely to others to the point of satiation is a grave sin against justice.

I know very well that the Summits of the Americas, held in Miami in 1994 and in Santiago this year, represent major steps toward awareness of some of these pressing challenges and the need to face them decisively. But I do not know—and I say this with the respectful frankness that is inherent to true friendship—just how far this great nation is prepared to commit itself and do everything in its power—as Senator Fulbright proved through his actions that he wanted and knew how to do—to ensure that the inspiring declarations and plans of action approved at these Summits are fully met. I pray to God that this will be the case, for the sake of the Americas and for humanity.

Thank you very much.
Ambassadors Toast President Aylwin

Ambassador O’Leary’s Toast

On behalf of the president, the Department of State, Embassy Santiago and all our colleagues in the government of the United States of America, I invite each of you here today to join in raising a glass in tribute—

To a lawyer, a teacher of law, and a lawmaker, who has taught all of us the centrality of the rule of law in our hemisphere;

To a political leader, a politician, who has served with distinction both as the president of his own party and as a president of his beloved republic commanding the respect and gratitude of all Chileans without respect to party;

To a democrat who, to paraphrase an admiring political opponent, helped us to understand that, at the core of democracy, is open space and individual freedom;

To a citizen of Chile, a citizen of the Americas and a citizen of the world, whose “calm, serene courage,” in the words of my friend and colleague, Ambassador Genaro Arriagada, has marked a lifetime of public service;

To Patricio Aylwin of the Republic of Chile, the worthy recipient of the 1998 J. William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding.
Patricio Aylwin Highlights U.S.-Chilean Fulbright Exchanges

Editor's Note: Patricio Aylwin Azócar offered the following remarks at a dinner on Oct. 8 held in his honor by Genaro Arriagada, Chilean ambassador to the United States.

I am thrilled by the significant distinction that the Fulbright Association has decided to grant me on this joyful occasion. I am honored to share with you this pleasant evening, for which my friend, our distinguished new ambassador, Genaro Arriagada, has gathered outstanding representatives of the United States, who are close friends of Chile, as well as a select group of fellow citizens.

By honoring me with the 1998 J. William Fulbright Prize, the Fulbright Association also honors the restoration of democracy, the search for truth and justice in matters of human rights, and the economic and social progress made by Chile in the last decade, an endeavor that, in its beginnings, I had the privilege to undertake. It is my belief that this process demonstrates the great humanistic and democratic values that have inspired the best chapters in the histories of our two nations.

Those are the values to which Senator Fulbright devoted his fruitful life, serving his country as well as humanity. The Fulbright Program initiated by the Senator more than half a century ago has granted scholarships to more than 200,000 students and professionals.

As you may know, the Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange between Chile and the United States was created in 1955. Since then, more than 1,300 Chilean citizens have studied, conducted research and taught in the U.S., while 525 American citizens have done the same in Chile. The aforementioned agreement was improved by our governments in February of last year and is now financed by equal contributions from Chile and the United States.

In these days, when knowledge has become the best instrument for people and nations to achieve progress, these educational exchange efforts acquire a special meaning.

Thus, it is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Fulbright Association and to The Coca-Cola Foundation. Please join me in making a toast to the fulfillment of your noble endeavors, which will certainly strengthen the friendship and understanding that already exist between our two countries.

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Appreciation

Major Donors Critical To Association Work

By Jane L. Anderson, Executive Director

Since 1990 the Fulbright Association’s individual and institutional memberships have more than tripled, chapters have developed extensive programs for visiting Fulbright scholars and the J. William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding has brought increased visibility to the Fulbright Program around the world. Achievement of these milestones owes much to the creativity, leadership and support of the Fulbright Association’s major donors and to the institutional support of The Coca-Cola Foundation.

Major donors Maurizio A. Gianturco, Loren W. Hershey and John B. Hurford contributed their vision and worked tirelessly to see the Fulbright Prize inaugurated in 1993. They have also given significant gifts to support operations and endowment. Richard O. Lundquist has joined them in providing major gifts to programs and to endowment.

“Receiving a Fulbright award is the beginning of a lifelong relationship. Our major donors have acted upon the obligation they feel to give back so that future generations will have the opportunity to participate in Fulbright exchanges,” said Ronald J. Ross, Fulbright Association president. “The confidence they have placed in the Association is an inspiration to the Board of Directors and to the staff to involve more Fulbright alumni in support of the Fulbright Program through participation in the Association.”

Maurizio Gianturco was a member of the Fulbright Association Board of Directors from 1989 to 1995, serving in several key offices. He was instrumental in securing The Coca-Cola Foundation’s support for the Fulbright Prize. Dr. Gianturco was elected as Association president in 1994 and again in 1995.

From 1989 to 1994, Loren Hershey served on the Association’s Board of Directors, where he held several offices and led a variety of initiatives. He instituted strategic planning and creative fund-raising strategies. He chaired the Association’s 12th Annual Conference in 1989 and is a past president of the Association’s National Capital Area Chapter.

John Hurford served on the Board of Directors from 1990 to 1995, playing a critical role in the development of the Fulbright Prize as chairman of the Board’s Prize Committee. He also served as vice president for development, among other offices. His support made possible publication of The Fulbright Difference (Transaction Books 1993).

Rick Lundquist joined the Fulbright Association’s Board of Directors in 1998. He has served as president of the Western New York Chapter and brings to the Board a particular interest in involving more young Fulbright alumni in the Association.
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Former President of Chile Patricio Aylwin Azócar Receives 1998 Fulbright Prize
(continued from page 1)

As the first president elected by the Chilean public after 16 years of military rule, Mr. Aylwin successfully guided Chile's reintegration into the international community of democratic nations and developed economic and social policies that benefited the people of Chile and that other nations worldwide have adapted. Mr. Aylwin now serves as the president of the Corporation for Justice and Democracy, a non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating poverty and to strengthening ethical values in politics.

Ambassador James T. Laney, chairman of the international selection committee for the Fulbright Prize, said, "During and following his presidency, Mr. Aylwin has worked to achieve greater economic and social parity through democratic reform in Chile and throughout Latin America. He promoted reconciliation within his own society while establishing the foundations for economic growth. Mr. Aylwin initiated a remarkable transformation and continues to provide international leadership to foster social justice and economic development."

The Fulbright Association created the J. William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding in 1993 with a grant from The Coca-Cola Foundation to recognize individuals who have made extraordinary contributions toward bringing peoples, cultures or nations to greater understanding of others. Previous recipients of the award are South African President Nelson Mandela, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, former Austrian Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, former Philippine President Corazon C. Aquino, and Czech Republic President Vaclav Havel.

Ronald J. Ross, M.D., president of the Fulbright Association's Board of Directors, described Mr. Aylwin as "a man whose passion for justice and democracy moved his country. Mr. Aylwin's efforts continue today as he works with other leaders throughout the world to safeguard human rights and to eradicate poverty."

As president Mr. Aylwin guided Chile through a delicate transition from military rule to democracy. He declared that the abuses suffered under the military regime were "an open wound in the national soul that can only be healed if we are able to come together on the basis of truth and justice."

To that end he created a National Commission for Truth and Reconciliation to investigate incidents of human rights abuse and initiated a government program to grant reparations to relatives of victims. The model of this commission was later adopted by the current South African government to examine that country's painful past.

Mr. Aylwin carried out an inspired and internationally acclaimed social development program that became known as the "virtuous circle." He insisted that Chile's re-established democratic institutions be open and accessible to all, resulting in greater public confidence, investment and economic growth.

Serving on the international committee convened by the Fulbright Association to select the 1998 laureate were former Fulbright scholars Anton Amon, senior vice president, The Coca-Cola Company; Helga Haftendorn, professor of political science, Free University of Berlin, Germany; Prakash Chandra Lohani, member of parliament, Nepal; and Javier Treviño, under secretary for administration, Ministry of Finance, Mexico. Dr. Laney, U.S. ambassador to Korea from 1993 to 1997 and president emeritus of Emory University, served as chairman of the committee for the second year.

The Fulbright Association is a private, non-profit organization that supports and promotes the Fulbright Program, the international educational and cultural exchange initiative created in 1946 by legislation sponsored by the late Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. There are now over 200,000 Fulbright alumni throughout the world.

For more information on the J. William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding and on the Fulbright Association, please visit the Fulbright Association web site [www.fulbright.org].