

ADDRESS

BY TIM FISCHER M.P.

CANBERRA

34-4/16

(Check against delivery)

Your Excellency, President ~~Patricio~~ ^{LWIN} Aylwin, President of the Republic of Chile and Mrs Aylwin, Prime Minister and Mrs Keating, Your Excellencies, Members and Senators, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pause

On behalf of Dr John Hewson and the Liberal and National Parties, I join with the Prime Minister in extending a warm welcome to you, Mr President, both as President of the Republic of Chile and as a courageous Chilean who has guided Chile successfully forward over recent times.

Pause

Sir, your visit to Australia is most welcome, firstly, because it will add to the momentum of bilateral relations between Australia and Chile.

Pause

As Pacific Rim neighbours, Australia and Chile have much in common and much on which to build an expanded relationship, including the quite large Chilean community here in Canberra and elsewhere in Australia at one level, and Australia's and Chile's membership of the Cairns Group of nations at another level.

Pause

ALONG WITH ARGENTINA
AND OTHERS.

Equally, the 10% plus economic growth achieved by Chile in 1992, along with such projects as BHP and Escondida, further add momentum to the bilateral relationship.

CRA ACTIVITIES AND OTHERS

Pause

Your Excellency, you are most welcome, secondly, because of the leadership that Chile has provided to the rest of South America, especially on the economic front, and because of Chile's increasing hub role to many countries in South America.

Pause

TUNEL FERROVIA RIO PROJECT

I note with interest in this regard the Lower Tunnel Project through the Andes and I also recall recent comments by Dr Blanco, Mexico's chief trade negotiator when he told me that Chile is making a big impact on the North-South economic axis of the Americas.

Pause

Your Excellency, I should say that, thirdly, your visit is most welcome because my sister-in-law is a Chilean - from the Ochoa family of Santiago - also a family involved with the law like your own - and she told me that she hoped the visit would lead to direct Sydney/Santiago flights sooner rather than later.

Pause

With this in mind, I hope your visit will lead to a breakthrough with negotiations in relation to LanChile and Qantas.

Pause

As we look to the future it is my sincere hope that within ten years we will see the development of a great southern circle route around the world connecting Australia, New Zealand, Chile, Argentina, Namibia and South Africa and then back to Australia.

Pause

The southern hemisphere and the big six nations of the great southern circle are well placed for economic growth to and beyond the Year 2000.

Pause

Your Excellency, let me say in conclusion, I compliment you on the courageous leadership you, Sir, have provided to your country in the critical transition since 1990 and the leadership you provided in various positions over the years, both in government and in opposition.

Pause

On behalf of the Coalition, I wish you and your wife and entourage well in the course of your visit to our great country.

6 October 1993