



GOBIERNO DE CHILE
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PRESS RELEASE

“Community of Democracies Convoking Countries Group met in Santiago

The first meeting in Chile of the Community of Democracies Convoking Countries took place on Tuesday 17th June, 2003. The meeting was held on the premises of the Diplomatic Academy of Chile, in Santiago.

The Community of Democracies is a coalition of democratic nations, created in 1999, that promotes democracy and its institutions through a forum which allows to share experiences, in order to identify good democratic practices and to establish an international cooperation agenda in this field.

Its main event is a Conference at Ministers for Foreign Affairs level, which has taken place on two occasions: Warsaw (2000) and Seoul (2002). The next Ministerial Conference will be held in early 2005 in Santiago, Chile.

As Chairman of the Convoking Group (the group of ten countries in charge of coordinating the activities and initiatives of the Community of Democracies), Chile was the host country for this quarterly meeting of Ambassadors and senior officials. On this occasion, besides the countries members of the Convoking Group, representatives of the Peruvian and Romanian Governments and organisations of the Chilean civil society also participated as guests.

The agenda of the meeting included the following topics:

- A report given by Ambassador Harry Belevan, Secretary Pro-Tempore of the Rio Group, about the last summit of Head of States and Governments of the Rio Group, held in Cusco, Peru. Ambassador Belevan referred to the main aspects of the “Cusco’s Consensus”, which summarizes the conclusions of the meeting and of which topics are directly related to the Community of Democracies targets and objectives.
- A report given by the Undersecretary of State for General Affairs of the Department of State, Ambassador Ms. Paula Dobriansky, about the Seminar “Dialogue on Democracy”, which took place in Florida, United States, on the 5 and 6 June, 2003. This seminar is part of the general initiatives



contemplated in the “Seoul Plan of Action”, particularly in the area of regional cooperation.

- A report, given by Ambassador Carlos Portales, General Director for Foreign Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, regarding the Organisation of American States (OAS) General Assembly held in Santiago, Chile, from 8 to 10 June, 2003. In his report, Ambassador Portales referred to the main topics contained in the “Santiago Statement on Democracy and Citizen Confidence”. Ambassador Portales also referred to the “Programme for Democratic Governance in Americas”, presented by the Chilean Delegation to the OAS General Assembly, which deals with several topics related to the Community of Democracies.
- A report upon Romanian Government’s initiative to organize a regional conference, in the framework of the Community of Democracies meeting to be held in Bucharest in November 2003. The report was presented by Ms. Victoria Popescu, Director for United Nations Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania.
- Ms. Andrea Sanhueza, Executive Director of the Foundation PARTICIPA and Mr. Genaro Arriagada were also invited. They expounded about the preparatory works and initiatives, in Chile and abroad, of the Civil Society organizations within the framework of the Community of Democracies.

Finally, senior officials and Ambassadors of the Convoking Group approved a statement in which they expressed their deep concern about the political situation in Burma and the unjustified arresting of Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi, political leader of this nation and Nobel Peace Award.”