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Special Envoy for the Americas-McLarty, Thomas (Mack)

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THE DIRECTOR OF THE PEACE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

File
- Summit
- Peace Corps

MEMORANDUM

TO: Thomas F. Mack McLarty III
Counselor to the President and Special Envoy to the
Americas

FROM: Mark Gearan *mg*
Peace Corps Director

DATE: February 19, 1998

RE: President's Trip to Chile

When President Clinton travels to Chile in April for the Summit of the Americas, I would like to propose that he keynote Peace Corps' closing ceremony as part of his trip. The event could be held at the 150 year-old national monument, Municipal Theater, in Santiago, Chile as part of the Peace Corps' graduation from the country and allow the President to celebrate our partnership with Chile and commend their initiative for volunteerism.

The purpose of the event would be to highlight the themes of both domestic and international volunteerism and the important roles they play in strengthening the roots of democracy. Also, to thank Chile for hosting 2,500 Peace Corps Volunteers since 1961, and to congratulate President Frei and the Council to Overcome Poverty for creating Servicio Pais (Chile's AmeriCorps).

The ceremony would include President Clinton giving the keynote address and President Frei highlighting Peace Corps achievements over the years, including the time when his father was President (1964-70). At the end of the event, President Clinton and President Frei could greet Peace Corps Volunteers, returned Peace Corps Volunteers who have traveled back to Chile for the event, and Servicio Pais.

In September 1998, Peace Corps will close its program in Chile because of the record number of successes. These successes include the country's return to a vibrant democracy, the enormous economic progress, the reduction in the number of people living in poverty, and the establishment of a national volunteer service (Servicio Pais), many of whom have been working side-by-side with Peace Corps Volunteers in the poorest areas of the country. Peace Corps is proud of the tremendous contributions the Volunteers have made and the progression that has occurred during our time there. We also look forward to a continued

relationship with Servicio Pais, which is helping the country improve their ability to address their own basic needs.

PEACE CORPS BACKGROUND:

Years in Chile:	1961-82; 1991-98
Number of Volunteers:	2,434
Volunteers Currently Serving:	51

Examples of Peace Corps Work:

- A Peace Corps Volunteer initiated a project that resulted in the planting of more than 10,000,000 trees. Today, these Monterey pines, which grow twice as fast in Chile as in California, are the mainstay of the Chilean export industry. He will be at the closing ceremony.
- A Peace Corps Volunteer, who was a marine biologist, started fisheries farms and taught other Volunteers how to take the technology across the country. This revolutionized the fishing industry in Chile, including making salmon farming one of the countries major exports.
- Peace Corps Volunteers have helped create and design trail systems in national parks, including training park rangers.
- A Peace Corps Volunteer created and trained the first forest firefighters in Chile.
- Peace Corps Volunteer Dan Peterson is almost single-handedly responsible for bringing basketball to Chile. He has gone on to an extraordinary career as a coach all over the world, presently coaching a professional team in the Italian premier league.

I hope this event will be given full consideration in the planning of the President's trip. I look forward to discussing this with you. Best wishes.

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February 18, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR MACK MCLARTY

From: Dan Lesmez 
cc: Staff Office of the Special Envoy
Subject: Chile State Visit Peace Corps Event Proposal

FYT
Nelson
Steve
Ana Maria
File
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- Peace Corps

The Peace Corps is proposing an event during President Clinton's State visit to Chile to commemorate both the closing of the U.S. Peace Corps Office in Chile and the establishment of Chile's version of an AMERICORP (national volunteer corps) program. Servicio Pais and REDESOL are the names of the two Chilean institutions that are taking over the implementation of many of the Peace Corps development programs in some of Chile's poorer municipalities. Servicio Pais, initiated in 1995, provides volunteer opportunities for recent college graduates, while REDESOL, through a network of twelve non-governmental organizations, provides similar opportunities for graduate students to provide them with practical experience for completing their thesis.

This Peace Corps proposal for a commemoration event during the State visit has merit. While Chile's program is not a replica of our Peace Corps program, as it is currently implemented only nationally and not internationally, it does replicate one of President Clinton's highest policy initiatives in the U.S. -- AMERICORP and its volunteer corps. It could provide good visuals involving both Peace Corps and AMERICORP volunteers, as well as Chilean volunteers. The event would provide an opportunity for President Clinton and President Frei to highlight the importance of volunteerism to other hemispheric leaders not only as a development tool, but also as a way to better educate their college graduates about the needs of the poor and how to address those needs.

Attached is the proposal that the Peace Corps has drafted for this event opportunity. The second page of their proposal includes logistical information and a possible framework for holding such an event. Assuming that there is interest in further exploring this opportunity, I would suggest that you invite Mark Gearan to come to your office to elaborate on their proposal within the next two weeks. I have a good contact there, so I could help set up the meeting.

The Peace Corps sponsored a delegation of seven Chileans for a week long visit from September 29 to October 3, 1997 in Washington, DC. The visit provided an opportunity for representatives of Chile's national public service initiatives to learn about Peace Corps and Americorps and to meet with officials at multilateral banks and international development organizations regarding the development of national voluntary service. Three members of the delegation were executive managers of Servicio Pais, Chile's national volunteer corps; two were from REDESOL, an NGO-sponsored volunteer program that takes international volunteers to work locally in Chile; one represented the National Institute for Youth; and another was from Chile Barrio, an urban community development organization. The visit was part of Peace Corps' effort to foster the development of national voluntary organizations and to provide opportunities for training in this area.

Chile has two initiatives for national public service. Servicio Pais, initiated in 1995, is a government organization that provides opportunities for recent college graduates to serve for one year or more in the poorest municipalities of the country. In 1997, 141 young Chilean professionals were serving in 70 municipalities in Chile. REDESOL is an initiative led by a group of 12 non-governmental organizations to attract students who have not completed their university degrees, who must do a practicum and write a thesis in order to graduate. The project places students with other non-governmental organizations working directly with the poor for a period of one year.

The Peace Corps in Chile first began its association with Servicio Pais in 1995, the year of its inception. In 1996 and 1997, 12-15 Servicio Pais volunteers participated in a Peace Corps In-Service Training alongside Peace Corps Volunteers and their host country national supervisors from the poorest municipalities in all of Chile. Another conference will be held this year during which an equal number of Servicio Pais volunteers and Peace Corps Volunteers will participate in another In-Service training on municipal management, again with host country national supervisors as well as local Mayors. Concurrent with attending training sessions, several Servicio Pais volunteers have been working in direct conjunction with Peace Corps volunteers in municipalities in need.

The Peace Corps is now graduating from Chile. In preparation for the closing ceremony, Peace Corps would like to recognize the work of Servicio Pais and commend Chile on the creation of its national volunteer organization, at the same time acknowledging Peace Corps' assistance and support of such a creation. The following is the projected itinerary for the ceremony at which we are requesting President Clinton's attendance:

CEREMONY

Max one hour at the Municipal Theater, a beautiful 150 year-old national monument with a capacity of 1500.

[PC=Peace Corps, PCV= Peace Corps Volunteer, SP=Servicio Pais]

POTUS FOCUS

1. Thank Chile for hosting more than 2500 PCVs since 1961.
2. Congratulate Pres. Frei and the Council to Overcome Poverty for creating Servicio Pais (Chile's VISTA or AMERICORPS) while making reference to John Kennedy.
3. Town Forum on the themes of Volunteerism, non-governmental organizations and community associations, and the important roles they play in strengthening the roots of democracy.

AUDIENCE

PCVs, many RPCVs (Returned PCVs) who will return for the event, several hundred ex-Servicio Pais volunteers as well as the current class who will be in training, Chilean NGOs and local individuals who have had prior involvement with PCVs and GOC officials. (The Embassy believes it will be able to fill the hall without difficulty.

DELIVERABLES

Continue a collaboration between PC and SP by:

1. Facilitating visits to Chile of delegations from other countries where PC is active in order to observe first hand the SP experience.
2. Facilitating visits by SP staff to other Latin American countries where PC is active in order to share the concept of national volunteer service for young professionals
3. Identifying skill needs and sites and offering temporary office space in PC countries for SP if and when they decide to expand outside of Chile.