SFP 88- 19

Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry G. Barnes
United States Ambassador to Chile
United States Embassy
Santiago, Chile

October 18, 1988

Dear Ambassador Barnes:

We are writing with three purposes in mind:

First we would like to congratulate you, Ambassador Barnes, for all of your very successful efforts as Ambassador to Chile. You have been an able and effective advocate of human rights and the restoration of democracy in that country. During your term as United States Ambassador in Santiago you have stood for that which is best about America, and you have yourself done much to advance the cause of freedom in Chile. As American citizens and as Members of the U.S. Congress, we are grateful for your service.

Second we would like to relay -- through you -- a message to the people of Chile.

We congratulate the people of Chile on their success in holding a free and fair vote on October 5--an historic milestone in the Chilean people's march back to democracy. The plebiscite represents the opportunity for change that should exist within every political system. We ask that you forward our encouragement for the continued development in Chile of a political system which represents the free and open choice of the Chilean people.

During the coming period of transition, we hope that all parties in Chile will work to foster an environment in which democracy can flourish. We hope that the government will release all political prisoners and terminate all orders of internal exile. In support of human rights worldwide, we hope that the government of Chile will publish the law enacted in 1976 which gives full legal effect in Chile to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Finally, we applaud the work of the international observer delegations, including those sponsored by the National Democratic Institute and the U.S. Committee for Free Elections in Chile. Those observers played a vital role in guaranteeing that the conduct of the plebiscite was fair. They made an important contribution to the success of the electoral process inside Chile on October 5.

We know that the plebiscite is just a first step, but we also believe that it is an important first step. We will be watching developments inside Chile during the coming months, and we will continue to look for ways to support the full and final transition to democracy in Chile. To that end, we pledge that, when democracy is returned to the people of Chile, we will take immediate action to support the normalization of relations between our two governments, and between our two military establishments. We pledge further to unge our government to provide full support for the people and government of Chile once democracy has returned to that land.

Dante B. Fascell

Benjamin A. Gilman

Gus Yatron

Respectfully

Don Bonker

Gerry E. Studds

Robert J. Lagonarsino

Doug Bereuter

Gary L. Ackerman Jaime B. Fuster John Edward Porter Douglas Applegate Geo. W. Crockett Esteban Edward Torres

Albert G. Bustamente Charles A. Hayes April G. Wayban Constance A. Morella Major R. Owens Jave McCurdy Barbara Boyar Harris W. Fawell Wayne Owens James M. Jeffords George E. Brown Jr. rod handhe

Bruce A. Morrison Lane Even - Meller