AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

education that will allow them to go to college, get good jobs, and play active roles in their communities. America's ongoing commitment to this principle, embodied in the IDEA, is both an economic and moral imperative for our future.

Statement Announcing Negotiations on a Comprehensive Bilateral Free Trade Agreement With Chile

November 29, 2000

The United States of America (USA) and Chile have agreed to start negotiations on a comprehensive bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The FTA will build on the progress that has been made by the U.S.-Chile Joint Commission on Trade and Investment that was established during President Clinton's state visit to Chile in April 1998. This endeavor reflects our mutual commitment to advancing free and open trade and investment in the Americas and around the world.

The USA and Chile are both strong supporters of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations. The negotiation of a bilateral free trade agreement between us will provide further impetus for the FTAA negotiations. The United States and Chile reaffirm their strong commitment to the multilateral trading system and the launch of a new round in 2001. The FTA will include labor and environmental provisions along the lines of the U.S.-Jordan FTA.

I have directed Ambassador Charlene Barshefsky to assign a high priority to advancing negotiations for an FTA.

Statement on the Death of Henry B. Gonzalez

November 29, 2000

Hillary and I were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Congressman Henry Gonzalez.

Congressman Gonzalez was a trailblazer and a leader for all of Texas. From his election to the San Antonio city council and the Texas Senate to his successful career in Congress, Henry spent more than 40 years serving his State and his country. He was the first Hispanic to serve in the Texas State Senate in more than 100 years and the first Mexican-American elected from Texas to serve in Congress.

As chairman of the House Banking Committee, Congressman Gonzalez championed the issues of America's working families, fighting tirelessly for economic justice, civil rights, banking reform, and affordable housing. His work over the decades was recognized with countless honors and awards, including the 1994 John F. Kennedy Profiles in Courage award. Henry will forever be remembered as a man of conviction and humility who devoted his life to lifting people up and building bridges of understanding.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Bertha, his children, and his family and friends.