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tween Venezuela and the United States of America and we express our willingness to expand and deepen the ties in all areas of common interest.

We reaffirm the commitment to continue working toward the creation of a Free Trade Area of the Americas by the year 2005, and in this sense give our support to the comprehensive negotiations which to this end will begin during the 1998 Summit of Santiago, Chile, on all the subjects related to this theme listed in the Miami Declaration. We reaffirm the commitment made in the Declaration of Miami that concrete progress toward the attainment of this objective will be made by the end of this century.

We recognize the importance of the expansion of commerce and bilateral investment to improve the standard of living of the people of our countries and for this reason reaffirm our political will to sign a high-standards Bilateral Investment Treaty which meets the interests of both parties and satisfactorily resolves those issues over which agreement has not yet been reached. We recognize the progress reached in the negotiations which we have conducted, and have instructed our representatives to aim to conclude this treaty as quickly as possible. Furthermore, we express our willingness to reinitiate talks on a basis that leads to the signing of a treaty to avoid double taxation.

As an expression of our close bilateral association in the field of energy, we note with great satisfaction the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Energy Cooperation that extends ties in petroleum matters to new areas such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, development of natural gas, and integration of energy resources that will promote still more reciprocal investment in the energy sector.

In view of the importance of the strengthening of the process of hemispheric cooperation and integration in the area of energy, we support the initiative of the Government of Venezuela to convene a hemispheric meeting of ministers of energy in January 1998 as an important step prior to the Hemispheric Summit of Santiago de Chile.

Given the active cooperation of our two countries in the struggle against narcotics trafficking and related crimes, we welcome the signing of the "Strategic Alliance Against Drugs" as the expression that our governments continue to give the highest priority to combat this scourge together and without quarter. Thus we reaffirm the desire to initiate negotiations as soon as possible to sign a new comprehensive maritime cooperation agreement for the struggle against drugs. We note with approval that the United States of America continues to cooperate with Venezuela in counternarcotics activities through the provision of equipment, training teams and other useful measures.

We salute the initiative adopted by both governments to sign a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty as well as a Customs Cooperation Agreement that will facilitate our combating more effectively crimes of corruption, money laundering, and in the customs area.

Finally, we confirm our political will to maintain and deepen the ties of friendship and reciprocal assistance that we have maintained at all times and express the conviction that our respective peoples will continue to benefit from those gifts conferred by our proximity and our common destiny.

For the United States of America

William Jefferson Clinton

For the Republic of Venezuela

Rafael Caldera

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this declaration.

Remarks to the Citizens of Venezuela in Caracas

October 13, 1997

Mr. President, let me begin by thanking you for your warm introduction and your invitation to speak at this sacred place. I am deeply honored to be the first foreign leader ever to address the people of Venezuela at the Tomb of Simon Bolivar.

To the people of this city, I thank you for the extraordinary welcome you have given to Hillary and me and to our entire delegation. *Todo esta chevere en Caracas. Todo esta chevere en Venezuela.*

Let me welcome especially all the young people who have come here today and say

a special word of appreciation to the National Youth Orchestra, which played our national anthems and my favorite march so magnificently. It is the young and their future that I wish to speak on this day.

It is especially fitting that we meet here at the Panteon National, for the liberator belongs not only to Venezuela and the other nations of the Andes, Bolivar belongs to all the Americas. He stands alongside Washington and San Martin and the pantheon of liberty's heroes. He was the first to imagine a hemisphere of democracies, united by shared goals and common values. His example stirred the hearts of men and women throughout our region. Indeed, today, we in the United States can still mark the frontier of our Nation in the 1820's by finding our towns, our counties, our villages named Bolivar in the States of Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

When the liberator died, his vision of freedom and peace in the Americas seemed an impossibility. How I wish he were here today to see his spiritual heirs here in Venezuela and throughout the Americas turning his dream into a reality.

Our hemisphere is growing closer every day. Driven by shared values and common purposes, we have put the age-old dream of a democratic and prosperous family of the Americas within our reach. In the last decade, every nation in the Americas but one has embraced democracy, giving its people a vibrant free press, free elections, and the rule of law. Decades of coups and bloody civil wars have given way to the peaceful transition of power. Stifling command economies have been replaced by free markets, giving innovation and more jobs and higher incomes. We are joined in the search for social justice within market economies. And we are all working to leave our children a planet as healthy and bountiful as the one we inherited.

I come here today to salute the people of Venezuela for the extraordinary part you are playing in this quiet revolution of the Americas, and especially to salute President Caldera for a lifetime of leadership for liberty. You, Mr. President, have carried the torch that Bolivar lit for more than half a century, and we are all in your debt.

Other nations in our hemisphere have been drawn to the path you have blazed. For Venezuela is a world center of energy—oh, yes, petroleum, but also energy for peace and freedom; energy for democracy and prosperity; and I might add, energy for world-class baseball players.

Your democracy has weathered powerful challenges, but never wavered. Under the leadership of President Caldera, you are building a state that is popular, just, and moral; a state in which, as Bolivar said, the rule of law will signify the triumph of equality and freedom.

Americans look to Venezuela and see a growing economy, renewed and strengthened by sacrifice. We know the hardships you have endured, but look what you have achieved. You have cut your debt and cut inflation by more than half. You are moving industries into the competitive free market. You are opening your doors to foreign investment to create new opportunities for Venezuelan workers. And your determination will pay off in more jobs, higher incomes, and better prospects for your children in the coming century.

We Americans also look to Venezuela and see an example of how different people can come together as one community and one nation. On this day, we recall the moment when Columbus joined the peoples of the Old World and the New World. Venezuela shows all of us how we can draw strength from the joining of different peoples.

From Bosnia to Central Africa, from Northern Ireland to the Middle East, one of the greatest challenges to peace and freedom in the world comes from people who hate others because of their religious or racial or ethnic differences. And they claim those differences as justification for taking away their political rights, their homes, their freedom, sometimes even their very lives.

Venezuela has shown us a better way. Here, the children of Europeans, indigenous Americans, and Africans live together as one people. Here, every Venezuelan is a *ciudadano.*

For all the progress we have made together to advance democracy, free markets, and full citizenship, we much acknowledge that a great challenge remains to make these

forces work to the benefit of all our people. To do that we will have to intensify our efforts for economic growth, social justice, and environmental protection and against the common threats to our security.

At the Summit of the Americas in Miami, our nations pledged to create a free-trade area of the Americas by 2005, uniting the creative energies of 800 million of us, from Alaska to Argentina. We will tear down the barriers of the past and open wide the doors of the 21st century. The speedy exchange of goods, ideas, and investment will bring benefits of the new economy to all people, including the people of Venezuela—from the oil workers of Monagas to the ranchers of Llanos to the entrepreneurs of Maracaibo.

I want the United States to do its part, and I am seeking the fast-track negotiating authority from Congress that every American President has had for over 20 years, so that we can work with our partners to open markets, create jobs, and raise living standards for all.

We must also recognize that no democracy, including the United States, has yet found the perfect formula for growing a free economy while preserving and extending the social contract for all our people. That is why we must work harder together to alleviate poverty, lift the conditions of working people throughout the hemisphere, and give everyone a chance to be a winner in the new economy.

While we do not have all the answers, we do know we must begin with the reality that whether we all like it or not, global economic integration is on a fast track. And therefore, we must give all our people the tools necessary to compete and succeed in it.

Because we want all our people to succeed we have, from the Summit of the Americas in Miami to next year's summit in Santiago, put education at the center of our cooperation. All our children must be ready for tomorrow.

And we owe it to our children to see that today's progress does not come at tomorrow's expense. We must do more all across the Americas to improve our stewardship of the environment, clean our air, clear our water, keep toxic chemicals out of our soil, and reduce the volume of greenhouse gases we put into our atmosphere, risking dramatic and dangerous changes in the climate for our children and our grandchildren.

And just as we work together to seize the opportunities of this new era, so we must also move together swiftly and strongly against the new threats it has produced. In both our countries drugs poison our children and threaten our neighborhoods. The United States is working to reduce drug demand at home and to attack drugs all along the pipeline that brings them into our streets and our schools. Today our governments signed wide-ranging agreements that join us in an alliance against drugs. Thank you, Venezuela, for the tough stand you are taking in this fight for our common future.

And I thank President Caldera for leading this hemisphere in the fight against corruption. Corruption destroys confidence in fragile democracies, erodes free markets, saps the strength of law enforcement. It undermines all we are working so hard to build. Venezuela's leadership has led to a common commitment to fight corruption, to beat it back, to stamp it out.

To the people of Venezuela, I want you to know the United States is determined to work with you in a spirit of respect and equality, as friends and partners, to claim the benefits and carry the burdens of this new era.

Now, on this day when we remember Columbus' remarkable arrival over 500 years ago in the Americas, we embark on a new voyage toward a new century and a new millennium, steering our course by the stars of freedom and democracy, partnership and respect, prosperity and security, not for just a few but for all our citizens.

Here, before the Tomb of Simon Bolivar, let us pledge to redeem in full the vision of the liberator. More than 160 years ago, he spoke to us of a Western Hemisphere that commanded envy and respect, as he said, ''Not so much by virtue of her area and wealth, but by her freedom and her glory.''

Today, I pledge to you, *hijos de Bolivar*, that by our work, now and into the new millennium, we will secure that freedom. And with it, the glory of all the people of the Americas.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:10 a.m. at the Plaza El Panteon.

Exchange With Reporters Aboard Air Force One

October 13, 1997

Brazil-U.S. Relations

Q. Are you going to get a bad reception in Brazil?

The President. I don't think so. You know, historically, there have been strained relations between the United States and Brazil. I met with President Cardoso when he was President-elect at the Summit of the Americas, and of course he's been to see me. And we worked very hard on this. I think it will be a very good trip.

1996 Campaign Finance Inquiry

Q. Janet Reno says she might want to interview you as the investigation goes on. Do you have any problem with that?

The President. As I said before, I'll do anything that is necessary to get her and the Justice Department the information they need. I just want them to have the information they need and then be free to make the right decision.

White House Communications Agency Videotapes

Q. Do you understand why she's mad, and have you done anything to try to prevent it from happening again?

The President. Of course I do. You think she was mad; you should have been there when I heard about it.

Q. So you were mad, too?

The President. Of course, but I'm—first of all, I think Lanny Breuer was on television yesterday explaining what happened on the delayed notification. And, you know, I think he made a mistake—but he said that. And he's worked very hard at his job. And they're all—as you can imagine, they've got all this work that any White House Counsel would have and then all this to do. But I think it was a good thing that he and Mr. Ruff went on and explained the facts of what happened.

And as far as WHCA is concerned, what they—I don't think they intended to mislead anybody. They've been working hard to try to find all the information they've got. I think they've got a few more tapes which, as I understand it, won't surprise any of you that have been going to the fundraisers with me for the last years. They basically just—as I understand it, that's what they are, they show events. And they're going to turn them over.

Q. [*Inaudible*]—any of these tapes of you directly soliciting or anything like that. You don't think——

The President. Look at them. I think they're perfectly fine. But I want the committee to have them, the Justice Department to have them.

WHCA tries to take a little snippet of everything that I'm involved in so they have it recorded for history. It's fine. I do want to make it clear that—as I understood the inference of the first—I was unaware of this because I never saw the request for information or the efforts to provide it. But I think Mike has made it clear that we never had any sort of secret taping system like was—the Kennedy or Nixon or Johnson administrations did. We've never done anything like that.

Q. Mr. President, is Congress nitpicking with you—the committee nitpicking by wanting all this information and wanting names of people who handled the tapes and all these other, what seem minute details? Is that nitpicking?

The President. We had given them 100,000 pieces of information before—the committee—and we'll give them whatever they need to do their job.

But I think they'll find, for example, on handling the tapes—you know, all these WHCA people that I've dealt with, they're career servicepeople, they're not political. They're trying to do their job, as they see it, to get some video record of the things a President does. And they're doing their best to fully comply. They're career military people, not politicians, and for all I know they've never been involved in anything like this before. And I think they've done their best. They've worked like crazy to try to find out if they had anything else on file. And I think they're doing—I think the Senate and the House and the Justice Department will be satisfied that all those folks did their best.