Inauguration of the Sol M. Linowitz Forum

Inter-American Dialogue
This past year, the Inter-American Dialogue inaugurated the Sol M. Linowitz Forum to pay tribute to our founding Co-Chairman and his many contributions to U.S.-Latin American relations. The Forum is designed to sustain and strengthen the Dialogue’s periodic plenary meetings. These meetings—the centerpiece of the Dialogue—bring together our membership to review the most important issues in hemispheric affairs and develop concrete proposals for action. The Forum will provide a continuing opportunity for leaders from throughout the Americas to probe their disagreements and work to forge a common agenda.

The inauguration of the Forum was an exceptional event, featuring presentations by President Bill Clinton and Brazilian Minister of Foreign Relations, Luiz Felipe Lampreia. The entire collection of speeches is eloquent testimony to Ambassador Linowitz’s achievements in hemispheric affairs and to the important role the Dialogue is playing in the Americas. We owe special gratitude to Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, Cyrus Vance, and John Whitehead, who chair the campaign to create an endowment to support the Linowitz Forum.
The Inter-American Dialogue is the premier U.S. center for policy analysis, communication, and exchange on Western Hemisphere affairs. The Dialogue's select membership of 100 distinguished citizens from throughout the Americas includes former presidents and cabinet-level officials as well as business and other private sector leaders. The Dialogue seeks to promote informed debate on hemispheric problems, advance opportunities for regional economic and political cooperation, expand channels of communication among the countries of the Americas, and bring practical proposals for action to the attention of governments, international institutions, and private organizations. Since 1982, throughout successive Republican and Democratic administrations, the Dialogue has helped shape the agenda of issues and choices on inter-American relations.

Ambassador Linowitz has combined three careers as a lawyer, businessman and diplomat. Between 1955 and 1966, he served as Vice President and General Counsel, and eventually, as Chairman of the Board of the Xerox Corporation. In 1966, Linowitz was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson as U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of American States and United States Representative on the Inter-American Committee on the Alliance for Progress. From 1977 to 1978, he served as Co-Negotiator of the Panama Canal Treaties and was the Personal Representative of the President to the Middle East Peace Negotiations from 1979 to 1981. He served as Chairman of the Presidential Commission on World Hunger in 1978 and 1979. He was Senior Partner and then Senior Counsel of the International law firm of Coudert Brothers until 1994. Linowitz was the founding Co-Chairman of the Inter-American Dialogue and is now its Chairman Emeritus, along with Javier Pérez de Cuéllar.
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Please, sit down and relax.
Thank you. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.
Thank you for the very warm welcome. To our distinguished head table guests, former Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, Secretary Vance, Minister Lampreia, President Iglesias, Mrs. Ambassador. To Peter Bell and Alejandro Foxley; my good friend and advisor on Latin America, Mack McLarty; Peter Hakim, and of course, to our distinguished friend, Mr. Linowitz.

For 14 years, the Inter-American Dialogue has played a leading role in framing the debate on issues that really matter to the peoples of our hemisphere. As we enter a period of even closer cooperation in the Americas, I'm delighted that the Inter-American Dialogue is also intensifying its work. I'm especially pleased that you're carrying forward your efforts with the creation of the Inter-American Dialogue’s Sol Linowitz Forum. By honoring Sol you have paid a fitting tribute to the extraordinary, extraordinary service that this great American and citizen of the world has rendered. In a lifetime devoted to public service, Ambassador Linowitz has helped to foster peace, cooperation and partnership between the United States, the nations of the Americas and other nations around the world.

Sol has led here at home as well, working to confront the problems of racism, urban decay and poverty. And he’s called his own profession of law to a higher sense of duty. As the Chair Emeritus to the Inter-American Dialogue, he continues to make a difference, to promote the exchange and understanding that we need to bring our hemisphere closer together so that all of our people are more prosperous and secure.

In 1967, Sol Linowitz organized the United States’ participation in the Punta del Este Summit which became the model for the Summit of the Americas that we held in Miami in 1994 that Mr. McLarty and Hattie Babbitt and so many others in this room in our administration worked so hard to realize. At the Miami Summit, the nations of our hemisphere agreed on the challenges we must face together—in opening our markets, strengthening our democracies, protecting our shared environment against pollution. And we developed a program to do all that and more so that our region can become more prosperous and secure, and our freedom wider, broader and deeper. In an important way, the Inter-American Dialogue helped to define the goals we set at the Summit of the Americas. And as now we look toward the next century, I’m glad that the Sol Linowitz Forum will help to focus our discussions and our actions.

I thank you all today for all you have done to help define and shape the currents that flow deeper today in our hemisphere because of your work: democracy, market economics, justice and growing partnership. I thank you all, and I especially thank Sol Linowitz.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.
Bill Clinton Addressing the Forum

Sol Linowitz and Javier Pérez de Cuéllar
We all very much regret that President Fernando Henrique Cardoso was unable to be with us this evening—not only because he is the president of Brazil, but because he played such a vital role in the development of the Inter-American Dialogue over the years. I know that he wanted to be here because he holds Sol Linowitz and the Dialogue in such high esteem.

What a great honor and pleasure it is for me to be here this evening to pay tribute to my good friend Sol Linowitz, who is also my fellow Chair Emeritus of the Inter-American Dialogue. We have known each other a long time and have worked together on many occasions in order to reach just and peaceful solutions to international problems. There is no one whose judgment I trust more or whose advice I value more highly. Sol is indeed a man of peace.

It was several years ago, just as I was completing my second and last term as Secretary-General of the United Nations, that Sol Linowitz invited me to join him as the Co-Chair of the Dialogue. I accepted immediately—for many reasons. My respect and affection for Sol was only one of them. I wanted an opportunity to continue my work for peace and cooperation in international affairs and particularly to serve my own hemisphere in this way. I knew about the excellent work of the Dialogue, and applauded its efforts to bring people from many countries together to address the most important and difficult problems confronting the Americas. I was delighted to become part of this enterprise, and I look back with pride at the accomplishments of the Dialogue and my association with them.

Ambassador Lampreia represents, as Foreign Minister, a country who joins its continental importance with a very distinguished diplomatic prestige. We indeed, have something in common. We are both diplomats by training and experience. And despite the many dramatic changes that have occurred in global affairs, today we remain convinced of the importance of diplomats and diplomacy—as the alternative to violence and bloodshed.

An acute observer once said that "where a diplomat disappears, a soldier emerges." Ambassador Lampreia has had an extraordinarily distinguished career with an exceptional record of achievements, even before taking on his current responsibilities as Minister. Let me proudly present to you Brazil’s Minister of Foreign Relations, Luiz Felipe Lampreia.
BILL CLINTON, SOL LINOWITZ, AND LUZ FELPE LAMPEAL

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM: MARK SCHNEIDER, VIRGINIA SCHOFIELD, JORGE DOMÍNGUEZ, FERNANDO CEPEDA ULLOA, JOHN BIEHL, SERGIO BITAR, MARCUS CARAMURU DE PAIVA, BERNARD ARONSON, ALEXANDER WATSON
We are gathered here tonight, in the Hall of the Americas, as representatives of the people and nations of this hemisphere, to pay tribute to Sol Linowitz. This is a man who has anticipated, by his personality and by his actions, the spirit of the new inter-Americanism that we are committed to consolidate in these present times of globalization and regional integration.

Brazilians are proud to join in this celebration. In Brazil we have many prominent members of the Inter-American Dialogue. As a representative of the Brazilian government, I bring word of thankful recognition for the instrumental contribution of this forum as a catalyst in promoting a much needed, independent and balanced discussion of issues pertaining to the development and improvement of hemispheric relations.

Our times call for a renewed and creative commitment to the hemispheric partnership. Governments of the entire continent are working toward that commitment, not with rhetoric, but with a clear course and tangible objectives. As ideological barriers erode throughout the world, as democracy and economic freedom become the pattern in international relations, the international community moves forward to consolidate universal rules regulating trade and productive investment, technology, non-proliferation and the enforcement of human rights and environmental protection.

A new age has come, an age of hope and an age of commitment to a better and more prosperous life for all the peoples of the Americas. The way is open for a new kind of international cooperation, especially in this hemisphere, where there is a long-standing tradition of interaction among countries and peoples.

We are proud to live in a hemisphere that has made democracy its common standard and its guiding rule. Within these bounds, we are fighting for economic stability and sustained growth. Our goal is to correct the social imbalances that still affect our societies and to build a hemispheric system that brings prosperity to all.

Jobs, not weapons; markets, not political or ideological divisions: these are the real challenges that the end of the Cold War and its strategic disputes, at the global and regional levels, requires us to face in their entirety. The fight for competitive integration into the global market and the new world structure cannot be a lonely one. Nor should competition be seen as a ravaging battle for business opportunities, financial deals and commercial operations.

Countries are more and more conscious that collective action and solidarity, through free trade agreements, market integration on a sub-regional or regional level, an intense participation in
the international decision-making process and also strong sets of bilateral relationships are key to approaching global markets and global issues. Credentials, such as political and economic stability, economic freedom and openness, full adherence to universal rules and regulations and wide credibility, are essential. You either play by the rules or you don’t play at all. Countries are aware that they should use a cautious, realistic approach in tackling the challenges of this day and age. They must be affirmative in identifying their objectives, in defining their timetable for negotiations, in engaging constructively in these negotiations and in building upon their accomplishments.

This is precisely what we are doing in following up the commitments reached at the highest level at the Miami Summit of the Americas, the cornerstone of a new approach to hemispheric relations. All the new elements in the contemporary world structure are present in this pragmatic exercise of weaving a new pattern of relationships and exchange within the Americas.

First of all, developing countries in the region have moved towards more open and outward-looking economic policies. Those policies have replaced the import-substitution policies that had prevailed for decades as a strategy for development and industrialization. Several unilateral concessions or advances have been made by countries in the region that realized the importance of exposing their economies to outside competition in order to better respond to the challenges of quality, cost and productivity.

We have a global framework for trade relations under the WTO agreements, encompassing and regulating the world trade agenda and new areas such as intellectual property rights, investment and agriculture. We have regional commitment to political understanding and practical cooperation in our continent with regard to the enhancement and support for democracy throughout the region, the fight against drugs and organized crime, and the struggle against corruption. And we have several sub-regional initiatives, such as Mercosul, that clearly show that integration has left the world of policy-planning to become a strong reality in the day-to-day lives of our countries, our business communities and our consumers.
As these new economic and political arrangements develop, hemispheric relations gain an unprecedented momentum, probably the strongest and most affirmative impetus since the very inauguration of the Pan-American movement a century ago.

Recognizing the importance of inter-American relations as the platform for our countries’ bid for greater participation in the globalization process, the Inter-American Dialogue has shown its wisdom in choosing Sol Linowitz as the central figure of this year’s plenary session. Ambassador Linowitz brings us his example and inspiration. An accomplished lawyer, a dedicated public servant, an outstanding diplomat who served his country on several occasions, helping to forge some of the most challenging advances in U.S. foreign policy, Sol Linowitz, as the U.S. negotiator of the Panama Canal Treaty, made a lasting contribution to inter-American relations—the engineering of a new pattern of relationships between the most powerful country in the hemisphere, and indeed in the world, and its developing neighbors.

This new pattern of relationship, based on mutual respect, confidence and a long-term vision of common interests, has begun to make the dreams and ideals of the founding fathers of inter-Americanism come true. Among these fathers, Brazilians are proud to place the Baron of Rio-Branco, our leading diplomat and statesman, who recognized in the very first steps toward the Pan-American movement a tool for promoting better political understanding and smoother economic cooperation on this continent.

As this century comes to a close, the inspiration of the founding fathers of Pan-Americanism and of men like Ambassador Sol Linowitz encourages us to embrace the process of renewing inter-American relations. These relations can be instrumental in promoting development, trade, investment, technology transfer and wide-ranging cooperation among the countries of this hemisphere. They certainly profit from a growing web of improving bilateral relations throughout the region. And of course they can benefit from the kind of sound, frank and balanced debates that have become a trademark of the Inter-American Dialogue.
I am sure that the Sol M. Linowitz Forum will positively contribute to this dialogue. The odds couldn't be better, for the man who inspires this initiative knows how to make a difference. As history unfolds in our hemisphere, let us follow his example. Let us leave to future generations of this continent a legacy of a new inter-Americanism that is based on confidence, respect, and a strong sense of community and shared interests.
I am thrilled to participate in this joyous occasion in honor of Sol Linowitz, a richly deserved recognition of his many contributions to international peace and cooperation. All of us have followed with profound admiration Sol’s tireless efforts at building understanding and lasting ties between the United States and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Dramatic improvements in hemispheric relations of the past several years are due to his cumulative efforts. His selfless labors in bringing to fruition the successful negotiation of the Panama Canal treaties and service as the Personal Representative of the President to the Middle East Peace Negotiations are but two of a host of the many examples of Sol’s dedication and service to his country.

All of us gathered here know Sol’s invaluable legacy to the region has been the Inter-American Dialogue which, over the past decade, has become known for its balanced and authoritative contributions to Western Hemisphere affairs. Indeed, I know of no other institution that has been more successful in engaging the leaders of countries with diverse backgrounds in effective exchanges on regional issues. Nor do I know of any other institution that has so consistently managed to develop cooperative solutions to thorny regional and international problems.

Thanks to Sol, I have been privileged to be a member of the Dialogue since its early years. Recalling those meetings which I was able to attend, they were always distinguished by the quality and diversity of
the participants, a strong commitment both to civil discourse and frank exchange, and a persistent effort to find common ground and consensus proposals for action. Moreover, under Sol’s leadership, those initiatives have contributed greatly to the growing convergence of interests and values among the countries of the Americas.

All this has been accomplished with limited resources. Some, including myself, would say it has done so on a shoestring. The Dialogue has no endowment, no reserve funds, and no safety net and, thus, must raise its full budget every year. Its success, year-in and year-out, is a tribute to the leadership of the Dialogue and to the strength of the idea that inspired its creation. All of us who are committed to cooperation and trust in hemispheric affairs need to join together to put the Dialogue on a secure financial footing.

Indeed it is to ensure that the Dialogue remains an independent, balanced, and effective voice in Western Hemisphere affairs that we are gathered here this evening to inaugurate the establishment of the Sol M. Linowitz Forum. The purpose of the Forum is to insure that the Dialogue’s central activity—its periodic plenary sessions that bring together the leading thinkers and actors from throughout the Americas—becomes a permanent feature of Western Hemisphere affairs and remains independent, nonpartisan, and effective. With Sol’s guidance, I am sure the Dialogue will continue to flourish and serve the critical needs of the hemisphere.

We hope we can count on the support of all of you. The Forum represents a special opportunity for us—the opportunity to carry forward and reinforce the idea that Sol Linowitz has put so effectively into practice over the years.
Since being named the President’s Special Representative for the Summit of the Americas almost two years ago, I have come to know and trust Peter Bell and Peter Hakim quite well—much as an inexperienced swimmer comes to know and trust his lifeguards.

In the fourteen years since its founding, the Inter-American Dialogue has richly earned its fine reputation as a constructive and quietly influential force in hemispheric affairs. As its name implies, the Dialogue focuses on raising the level of communication about inter-American affairs and among the members of our hemispheric community. The Dialogue has been a constructive and positive force since its inception in 1982.

The importance of tonight’s honoree to the Inter-American Dialogue and its work is demonstrated by the presence of so many of his distinguished colleagues in launching this initiative.

Sol Linowitz is my friend—my mentor—and lucky for me, my next-door neighbor.

Until 1994, I knew and respected Ambassador Linowitz somewhat as a living legend—as a distinguished diplomat, attorney and businessman who was associated with some of our country’s most striking foreign policy successes.

But I did not truly understand the Linowitz legend until the day when Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott called me up and said, “Mack, you’d better get over here if you want to talk to the keenest and most experienced mind we have on relations with Latin America and the Caribbean.” His guest, of course, was Sol Linowitz.

At the time, we were struggling to develop a workable agenda for the Summit of the Americas, and more than one voice had advised us to give up and postpone the Summit until a more auspicious time.

But Sol Linowitz thought otherwise, and in our first and then subsequent meetings, he helped us craft an agenda and a framework for discussion that well captured the common interest and shared aspirations of the Summit participants.

The opportunity to work with Sol Linowitz on the Summit of the Americas was like receiving trumpet lessons from the Angel Gabriel. And as we continue to benefit from the “Spirit of Miami”—a spirit of shared values, shared interests, and partnership based on mutual dignity, respect and trust—I want to personally express gratitude for this man’s critical role in inspiring our efforts.

Our debt to Sol Linowitz, of course, goes much deeper than his most recent contributions to hemispheric cooperation. The precedent we drew upon in convening the Summit of the Americas—the meeting of presidents at Punta del Este, Uruguay, in April 1967—occurred largely due to his...
work. As U.S. Ambassador to the OAS, he persuaded the most stubborn man in the United States—its President, Lyndon B. Johnson—to attend and participate in this event against his initial wishes.

Although we are all in his debt, perhaps the best thanks Sol Linowitz could receive is the realization of his vision of hemispheric cooperation. Today 34 nations in our part of the world share a commitment to political and economic freedom, and a willingness to make freedom work for our mutual benefit. We must work each day to build on the rock-solid foundation of the efforts of those who had faith when others doubted, and had courage when others feared.

You are all now familiar with Ambassador Linowitz’s remarkable biography—his climb to the summit of business leadership before his public service began—and the many forms his public service assumed, in the Middle East peace process as well as in inter-American affairs. Most people who accomplish half of what Sol achieved by the mid-1960s rest on their laurels and stop thinking new thoughts. But to this day, Sol Linowitz listens as well as he speaks, and learns as well as he teaches. His entire public career can perhaps best be summarized in the words of that guru of the pan-American sport of baseball, Earl Weaver: “It’s what you learn when you know it all that really counts.”

Like most leaders who are willing and able to reach out to those from different nations and cultures, Sol Linowitz is firmly grounded in his own life and community. I have no doubt that his proudest attainments in this life are his wife, his children and his grandchildren. What a grandfather he must be: one who not only remembers the past in rich detail, but who is still working to shape the present and the future.

Sol Linowitz is without doubt what we call in this country an American Hero—a man who exemplifies our values and puts them to historic use. But he also represents a new, and we pray, a growing category of leaders—he is a Hero of the Americas.
We are celebrating two interconnected events this evening. The most visible is the inauguration of the Sol Linowitz Forum, which will honor the Dialogue’s founding Co-Chair, and reinforce the Dialogue’s work to enhance communication and cooperation in the Americas. The second event we celebrate is the opening of the 1996 plenary session of the Dialogue, our tenth since the Dialogue was created in 1982. The plenary sessions are the centerpiece of the Dialogue’s work. Once every 18 months to two years, our members spend three days in intensive deliberations about the key issues in hemispheric affairs. We probe our differences, seek common ground, and try to formulate constructive proposals for action.

These two events are interconnected because the Dialogue’s plenary meetings will, in essence, become the Linowitz Forum. The idea is to make the Forum a permanent institution and put it on a sound financial basis. This will allow us to upgrade our plenary meetings, to hold them more frequently, and to assure that they can be sustained into the future. And by carrying Sol’s name, the Linowitz Forum will embody Sol’s commitment to probing discussion, candid exchange, cooperative approaches, and lasting solutions.

The launching of the Linowitz Forum brings us to a new stage in the institutional development of the Inter-American Dialogue. After 14 years, we realize that the Dialogue’s reputation and influence have come to exceed its infrastructure, and that the time has come to give the Dialogue more permanent, institutional form.

The Dialogue began as an ad hoc conference in 1982. Actually it was conceived several months before then in a discussion on a park bench between Abe Lowenthal and me... Abe and I had arrived a few minutes early for a meeting with Sol, and sat ourselves down on a bench in the park across from Sol’s office in Washington. Disturbed by the breakdown in inter-American communications during the recent war in the South Atlantic and by the inaccessibility of U.S. leaders to democratically oriented Latin Americans, we began discussing the possibility of bringing together leading citizens from throughout the hemisphere to set a new inter-American agenda.

Arriving in Sol’s office at the appointed time, we put aside the original purpose of our meeting, and continued the discussion begun on the park bench. Sol immediately seized on the proposal to establish an “inter-American dialogue”, and agreed to test the idea on Galo Plaza, the former Secretary General of the OAS and President of Ecuador. We also talked with Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil, Gabriel Valdés of Chile, Daniel Oduber of Costa Rica, and others. Each of them responded with enthusiasm, suggesting...
colleagues in other parts of the hemisphere, and in short order we had formed a group which became the core of what evolved into the Inter-American Dialogue.

No one knew then whether a small group of concerned citizens, brought together under private auspices, could find a common basis for dealing with common problems, come up with creative and constructive approaches, and make government decision-makers sit up and listen. At the first session of the Dialogue, the exchange was lively and productive—so much so that we decided to hold a second meeting within the year. At that second meeting, the participants felt not only that they had important things to say to one another—but they also wanted to communicate their findings and recommendations to a wider public. For example, we strongly advocated a regional approach to peace-making in Central America, but we also felt that the conflicts there were eclipsing an even more central issue in the hemisphere—the debt crisis. Thus began our tradition of issuing comprehensive policy reports following each plenary session. The second stage of the Dialogue began with the creation of a small secretariat in Washington to better prepare for the plenaries and to assure that the message of our reports was effectively communicated to policy and media communities throughout the hemisphere.

Within about four years, we saw that the audiences for our work had grown faster than the materials we were able to provide. We then decided to expand and diversify our activities—to move away from our singular focus on the plenaries and the policy reports, and to add a “think tank” component to our efforts. It initiated smaller conferences, working groups, Congressional seminars, fora for visiting Latin Americans, and individually authored articles and policy memoranda. Having done that successfully—and again expanded the demand and audiences for our products—we are here tonight to launch the next phase of our work.

Our vision now is to accomplish three major goals. First, we want to become more inter-American by increasing our presence and visibility in Latin America and the Caribbean, by incorporating more Latin Americans into our staff, and by developing
cooperative programs with leading policy centers in the region. Second, we propose to make sure that we are communicating effectively with leaders across a broad spectrum of activities. We will maintain the strong ties to policy and government communities, but we want to increase the involvement of corporate, financial and labor groups in our work, as well as a wide variety of nongovernmental organizations. We want, in short, to further strengthen our most valuable asset—our committed and diverse membership, so many of whom are here tonight.

Third, we must build a stronger and more diverse base of financial support. We now rely heavily on U. S. foundations. They have been highly supportive of the Dialogue, but we need to complement their funding by looking increasingly to corporations, financial institutions, and individual donors. We also need to attract more support from outside the United States.

It is clear that we will need your help—financial and intellectual—to do all this. With your help, the Dialogue can accomplish the ambitious goals it has set for itself. Together, we can sustain an independent, balanced and effective program on hemispheric issues, and help shape policy debates and decision-making on the important issues in inter-American affairs.

All of us who know, respect and love Sol admire his savvy, his intellect, his integrity, and his diplomacy. We are delighted that he has done the Dialogue the honor of permitting us to name the Forum after him.

Now it is up to us to build a Forum that is ever-more worthy as a tribute to Sol—a Forum that advances open exchanges, cooperative approaches, and lasting solutions, and that contributes to building a hemisphere that is more economically prosperous, more politically open, more socially just, and at peace. Many thanks for being part of this commitment.
Sol Linowitz and Fernando Henrique Cardoso
May 9, 1996

I would have been delighted to participate in the ceremony establishing the Inter-American Dialogue’s Sol M. Linowitz Forum next Thursday, May 16th. Regrettably, however, it will be impossible for me to be in Washington at that time. Presidents, as you know, are not always in command of their schedules. I am no exception to this most basic rule of holding the presidency of any country.

In any event, I would like to express my strong support for this initiative, which pays tribute to a scholar and a public figure who has helped strengthen the links between Latin America and the United States of America. Please send Sol Linowitz my congratulations on this special occasion. You can count on my support in the fund-raising campaign to consolidate the Forum.

May I reiterate my appreciation of the work which has been accomplished by the Inter-American Dialogue over the past few years. It has been a great contribution to the favorable atmosphere prevailing in hemispheric affairs at present. I very much hope that I will have the opportunity in the near future to speak at the Inter-American Dialogue in Washington.

Yours Sincerely,

Fernando Henrique Cardoso
May 9, 1996

Dear Sol,

Even though I could not be with you as I had wished, I want to join those who are honoring you this evening. We are all grateful for the valuable contributions you have made to this country’s international relations, and particularly to the quality of our relations in this hemisphere. Like so many others, I have personally learned and benefited from your good advice which, I recall, was always wise and usually right.

I must tell you how pleased I am by the way you are being honored. A forum dedicated to strengthening trust and communication in the Western Hemisphere is an especially appropriate tribute to you and the values you have come to represent. The Linowitz Forum will stand as a permanent signal of the vital importance of cooperation between the United States and Latin America—a goal with which I deeply identify, and as you well know, worked hard to advance. I am gratified that you and your colleagues in the Inter-American Dialogue are making sure these efforts are being sustained and deepened.

My warmest wishes.

Sincerely,

George Bush
To Sol Linowitz:

I am pleased to join in the inauguration of the Sol. M. Linowitz Forum in recognition of your many contributions to U.S.-Latin American relations.

Your accomplishments throughout your professional career have been instrumental to improving the quality of debate and communication in hemispheric affairs. As U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of American States, you played a key role in the first Western Hemisphere summit in Punta del Este. As you know, the Commission on U.S.-Latin American Relations, which you chaired from 1974-1976, was the single most important influence on my administration’s approach to Latin America. As I recall, 27 of 28 recommendations in that report on such subjects as human rights, Panama, and arms control, were implemented in the first 18 months of my administration. I well know the central role you had in the conduct of the negotiations leading to the historic Panama Canal treaties during my presidency. And, as founding co-chairman of the Inter-American Dialogue, you have provided guidance and leadership in its emergence as an important center for policy analysis and cooperation in hemispheric relations.

The Sol M. Linowitz Forum is a fitting recognition of your lifetime of dedication and service. Congratulations and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Carter
May 16, 1996

Dear Sol,

I had hoped so much to be with you tonight to pay tribute to your unique contributions in hemispheric affairs. The plain fact is that my work has caught up with me, and I have to get ready for tomorrow.

We are all seeing a hemisphere in which the changes in a positive direction are really monumental in character. Much of this is due to your long leadership in the Dialogue and elsewhere in pressing the case for democracy and open trading. So the honors accorded tonight are well, well deserved, and I only regret that I can’t join in person.

As ever,

[Signature]

Warren Christopher
INTER-AMERICAN DIALOGUE

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