

Today we meet to pay tribute to a good friend as he leaves his new profession to re-enter the old. We come to say goodbye to a man who has represented his country with distinction, eloquence and humor, who has proven once again that politics is the best preparation for diplomacy.

Ambassador Tomic represents a country geographically so far -- but in aspiration so near to our own; a country with which we have had happy and harmonious relations since 1810.

For the past three years, he has been the effective advocate and exponent of the "revolution in freedom" which President Frei inaugurated in 1964 and which is today the program of the Christian Democratic Government of Chile. He now returns to his country to continue his collaboration with President Frei in advancing the "revolution in freedom," and to collaborate with him in insuring its continuation.

In three short years, the Government of Chile has captured the

attention of the hemisphere. It has attempted to implement the objective of the Alliance for Progress -- rapid economic development and greater social justice -- within a framework of political democracy. It has sought to fundamentally alter the economic and social structure of the country without imposing draconian measures on its people, without sacrificing either economic freedom or social pluralism. In three short years, the Government of President Frei has achieved more

than we would have dared to hope -- and less than we would have preferred. This should not discourage us. No more can be said of any ambitious program of high purpose and broad vision -- whether the New Deal -- the New Frontier -- the Great Society -- or the Revolution in Freedom. What can be achieved in a material sense in a short period of time will always fall short of expectation. What is important is that we are able to give convincing evidence that progress will be

achieved, that material betterment is on the way, that the benefits of social advancement be open to all.

In our own country as in Chile, we have learned that progress provokes problems -- provokes tensions springing from hopes unfulfilled, from rising expectations not met fast enough. To achieve this progress despite opposition both from those who would preserve the status quo at any price, and from those who seek not to change society, but to destroy

it -- this is indeed a staggering challenge.

This challenge can be met only where political leadership is strong, imaginative and sure. It is because of the calibre of political leadership which Chile has produced -- men like President Frei and Ambassador Tomic -- that we are confident that the majority of the coming generation in Chile sees in participatory political democracy a system to be preserved and perfected -- and not a vestige to be discarded.

Mr. Ambassador, we salute you and your Chilean colleagues for your leadership in making the inter-American system an instrument for creating modern societies. You recognized earlier than most that just as the population of a nation must be integrated into society, so also the nations of this hemisphere must develop an integrated continental society.

Your government has taken the lead in pushing economic and

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political integration of the hemisphere. For what you are now achieving in Chile through the "revolution in freedom" must someday be accomplished throughout the hemisphere. As Victor Hugo once said, "Social prosperity means man happy, the citizen free, the nation great." I would only add that what is true of ~~the~~ nation is true of the hemisphere.

Mr. Ambassador, we honor you as an accomplished diplomat who

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has served his country well, as a political leader who will continue to provide bold vision and imaginative leadership to the people of your country, to the people of our continent.

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TOAST OF
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF
AMBASSADOR RADOMIRO TOMIC
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MARCH 26, 1968

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