

RELEASE IN FULL

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**From:** Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2010 7:05 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: Note for Secretary

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**From:** Simons, Paul E (Santiago)  
**To:** Valenzuela, Arturo A; Mills, Cheryl D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Abedin, Huma; Bennett, Virginia L  
**Cc:** Urban, Carol (Santiago); Simons, Paul E (Santiago)  
**Sent:** Tue Mar 02 06:57:06 2010  
**Subject:** Note for Secretary

**Madam Secretary-**

**A few very quick notes for your visit here.**

**-- Chileans of all stripes are still recovering physically and emotionally from this earthquake.**

- Bachelet's team initially underestimated the devastation in the affected area, but have moved quickly in the past 24 hours to restore public order which remains a major challenge.**
- While Santiago looks superficially normal, there is still a huge cleanup effort ahead in the city and emotions are running high. Restoring services to Concepcion, Maule and the other affected areas will take weeks if not months. Without electricity there is no water or telecommunications.**
- Chileans are proud and reluctant to accept much external support for the recovery effort. While they have grudgingly opened up to international offers of assistance, their wish list is short, and limited to very specific items. I believe they need to be much more expansive in their outreach to the international community. But this is a hard sell.**

**With Bachelet, you should express condolences, review current and pending U.S. support, and seek out her views on how we can be most helpful moving forward. You should also compliment her on her social legacy and her record of leadership in the region. If there is time, you**

**should also seek out her views on how the U.S. should position itself in the region in the next year.**

**With Pinera, you should seek out his views on the current crisis (including the economic impact), and outline U.S. support. He will want to discuss his plans to support democracy strengthening in the region and raise his upcoming trip to the U.S.**

**With the Embassy staff, you should express appreciation for their herculean 24/7 efforts to track down all Embassy staff, restore Embassy services, support and locate U.S. citizens throughout Chile, and coordinate immediate U.S. assistance with the Chilean government .**

**Many thanks!**

*Paul E. Simons  
U.S. Ambassador  
Santiago, Chile*

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.