

Press Releases: Interview With Jake Tapper of CNN

Interview
Michael R. Pompeo

Secretary of State

Santiago, Chile
April 12, 2019

QUESTION: Joining me now from Santiago, Chile to discuss this and much, much more is the Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. Mr. Secretary, thanks so much for being here. I know that you want to talk about the International Criminal Court, and I'll get to that in one second.

SECRETARY POMPEO: Jake, it's great to be – it's great to be with you, Jake.

QUESTION: Thank you so much, sir. I know you weren't present for the conversation between the President and Commissioner McAleenan, but would you note – or what do you say to senior administration officials when they say to you: Boy, President Trump is so frustrated by these immigration laws, he doesn't seem to understand that we have to adhere to them even if he doesn't like them?

SECRETARY POMPEO: I've been in lots of conversations on the enormous crisis at our border, and I've watched this President try to use every tool in our toolkit. We've done everything that we can. We've stayed within the law. We need Congress to make changes to that so that we can stop this humanitarian and security crisis. And every meeting I've been in has been very focused on that.

QUESTION: The President today admitted that he's considering trying to move undocumented migrants to sanctuary cities, and he seemed to acknowledge this is for political reasons, to retaliate against Democrats. Why do you think that's the right policy, if you do, in fact?

SECRETARY POMPEO: Jake, I'm here in Santiago, Chile. I came on to talk with you today about an enormously important decision that helped keep Americans safe. Outside the threat that our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines, who have protected America for years, are now, because of the policies of the Trump administration undertaken, no longer are threatened by a rogue court, the International Criminal Court. That's my focus for this morning, and it's what I hope we get a chance to talk about today.

QUESTION: All right. Let me turn to that question and then I'll come back to a couple others that I have. The International Criminal Court today said that they will not investigate the U.S. for allegations of alleged war crimes in Afghanistan. Amnesty International said this was a quote, "craven capitulation to Washington's bullying and threats, and an abandonment of the victims." Why do you disagree with Amnesty International? If somebody committed a war crime, why should they not be held responsible? I should note that this isn't just about Americans, it's also about Afghans as well.

SECRETARY POMPEO: That's exactly right, Jake, it's about a much broader people. Let's be very clear, though, with respect to America in particular, we didn't sign the treaty for the ICC. It has no jurisdiction under – over our people. It's been trying to exert it.

You know this, Jake, as well as I do: When Americans misbehave, whether it's our military, intelligence officers, we have a robust democratic process that holds them accountable. You've seen us do that for those that misbehaved. There is in no way any need for the ICC to intervene.

Frankly, this was – this would have been a very political effort to try and take on the people who were acting on behalf of the United States in ways that were completely consistent with our laws and try and hold them accountable in ways that were completely inappropriate. I am very pleased that the ICC made this decision today. It's the right one.

Know that if Americans are found to have done things that are unlawful or against the laws of war, the U.S. system will always hold them accountable, but the ICC is not the right place to do it. We didn't sign up for that, and they had no authority over these people. I'm glad that they recognized that.

QUESTION: So you're in Chile right now. Let me ask you a question if I can about our immigration policy. President Trump has cut aid to Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala – the so-called Norther Triangle countries in Central America. He says they're not doing enough on immigration. Your own agency, the State Department, your own experts and data suggest that the aid is actually having a tremendous effect, and in El Salvador the aid went in and homicides went down and the number of people fleeing El Salvador went down. Isn't it self-defeating for the United States to cut those aid dollars? Doesn't it just end up sending more migrants, more caravans to the United States?

SECRETARY POMPEO: Jake, that's the liberal theory for sure. Let's just go back to basic reality; it's what we try and do in the Trump administration. Hundreds of millions of dollars spent in Honduras, in Guatemala, in El Salvador, and you see the results. You see the results yesterday, you saw them last week, you see people fleeing those nations. Throwing more money at this problem, which is what I think your question is suggesting, there's no reason to believe that we'd get any outcome that is different from the one that we're suffering from today.

So what the Trump administration is trying to do is saying hey, we're prepared to help. We're prepared to engage. We're prepared to support. But

you, you have to take serious efforts, whether it's in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua, and Mexico for that matter too – we need those nations to ensure that their people aren't making this dangerous transit across Mexico and coming into our country illegally. That's what we're asking these countries to do. When they begin to do that, America's support will again return.

QUESTION: Well, you can call it liberal if you want. The statistics come from your State Department, and among the individuals who support the idea of foreign aid to those countries are the last Department of Homeland Security secretary, Kirstjen Nielsen, and the current acting secretary, Kevin McAleenan. They think that that money helps keep migrants in those countries. I'm not sure that you think they're liberal.

SECRETARY POMPEO: I think that President Trump's decision makes perfect sense. We're going to get this right, Jake. We're going to stop spending hundreds of millions of dollars of U.S. taxpayer monies and ending up with the same result we've ended up for for far too long. I think the data that you described proves this point. It describes that what we were doing simply didn't work.

QUESTION: Well, the data as I saw –

SECRETARY POMPEO: Jake, you know the old saw, right?

QUESTION: Yeah.

SECRETARY POMPEO: If what you're doing doesn't work, you ought to think about another path forward. You'd agree with that, wouldn't you, Jake?

QUESTION: I would. But from what I got from Customs and border patrol folks – Border Protection folks using State Department data was money went to El Salvador, homicides went down by 50 percent, and fewer migrants were coming from El Salvador. Now, I take your point that not all the governments of the Northern Triangle countries are doing everything you want them to do, but it seems to me just based on your agency's data that you giving money to El Salvador was helping to reduce violence in that country and helping to reduce migrants coming from El Salvador to the United States.

SECRETARY POMPEO: Jake, the American taxpayers have been enormously generous to each of those three countries for an awfully long time. We're prepared to continue to do that, but we've got to see things change. We've got to see reality, real outcomes on the ground. Jake, when we see that I promise you Americans will continue to be generous, we'll continue to make sense with how we spend our dollars, and we will get good outcomes. It's not enough to spend money and have wishful thinking. President Trump understands that we need to see actual change, actual good outcomes. When we see those, when we see those nations engage in activities that reduce the outflow of migration from their nations, the American people will continue to be incredibly generous. They always have been.

QUESTION: Do you have any concerns – let's switch to the Middle East. I'm

sorry, let me identify the – your bailiwick is the world here. Let's go a little bit to the east. Do you have any concerns about the comments Israeli prime minister who – Benjamin Netanyahu, who was just reelected – made right before he was reelected vowing to annex the West Bank? Do you think that might hurt the pursuit of peace, the two-state solution proposal that Jared Kushner and others, including you, have been working so hard on?

SECRETARY POMPEO: I don't. I think that the vision that we'll lay out is going to represent a significant change from the model that's been used. Again, I talked about it in Central America, we've had a lot of ideas for 40 years; they did not deliver peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Our mission set is to put forward a vision. Ultimately, the Israelis and the Palestinian people will have to make this – resolve this for themselves.

But our idea is to put forward a vision that has ideas that are new, that are different, that are unique, that tries to reframe and reshape what's been an intractable problem that multiple administrations have grappled with, multiple administrations in Israel as well. We hope that we can get to a better place. Everyone wants this conflict resolved. We want a better life for the Israelis without this conflict, and we certainly want a better life for the people of – the Palestinian people, both in the West Bank and in Gaza.

QUESTION: All right. I'm being told that I have a deadline and I have to get off, because you have other things to do. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, we always enjoy you coming on and taking our questions. Thanks so much for your time, and safe travels.

SECRETARY POMPEO: Thank you, Jake. Thank you, sir.

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[Press Releases: Joint Statement on U.S.-Vietnam Energy Security Dialogue](#)

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC

April 12, 2019

The text of the following statement was released by the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Government of the United States on the occasion of the Energy Security Dialogue conducted in Washington, DC.

Begin text:

The Governments of the United States and Vietnam held the second annual U.S.-Vietnam Energy Security Dialogue in Washington, D.C., on April 12, 2019. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources (ENR) Francis R. Fannon and Republic of Vietnam Vice Minister of Industry and Trade (MOIT) Dang Hoang An, along with interagency representatives from both countries, reaffirmed the United States and Vietnam's commitment to deepening cooperation on energy security. This Energy Security Dialogue built on a year of intensive engagement since the inaugural 2018 U.S.-Vietnam Energy Security Dialogue.

The U.S. and Vietnam delegations emphasized the centrality of energy security to sustained economic development in light of the region's tremendous economic growth and rising energy demands. They recognized that energy security is strengthened by using all forms of energy, as well as by diversifying sources and supply routes. They noted the key role that energy infrastructure – including power generation equipment for all forms of energy – fossil and renewables – and international power interconnections – will play in diversifying Vietnam's energy supplies and enhancing Vietnam's energy security. To this end, both sides affirmed the importance of improving the transparency and predictability of Vietnam's energy sector investment climate through private sector-led development and regulatory reforms.

Assistant Secretary Fannon offered continued technical assistance to support efforts to enhance the regulatory capacity of the Electricity Regulatory Authority of Vietnam (ERAV). Specifically, ENR will support ERAV with developing: 1) a competitive power market; 2) smart grid and demand response programs; and 3) the regulatory tools necessary for competitive wholesale and retail electricity markets. ENR will continue to work closely with partners in MOIT and the Directorate for Standards, Metrology, and Quality (STOMAQ) to increase energy efficiency in the region through technical engagements, and will seek ASEAN endorsement for voluntary best practices. The two sides further recognized the urgency for improving energy efficiency, particularly given that air conditioning comprises up to fifty percent of peak electricity demand in ASEAN countries and has a significant impact on energy security.

With respect to renewable energy, Vietnam representatives discussed their pilot program for Direct Power Purchase Agreements (DPPAs) that allows U.S. corporations with 100 percent renewable energy targets to directly purchase electricity generated from renewable energy sources for their production facilities in Vietnam. In addition, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency

(USTDA) demonstrated its support for enhancing Vietnam's storage capacity by funding a joint Electricity Vietnam (EVN)-GE Power study on the use of advanced energy storage technologies to reduce power shortages in Southern Vietnam. During the Dialogue, EVN and GE power signed an agreement to carry out that study.

With respect to liquefied natural gas (LNG), both delegations highlighted the U.S.-Vietnam LNG workshop in Ho Chi Minh City in December 2018, which promoted securing stable LNG supplies for power generation and expediting investments in the LNG sector. The two sides discussed AES Corporation's proposal to invest in the Son My 2 LNG-to-power project.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) highlighted its support for cooperating with MOIT on power sector reforms, increasing Vietnam's renewable energy and storage capacity, promoting natural gas imports, and enhancing energy efficiency.

The United States and Vietnam delegations committed to continued cooperation in all of the areas discussed in the Dialogue and to review progress at the third U.S.-Vietnam Energy Security Dialogue in 2020 to be held in Vietnam.

End text.

For further information, contact Vincent Campos, Spokesperson for the Bureau of Energy Resources, at CamposVM@state.gov or visit www.state.gov/e/enr. Additional information is available on Twitter at @EnergyAtState.

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[Press Releases: Remarks on U.S. Latin American Policy](#)

Remarks

Michael R. Pompeo

Secretary of State

Casa Piedra

Vitacura, Chile
April 12, 2019

MS GUZZOTTI: Good afternoon. On behalf of the Chilean North American Chamber of Commerce, AmCham Chile, I would like to welcome you all to this important event in honor of the visit of the Secretary of State of the United States, Mr. Michael Pompeo.

A hundred years ago, a group of visionary entrepreneurs created AmCham Chile with the purpose of strengthening bilateral commercial ties, encouraging investments, free trade, and the full integration between both countries. These goals were not only valuable to the members of the chamber, but also to Chile.

The founding entrepreneurs of AmCham Chile would be proud of the results we have achieved. We are commemorating the 15th anniversary of the signing of the U.S.-Chile Free Trade Agreement, one of the most successful trade agreements for both countries. The U.S. has made over \$30 billion U.S. of investment in Chile, and the U.S. also offers ever-increasing investment opportunities for Chilean outward investment. More importantly, the presence of American companies has brought forth less visible yet impactful consequences. Significant investments in human capital, technological developments designed to enhance the quality of our daily lives, incorporation of best practices, investments in research and development, and the introduction of policies to promote diversity and inclusion have been hallmarks of American participation in the Chilean economy.

The legacy left by the partnership for development between Chile and the United States is undoubtedly a source of pride for both countries, and provides us with an immense challenge: that of having to define the next 100 years of bilateral relations. We're confident that Chile will continue to be competitive as a country and maintain key conditions that attract foreign investment – the rule of law, strong institutions, democracy, and a commitment to human rights as well as nondiscriminatory treatment of foreign investors.

Secretary of State Pompeo's visit today reflects the longstanding, broad-based ties that bind Chile and the United States. He was sworn in as the 70th secretary of state one year ago, but this is only the latest in a long line of extraordinary accomplishments. Secretary Pompeo previously served as director of the Central Intelligence Agency and as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. In the private sector, he founded Thayer Aerospace, where he served as CEO, and he was president of Sentry International. Secretary Pompeo is a graduate of the United States Military Academy and of Harvard Law School. It is my honor to welcome to the podium the Secretary of State of the United States Mr. Michael Pompeo. (Applause.)

SECRETARY POMPEO: Thank you. Thank you, Sandra, for that kind introduction. *Buenas tardes*. And it's a wonderful, warm welcome that I have received here in Chile. It's truly been overwhelming. I don't find that every place I go, so thank you.

President Pinera and Foreign Minister Ampuero, you have demonstrated again this morning that the U.S.-Chilean relationship is strong and getting even stronger today.

Today we had the opportunity to build on the meeting that President Trump had with President Pinera in the White House in this past September. And I was with President Trump right before I got on the plane to come here, and he sends his warm regards to President Pinera and all of you here in Chile.

I also want to acknowledge my counterpart foreign minister. We have become good friends. The Chilean members of congress are here; thank you. The diplomatic corps that has joined us, distinguished guest, thank you all for being here today. I want to make sure that the message that I share with you today is taken just the right way, and your presence gives me the opportunity to do that.

You all know the beauty of this place, this landscape. It is really awe-inspiring, from the Andes, the beautiful lands up north, to Easter Island, to Patagonia, and all of the wonderful, gorgeous, special places in between.

Just like the American West, it's rugged. It's clear too that Chileans are people of extraordinary talent, of extraordinary vigor and bravery, not only because they settled such terrain but because they built a true republic on that terrain.

One of the first leaders of the Chilean nation was Andres Bello, who reminds me a bit of a Chilean Thomas Jefferson. For one thing, he's on your currency,

and that's for a good reason.

He was a diplomat, a statesman, a founder of the University of Chile, and the principle author of the Chilean civil code. Today our embassy in Santiago proudly sits on Avenida Andres Bello, and that should tell us something. We're now at a moment in history where the proximity, the proximity, that connection – that connection, it resonates more than ever before and actually has boundless potential to continue to increase.

That's the subject of my remarks today.

The Trump administration believes that our two nations and the rest of the Americas have an incredible opportunity, the chance truly to cement a future of democracy, prosperity for all of the people of all of this hemisphere. It's not an impossible dream, although a few years ago we might not have believed it. Today we all can. Nor is it a forgone conclusion that it will take place. We'll have work to do. But the chance is ours collectively to seize or to squander.

Over 100 years ago, former Secretary of State Elihu Root paid a visit to Chile. At that time he saw the remarkable economic changes that were taking place in the region and he said that, "There is seen in South America the dawn of a new life which moves its people as they have never been moved before." He called it a "great awakening."

Today I am convinced there is another great awakening. It's happening right here in South America, and it's not just an economic one, although that's an important element of it.

Just look, just look at the once unthinkable changes that have taken place in Chile and other countries. Chile made the transition peacefully to a democratic nation and embraced competition, free markets, and capitalism. Chile champions transparency. Chile is a leader in the role – Chileans did all of that.

And look how it's borne fruit for your country. You've reduced poverty more than any other Latin American nation, from 36 percent in the year 2000 to less than 9 percent today.

You've diversified your economy, and the United States is grateful to have benefited from that economy diversity. Since we signed a trade agreement back in 2004, trade between our countries has nearly quadrupled.

You've done all of this under different political parties of different stripes. Our nations' respective political cycles may not always align perfectly, but the underlying relationship is rock-solid, based on a foundation much deeper than politics.

Many countries, many countries on this continent, are following Chile's example. A generation ago, many South American countries were military dictatorships.

And even after those regimes ended, many of the continent's democracies were

saddled with corrupt leadership.

Well, that's no longer the case.

A wave of democratization is sweeping the continent, and it's coupled with anti-corruption movements and a healthy dose of something no nation can live without: common sense.

Brazil's citizens said enough is enough to the corrupt ruling class. They'd seen the scandal, they'd seen how rotten their government had become, how big business colluded with politicians to the detriment of the poor and of the middle classes.

And voters in Brazil said no more. They opted, rather, for law and order and ditched the status quo in favor of action.

Peru has been fighting public corruption as one of its top priorities, too. We saw this effort come to fruition last year during the Summit of the Americas and the signing of the Lima Commitment.

Meanwhile, the Colombian miracle greatly strengthened institutions in that country. Colombians now benefit from a more independent judiciary. They've seen expansion of modernized, world-class businesses.

And next door in Ecuador, President Moreno has removed restrictions on freedom of the press and welcomed a new national dialogue.

And finally, in Argentina, Argentina has decided that old models aren't delivering. Those solutions no longer work. It's not what they're looking for.

There's a saying in English, and probably in Spanish too – I'll do it in English today – that what is popular isn't always right, but what is right isn't always popular.

President Macri is doing the hard work of trying to reform his economy.

We thank him for that. His people will be better off for it. The government there is taking difficult but important steps to build sustainable growth. It's a tough road to walk, and it's not without peril. It's also not without results. Argentina has returned to global credit markets recently for the first time in 15 years.

This is how prosperity is built; it's how democracies are strengthened – voters opting for bolder visions, countries fighting their own internal challenges, building on strong external relationships. We cannot miss how important this momentous time is.

You should know that the Trump administration is not just talking, we're acting in support of this, because this is all encouraging progress and democratic nations around the world rightfully deserve our support.

The question is how. Some leaders even as recently as a few years ago have

come here and declared their intentions.

But they were all talk and no action. We'll never do that. The Trump administration will not make that same mistake.

You can already see through the concrete steps we've taken.

President Trump, Vice President Pence, and I have all crisscrossed the region and we'll be back more.

My first step this year – first trip this year, rather, was to President Bolsonaro's inauguration in Brazil. After leaving Chile today, I'll be heading to Paraguay, the first time a secretary of state has visited Paraguay since 1965. Can any of you recall who was secretary of state then? That tells you it's been too long. And then I'll head on to Peru and to Colombia.

Less than a month ago, President Bolsonaro visited the White House. He didn't come there for just the photo op.

We signed a major technology safeguards agreement that will allow us to launch satellites from Alcantara. It was 19 years in the making. Another agreement will allow market access to American farmers in Brazil. And a third will pave the way for Brazil to become a major non-NATO ally. These are enormous steps of partnership.

Elsewhere, President Trump has praised what he called a "new day" in Latin America, and he has shown that he means it by leading the way on trade for all of us.

United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement was signed in Buenos Aires, a major signal to the region that's home to 12 of the 20 countries which the U.S. enjoys free trade agreements.

Meanwhile, the administration's America Crece program, launched in 2018, will increase trade and investment in energy and infrastructure. It's removing legal barriers and all the barriers to greater investment between our two countries.

And then there's the Caribbean. Deputy Secretary Sullivan, my deputy, is sitting today even as we speak in the Caribbean working with leaders in that part of this region.

When President Trump met with many from the same group recently, one of them remarked that it was the first time in decades, the first time in decades they'd seen a U.S. administration so engaged in the Western Hemisphere. He described the meeting as one of a much broader piece of an American initiative.

We think he had that right.

You should know that we have an important task, each of us, to cement these hemispheric ties and support good trends, because when we don't, there's always the risk that some other nation, some other purported friend will

attempt to fill the vacuum, to the fill the void.

If you've been listening recently, you have watched the Trump administration speak quite a bit about the risks that China presents.

Make no mistake, China is an important trade partner for Chile, for the United States as well. President Trump's been working hard to make sure our trade with China is fair and reciprocal. But you should know there is a problem.

The problem, though, is when China does business in places like Latin America, it often injects corrosive capital into the economic bloodstream, giving life to corruption and eroding good governance.

You saw this quite clearly here in the region at the Coca Codo Sinclair dam in the jungles of Ecuador. (Inaudible) and built by – excuse me – built by China under a previous administration, the dam was supposed to solve Ecuador's energy needs and help save the country and keep them out of poverty.

But of course we know how this story ends. The dam now runs to half capacity. The steel used to make it is full of cracks and there are accidents. Nearly every top official that was involved in the dam's construction is either imprisoned or sentenced on bribery charges.

The project included over \$19 billion in Chinese loans as collateral. China, in exchange, received 80 percent of Ecuador's oil at a discount and then resold that oil to make a profit. This does not seem like a reliable partner to me. I am confident that it does not seem like a reliable partner to you either.

It was the Ecuadorian energy minister who put it quite bluntly. He said, quote, "The strategy of China is clear. They take economic control of countries." We're glad, indeed we're thrilled, that President Moreno's administration has taken swift action to convict those responsible for doing so much harm to their own people.

The United States will always encourage Latin American partners to avoid these debt deal traps.

Also consider Venezuela. I spoke with President Pinera at length about this today. China's bankrolling of the Maduro regime helped precipitate and prolong the crisis in that country. China invested over \$60 billion – \$60 billion – with no strings attached. Well, it's no surprise that Maduro used the money to use for tasks like paying off cronies, crushing pro-democracy activists, and funding ineffective social programs. And you all know, better than anyone in America could know, the crushing, devastating results of that.

I think there's a lesson, a lesson to be learned for all of us: China and others are being hypocritical calling for non-intervention in Venezuela's affairs. Their own financial interventions have helped destroy that country.

And speaking of hypocritical advocates for non-intervention in Latin America,

you need to worry about the Russians, too. Venezuela, Latin Americans should be worried. Flying in troops and opening a training center in Venezuela are obvious provocations.

We shouldn't stand for Russia escalating an already very precarious situation in that country.

Russia, as everyone in this room knows, has longstanding ties to authoritarian leaders in Cuba and in Nicaragua. It sells arms, it propagates lies, it disseminates all types of propaganda in those countries.

In Nicaragua, Russia has opened a police training center and a satellite compound near the capital. Like China in Venezuela, the results of Russia's involvement in Nicaragua, to put it mildly, aren't good.

The citizens of Nicaragua, they're suffering. They're suffering at the hands of leadership that engages in blatant human rights abuses, stifles free speech, and refuses to admit its own extraordinary incompetence.

But the good news is, the good news for all of us, is that South American countries are pushing back against this external meddling. The Inter-American Development Bank, celebrating its 60th anniversary, canceled its meeting in Chengdu. It did this – it did this for the basic reason that China had refused to grant a visa to Venezuelan Juan Guido's official representative.

Countries like Paraguay – countries like Paraguay, meanwhile, are staffing [\[1\]](#) up for their own interests and beliefs by supporting a democratic Taiwan.

And the Lima Group countries – I cannot say enough about how they have stood up. They're seeing Russia and Cuba for what they truly are. They were opposed to China's efforts at the United Nations to protect Maduro in Venezuela.

Perhaps the best news is that all of these bold steps represent a fundamental shift – a fundamental shift in regional leadership. It's part of a trend in countries that have voluntarily stepped up to support peace, to support prosperity and freedom throughout this hemisphere.

Another great example in Chile, along with Colombia: Each of you helped launch a new regional integration forum called *Prosur*.

Free of both bureaucracy and inflexible ideology, it will facilitate cooperation in areas of infrastructure and healthcare and management of natural disasters. This is an important step for this region.

Last month, President Pinera hosted the first gathering of South American heads of state in five years. The United States commends him for taking this incredibly important step.

The United States wants to partner. It wants to partner as this region takes every major step, especially those that are particularly difficult. Together, that's what we're doing in Venezuela. A coalition, a broad coalition of now 54 nations, supports the peaceful, constitutional transition of power inside of that country.

In the days ahead, the United States and all of its Latin American partners will continue to work together to coordinate humanitarian help in places like Cucuta, Colombia, where I'll be heading in just a couple of days. You should know too that the island of Curacao has stepped up, permitted us to provide humanitarian assistance from that location as well.

And we'll convene a ministerial in Peru focused on the healthcare needs of those who have been displaced from Venezuela.

And make no mistake about it: The United States and all of these coalition partners will continue to isolate Maduro.

So far, the United States has revoked the visas of 718 of Maduro's henchmen and has issued sanctions on over 150 individuals and entities. In fact, just this morning, just today, the Treasury Department designated four additional companies along with nine more ships that operate in the Venezuelan oil sector, including some that transport oil to Cuba. And this week the Organization of American States voted to give Juan Guaido's ambassador a seat at the table. This is unheard of and this is good news.

The United States and each of its partners asked to do its part, and you should know we will continue to do our part.

To close, I want to reiterate my central message from this afternoon: On this continent, the United States is showing up as never before – reminding our friends of how much we have in common, of how much our interests align, and how much we love you.

We have entered a new era, as governments across the region are shrugging off failed socialist models, plucking out the thorns of corruption, and creating dynamic economic systems with real and true reforms that will be lasting, that will benefit your children and your grandchildren. With this new strength and with this new vigor comes robust regional leadership.

South America has truly become more clear-eyed and more wary of its pretended friends. China, Russia – they're showing up at the doorstep, but once they enter the house, we know the debt traps. They will use debt traps, they will disregard rules, and they will spread disorder in your home. Thankfully, you all, South America, is not buying it. You should know that the United States will stand behind you.

I'll bring you all back now for just a moment to what happened in this country nine years ago: The world's attention was fixed on the San Jose mining accident. All of us remember. I mentioned it to my son last night. He remembers it well. Despite being 700 meters below the Earth, the famous *treinta-y-tres* created their own miniature democracy.

It was the shift manager, the last man pulled out of the mine, who the other miners credited with help keeping order so that they could all survive. The world was amazed. The world wondered how they had all prevailed.

Luis – Luis said simply, "You just have to speak the truth and believe in democracy."

Like his countryman Andres Bello, he is a Chilean statesman of our time.

The United States looks to these examples and wants our countries' ties to continue to grow deeper. We now know it can happen and how it can happen.

Please, now is not the time to lean back into the past, but rather avoid strongmen saviors and socialist models.

No, now is the time to come together, like the miners did in San Jose.

Now is the time to move forward together for the good of us all. Thank you and may God bless you. (Applause.)

[\[1\]](#) standing up

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[Press Releases: Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo and Chilean Foreign Minister Roberto Ampuero at a Press Availability](#)

Press Availability
Michael R. Pompeo

Secretary of State

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Santiago, Chile
April 12, 2019

FOREIGN MINISTER AMPUERO: (Via interpreter) Good afternoon, everyone. This morning, Secretary of State Mr. Michael Pompeo was received by President of the Republic Mr. Sebastian Pinera. After that, we had very fruitful working sessions in the foreign ministry. We've gone over through different topics including bilateral, regional, and global topics. Firstly, I would like to say that our bilateral relationship is going through one of its greatest moments. It is reaffirmed by the visit of Secretary of State and the very ample agenda we have based on a shared view of prosperity, growth, and development in subjects of the future and present.

For Chile, the relationship with the U.S. is a priority. We are strategic partners, longstanding strategic partners. Our friendship is based on shared values, principles like democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights, and the value of freedom. These are values that Chile enforces domestically, and we are interested in that they be regionally and universally valid.

With the idea of going deep into high-level meetings, President Pinera has extended a cordial invitation to President Donald Trump for an official visit within the framework of the summit of APEC. Today, President Pinera has reiterated that invitation so as to give a step forward consolidating our bilateral relation.

Mr. Secretary of State, for Chile it's very important that a strategic partner be with us at the summit to help us promote the APEC agenda. Chile's promoting subjects like – future subjects like services and digital economy, connectivity, women, economic growth, all of those subjects. I know Chile and the United States share a common perspective and view. Along those lines, Chile has its robust commitment with free, fair, and inclusive trade as pillars for growth and development of our countries.

And I reiterate the need of having clear rules internationally in this matter. In the bilateral sphere, the United States is a key partner for Chile in different subjects. We are interested in promoting cooperation in emerging issues in areas of cyber security, climate change, the economic empowerment of women, digital revolution, technological cooperation, innovation, and entrepreneurship, among many, many topics that are part of a positive agenda with lots of potential to continue going deep in the relationship of both countries with our perspective to the future.

The United States continues to be the main investor in Chile and scientific and technological partner. It is a very important relationship we want to strengthen because it is mutually beneficial. Relations are important to produce wealth, employment, and Chile has become an interesting hub in the region through clear, stable, and non-discriminatory rules. Regionally, Chile has been recognized for developing an active role in the defense of democracy and human rights. In this area, an inevitable topic is the very deep political and humanitarian crisis of Venezuela. Here, Chile has a clear position: We condemn dictatorship, and we promote democracy according to standards of foreign policy. Chile actively seeks a peaceful way out of the crisis and the return to democracy in Venezuela through free, transparent elections, and according to international standards.

Next Monday, we will host the second ministerial meeting of the Lima Group, as we have done since its inception. We are working together with the member countries for a clear, robust statement in favor of two key elements – return to democracy in Venezuela through a peaceful outlet by Venezuelans themselves, and the attention to this humanitarian crisis suffered by that country. The United States has been a key player to reinforce diplomatic pressure. We have common views for the Venezuelans to express their true democratic will, and for that we will continue to work with the Government of the United States as well as with other friends, countries of America, and Europe so that international community may have a common approach on this.

Finally, we have informed the Secretary of State Mr. Michael Pompeo about the recent creation of forum for South American integration, *Prosur*, and how Chile, under the leadership of President Sebastian Pinera, has sought to contribute to put an end to an absence of dialogue to – of five years to a light and strong at the same time, mechanism to promote integration in matters like infrastructure, health, or prevention of natural disasters. Thank you very much.

SECRETARY POMPEO: *Buenas tardes.* Good afternoon. Thank you to President Pinera and to Foreign Minister Ampuero, my friend, for hosting me, and to the people of Chile for being such gracious hosts as well. It's the first time that I've been here to Chile as the Secretary of State. I'm only sorry that I can't spend more time enjoying your beautiful country.

I want to begin this afternoon by thanking Chile for being a true leader for the Venezuelan people. The United States is grateful for you to hosting – for your hosting of close to 290,000 Venezuelans, many of whom arrived here as refugees from Nicolas Maduro's socialist regime. Chile's efforts with the Lima Group, which you just discussed, are especially vital.

I want also to applaud President Pinera for helping isolate Maduro and for showing compassion towards innocent people fleeing the economic and humanitarian crisis in their home country.

In February, Chile contributed significant supplies to Juan Guaido's humanitarian aid coordinator and demanded that Maduro allow that aid to enter Venezuela. I'm going to meet with Venezuela's refugees and see the distribution on Sunday in Cucuta, Colombia. You all have been great, important partners, and your people have been most generous.

The United States and its allies will not quit this fight. Chile, the United States, and our 52 partners will continue to support ordinary Venezuelan people who are courageously standing up for democracy in their home country.

I also want to say a few words about Nicaragua. The United States will continue to work with likeminded partners, with countries like Chile to condemn the violence and repression perpetrated by Ortega and his regime. I want to thank Chile for its leadership role in the OAS working group as well. It's monitoring the situation in Nicaragua and is promoting a more fully-fledged democracy in that country.

Look, as for the United States and Chile and our relations, our economic ties are incredibly robust and growing. We share \$27 billion trade relationship. In January we celebrated the 15th anniversary of the United States-Chile Free Trade Agreement. The agreement's nearly quadrupled our bilateral trade since its inception. That's truly amazing.

Beyond trade, we're proud to work with Chile on helping small business owners create jobs in their local communities. Through the Small Business Network of Americas we've seen dozens of countries in the region create business incubators. Chile now has more than 50 of them. And we look forward to working with Chile to lower barriers to trade and investment in the APEC region as well. You noted that while Chile has host of the APEC Forum, we know that it will be a tremendous success in November of this year.

And I want to take a moment too to thank President Pinera for the work that he did with leading the creation of *Prosur* and get it off the ground. It's terrific to see our partners cooperating on infrastructure, development, health, energy, combating transnational crime, and managing natural disasters. We're here to help if you need us. I know you're well along your way. We should all keep in mind that this is historic, it is important, it has not always been this way, and this will benefit the lives of each of the citizens of each of those countries.

Our bilateral relationship too on military issues is very strong. Chile is an important security partner for the United States of America. That's demonstrated by our military exchanges, by joint exercises, by law enforcement cooperation, and State Department partnership programs as well. And we've recently launched the U.S.-Chile Council on Science, Technology, and Innovation, a truly unique public-private enterprise that will propel economic growth in each of our two countries.

Under the America Crece Initiative, Chile and the United States have agreed to work together also to create greater energy security for each of our people.

And finally, there's the U.S. Visa Waiver Program. Chile is the only country in Latin America participating in that program, and the number of Chileans traveling to the United States legally has more than doubled. I was reminded about the number of Americans traveling to Chile as well. We're proud of that too.

We should be proud of each of these developments between our two countries. They are tangible signs of nations that have a close relationship and how that relationship is bearing fruit to make lives for each of the citizens of our two countries better. *Gracias*.

MODERATOR: (Via interpreter) We now move on to questions. John Hudson, *Washington Post*.

QUESTION: Thank you very much. A question for both gentlemen.

For Foreign Minister Ampuero, as the stalemate over the fate of Maduro

continues, the humanitarian situation worsens, and it threatens to prompt an even graver refugee crisis. If this continues to worsen, will you consider working with the Mexicans, Europeans, and others on potentially opening a diplomatic track with Maduro?

And Secretary Pompeo, did you discuss your concerns about China's influence in Chile? China does twice the business of U.S. companies here, purchases vast amounts of exports, and has contracts with Huawei. How do you view this threat?

And just lastly, *The Guardian* reported today that you have been urging Saudi Crown Prince MBS to cut ties with Saud al-Qahtani for his alleged role in the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, yet Qahtani is still actively advising MBS. Are you satisfied with the status quo? Thanks very much.

FOREIGN MINISTER AMPUERO: (Via interpreter) Chile is – belongs to the Lima Group, has worked inside and in full agreement with all the members of the Lima Group. This group was created in order to seek a solution to the profound crisis that Venezuela is going through. The efforts of Chile are within the Lima Group.

At the same time, we – as a country we believe that we need to play a role of diplomatic bridge and thus explore all the spaces for convergence existing with other players of international politics. The important thing is that we share the central view. The objective is restoring democracy in Venezuela as soon as possible, at the shortest period possible, and that none of the actions be used by dictator Maduro to prolong his stay in power. So Chile is understood as a country that really seeks dialogue, seeks alternatives where it can have dialogue with other international politics, but always within the Lima Group.

SECRETARY POMPEO: Thank you. With respect to China, the topic was discussed, but I didn't have to bring it up. The president brought it up and the foreign minister has raised it as well. I think the Chilean Government and the United States Government both share the same concerns. They are a major trading partner for Chile; China is a major trading partner for the United States of America. We welcome that continued trade. When it's conducted on a fair, free, open, and transparent basis for the benefit of commercial enterprises, the benefit of the Chilean people or the American people, we encourage that trade.

But make no mistake about it: China's trade activities often are deeply connected to their national security mission, their technological goals, their desire to steal intellectual property, to have forced technology transfer, to engage in activity that is not economic. And one of the things we talked about is how we could share information together so that we would know which was which, so that each country could protect its own citizens, so that each country could stay away from occasions where China was acting in malign or nefarious ways while still understanding that trade between our countries is important. It certainly benefits each of our countries. We want the Chinese people to have better lives too. Fair, free open trade is fine. It is not okay to engage in predatory lending practices. It is not okay to

engage in transactions which are corrupt. It is not okay to put technology systems in with latent capability to take information from citizens of Chile or any other country and transfer it back to President Xi's government. Those are the conversations that we had today, and I am confident we have a full understanding of both the risks and the opportunities associated with China.

Your last question was about Saud al-Qahtani. We – yesterday or this week earlier we put sanctions on Saud al-Qahtani. That's all I'll say.

MODERATOR: (In Spanish.)

QUESTION: (Via interpreter) Tomas Celedon. Hello, minister. We are Radio Bio Bio. I wanted to ask you about the trip of President Pinera to the China. For example, is there a possible visit to the Huawei company? Is the president, President Pinera, going to visit that company?

And what is Chile's position about a peaceful way out to the Venezuelan situation?

FOREIGN MINISTER AMPUERO: As you know, Chile's position vis-a-vis the profound crisis and tragedy of Venezuela is that the solution is to be a political solution, a constitutional solution, and a peaceful one. That is Chile's position. We have raised it, reiterated, and also it is – we have stated this within the Lima Group. It is a principle and – shared by all the members of the Lima Group.

As to the visit of President Pinera to China, I must say that China is our main trade partner. It is – insofar as investments, it's only 0.26 percent of foreign investments in Chile. It's marginal. And the United States is our main investor. We have a strategic relationship with the United States. We have a longstanding friendship with the United States. And what's important and I must highlight is that Chile, with a pragmatic policy insofar as foreign trade and seeks new markets, new free trade agreements, yes, but at the same time we clearly know that we belong to a community that shares values, values of democracy promotion and defense; advocacy of democracy, of human rights, individual freedoms, and free trade.

MODERATOR: Thank you very much for your attendance.

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Press Releases: The United States Takes Action To End Cuba's Malign Influence on Venezuela

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
April 12, 2019

Today, the United States sanctioned four companies for operating in the oil sector of the Venezuelan economy and identified nine vessels as blocked property, pursuant to Executive Order 13850. These actions are a follow-on to the designations announced on April 5, which targeted entities and vessels known to be involved in the transportation of crude oil from Venezuela to Cuba.

Venezuela's ongoing democratic transition is being impeded by malign actors that continue to prop up the former Maduro regime. Venezuelans lack access to basic necessities, such as water, electricity and adequate health care, while Maduro and his cronies continue to enrich themselves and strip Venezuela of its natural assets.

These actions seek to hinder the regime's further theft and the predatory influence of Cuba, which takes Venezuela's oil and pays the regime with security and intelligence forces to keep Nicolas Maduro in power.

The United States will continue to do all we can to stand up against Cuba's support for the former Maduro regime and its hostility to the Venezuelan people's aspiration to a peaceful, prosperous, democratic future. Cuba's intervention only seeks to delay the inevitable—the peaceful transition back to freedom and democracy that is underway in Venezuela, led by the Venezuelan people, Interim President Juan Guaido, and the National Assembly.

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