



Michelle Bachelet Jeria

Minister of National Defense
of Chile

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Bachelet Jeria". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned below the printed name and title.

Prologue by the Minister of National Defense

The publication of a National Defense Book five years after a similar text appeared for the first time in Chile, is the Chilean State's response to the commitment it made at that time. At the core of this formal commitment lies the Government's political will to evaluate the international scene and ascertain which situations have remained unchanged and which have changed, to register the international commitments in Defense issues which the country may have made during this time, and to examine their contents accordingly.

It also reflects the will of the Government to endow Defense issues with a transparency that allows Chilean citizens and the community of nations to evaluate the actions of the Chilean State in this sphere in accordance with the intentions, objectives and capabilities we have publicly stated.

With respect to our society, the text strives to provide Chileans with a greater knowledge and understanding of the tasks performed by Defense. It aims at demonstrating that issues concerning this sector are not alien to our everyday life and it attempts to be another way through which citizens can give their support to the National Defense Policy and to the men and women who make up the different institutions in this sector. For these Chileans in particular, both military and civilians, this book constitutes a working tool and a set of general guidelines for the activities they must perform.

In addition to these objectives, the Book reflects Chile's commitment to transparency towards the international community. This statement of intentions, objectives and capabilities toward other countries, helps to generate a new trust from inside and to open new doors for strategic cooperation. The publication of a Defense Book also provides the community of nations with the possibility of requiring fulfillment of declared intentions and of observing declared capabilities. In other words, it has in its hands a tool for measuring the responsibility with which a country acts on the world scene and for verifying its compli-

ance with international commitments.

This new Book of National Defense also expresses the Government's will that the broad opportunity for dialogue and work between the representatives of the State, including the Armed Forces, and other academic, political and economic actors related to or relevant to Defense issues is kept active. All of these agencies contributed their thoughts on various matters concerning our Defense to the preparation of this text.

It was certainly an exercise in integrating legitimately different perspectives: those of the military itself (land, sea, air and combined forces) and those of academic, political and technical sources from other sectors of the State and society. And this interaction took place within the framework of the political guidelines set by the President of the Republic for the Defense sector within the Constitutional legal system.

An effort of such magnitude is essential for getting the citizenry to take part in formulating a public policy, but also for the renewal of ideas, concepts and approaches. This task required an effort to organize the discussion and the resulting documentation and then to prepare successive drafts before this final text could be made available to the reader.

In summary, transparency, trustfulness and participation were, in my opinion, three important reasons that are more than a formal commitment, that propelled the Government to make the effort to publish a new version of the Book of National Defense.

The Book of the National Defense 2002

Because the 1997 text was the first of its kind, it was mainly directed towards providing an explicit definition of National Defense of a more ideological nature and towards determining its basic concepts in a common language, which largely determined the structure of the debates that took place in Chile during these last five years. In this new Book we have wanted to include the programmatic dimension of Defense. Although this edition maintains the essential ideological aspects, we believe the new text provides a clearer, more complete and more systemat-

ic product. It is truly a Book of public policy. In broad outlines, the Book of National Defense describes Chile's Defense Policy.

Complementarily, the Book takes a dynamic approach to tackling the different areas of Defense. While concepts were once approached from the point of view of how they fit into a theory, now they are treated within the framework of analysis. Where the elements of a structure were once described in statistics, they are now described dynamically in terms of how they work within that structure. Therefore, in this book the emphasis is on describing processes rather than on explaining paradigms and organizational charts.

This Book also attempts to use a more current language in the analyses it includes and in the concept references it makes. We believe that by updating the language used in discussing Defense issues that may seem to be part of outdated conceptual frameworks, they will be treated in a modern fashion, that coincides with the language used in international circles as well as in other sectors of the same Chilean State.

In terms of its contents, the new Book addresses the changes taking place on the international stage, to which our Defense Policy must respond. Chile's international commitments in security matters have been updated and the book delineates the progress made on these issues. This is particularly true with regard to participation in Peace-Keeping Operations, reporting the evolution of definitions made by the Chilean State in this respect during the last five years; to the demining obligations incurred through the signing and ratification of the Ottawa Convention; and to the standardization with other countries of the methodology for measuring defense spending. The 2002 Book also deals with the modernization process of the Armed Forces, of the Compulsory Military Service, of the Ministry of Defense itself and of the economic management and Defense resource allocation institutions. Furthermore, it addresses matters which are being currently applied or developed in the field of Defense by countries with a greater development in this area, as with the case of joint military operations and its corresponding principles.

Contrary to the conventional image that exists in some sectors of society, Defense is a field of dynamic, continuing public activity. Together with elements of continuity there are also components of change. Several of the subjects covered in this text were in the process of change as the Book went to print; and there are also some issues still needing elaboration or reflection. It is the goal of the Ministry of Defense, as these issues come up for discussion at national and international levels, to update this book with specific annexes or through separate documents.

The Defense Agenda

Certainly, this edition of the Book marks a step forward in the fulfillment of the Government's Defense Agenda. This agenda has been designed around three large, interdependent areas: updating of the contexts in which the National Defense has been molded, modernization of the Defense sector, and development of the Defense international insertion.

Part of the first of these areas is precisely the text I am now presenting to my fellow citizens and to the international community. Since Chile published the 1997 Book, debate on the generation of Defense policies within the framework of democratic regimes, and its expression in Books of Defense, has been expanding throughout the continent. Several countries have already published documents of this kind, while others are at different stages of the process. The subject has also been incorporated in the agenda of the Hemisphere Security Commission of the Organization of American States (OAS), which has continually moved this initiative forward. It is my hope that this new version of the Chilean Book will serve as an incentive to the region's efforts to continue consolidating such processes, which find in this type of document a concrete measure of the trust that all American countries are pledged to promote.

The second challenge is to continue the processes of modernizing the different institutions that comprise the National Defense, already mentioned in this Book, including institutionalizing the progress made in civilian-military relations as a result of the general effort to modernize the Chilean State.

Lastly, our Agenda includes a strong thrust toward international cooperation in security and Defense issues, in accordance with the Foreign Policy objectives of the country. We face security problems that are becoming increasingly global, and therefore common, but we also have different responses that must be harmonized with the common objective of cooperating to maintain peaceful and safe international conditions so as to be able to work for the well being of the people, including ours.

One of the main expressions of this effort is the commitment to support actions undertaken by the United Nations Organization, specifically, through participation in Peace Operations carried out under its mandate. Chile decidedly adheres to this particular commitment, which is why it has been gradually increasing its collaboration with the UN in this matter. For identical reasons we have moved forward in emphasizing the humanitarian dimension of international security issues, by fulfilling the commitments we made through the Ottawa Convention concerning the banning of Anti-Personnel Mines within the given methods and timings.

With respect to the continental situation, Chile is aware that a flexible architecture of security is emerging in the region, formed by old collective security institutions and new cooperative regimes. This new architecture has provided the American region with a growing level of stability and governance within the sphere of security and Defense, in order to face both traditional threats and threats that have emerged as a result of the globalization process.

In addition to fostering confidence building measures and developing combined exercises and actions with the Armed Forces of the region, we have encouraged other countries of the continent to adopt the Common Standardized Methodology for Measuring Defense Spending, which we established in 2001 in full agreement with Argentina. In this sense, our new Book of National Defense confirms the consolidation attained during the five years covered by the text, through the strategic association process we have promoted with Argentina, as well as through the improvement of cooperation with Peru on the basis of developing mutual trust and transparency.

I would like to conclude by thanking the political authorities of the defense sector in office during the time the Book of National Defense 2002 was being prepared. I especially wish to thank my predecessor, Minister Mario Fernández Baeza, who initiated the project and directed it during the first phases of its preparation. During the entire time of preparation of this book, the Undersecretaries of the Ministry of National Defense effectively supported both him and me. I would like to mention in particular, the Undersecretary of War, Gabriel Gaspar Tapia, who headed the work involved in preparing the Book. I would also like to thank the military authorities, especially the Chief and Vice Chief of the National Defense General Staff during that period, for the outstanding role they played in this initiative. I conclude by thanking and congratulating all the teams that worked in formulating and executing this ministry project, and in the drafting, design and printing of the final text.