



Summary of the Annual Meeting

Coral Gables, 2004

We convened on Friday, February 6 with a session entitled “Challenges and Opportunities in the Triangular Relationship” focusing on the interest of Spain and the U.S. in Latin America. Moderated by Andres Oppenheimer of the Miami Herald. The panel included Don Terry of the IADB, Luis Carlos Villegas of Andi, Victor Jose Agnelli of Lucent, Juan Maria Nin of Banco Sabadell and Joseph Grandmaison of the US Export Import Bank. The panel engaged in a brisk discussion about the nature of U.S. and Spanish investment in Latin America and the importance of investment to promote economic growth and political stability. It was noted that Congressional action on the FTAA was not likely this year in light of the short working session and the pending elections.

At lunch, held outside on the beautiful grounds of the Biltmore, Tom Donohue, President of the United States Chamber of Commerce spoke about “Transatlantic Business Relations”. In the afternoon, we had an excellent session on The Future of the U.S.-Spain Relationship moderated by Richard Gardner featuring remarks by Ana Palacio, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain, and Senator Joseph Biden, ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. This led to a very lively discussion and was followed by commentary by United States Ambassador George Argyros and Spanish Ambassador Javier Ruperez.

Later in the afternoon, the conference focused on Iraq with a session “Rebuilding Iraq: International Competition or Cooperation?” moderated by Antonio Garrigues and including panelists Frederick Barton from CSIS, Theodore Catino of The Morganti Group, Maria José Lanchares, Expansion Exterior Secretary General, Tony Wayne, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic & Business Bureau. The panel focused on the rebuilding efforts in Iraq from a practical point of view, with comments on the planning process, the practical side of bidding for and executing contracts for reconstruction, and the importance of cooperation.

In the evening, we heard from Juan Enriquez Cabot, formerly of the Harvard Business School and author of “As the Future Catches You” who spoke about the rapid evolution of technology and its impact on society.

On Saturday, Alan Becker of Becker & Poliakoff moderated a panel on “The War on Terrorism” which included Chris Arcos, Director of International Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, Donna Shalala, President of the University of Miami, Ambassador Javier Ruperez and Peter Quinter with the law firm of Becker & Poliakoff and a former US Customs official. The panel focused on how new legislation affects tourism, education and the importation of products.

At lunch, we were hosted by Royal Caribbean Cruises on board the Navigator of the Seas and heard a session on the “2004 Elections: United States and Spain” moderated by Nicolas Checa of Kissinger McLarty with remarks from Senator Bob Graham, Alberto Cardenas former

Chairman of the Republican Party of Florida, Narcis Serra, President of CIDOB and Emilio Lamo de Espinosa of Real Instituto Elcano.

On Sunday, the US-Spain Council held its annual Board of Directors meeting. Chairman Dodd welcomed the new members to the Council: the law firm of Piper Rudnick represented by Lloyd Hand, Davis Polk & Wardwell represented by Nicholas Kronfeld, Savoy Capital represented by Frank Lorenzo and Raytheon represented by John Miller. We also welcomed back Robert Moore who has rejoined the Council. The Board reviewed the successful Young Leaders Program held in January 2004, reelected Council Officers for the new year and discussed the timing and location of the 2005 Forum.

The US Spain Council Board meeting was followed by the Joint Board meeting with our counterpart, the Consejo Espana-Estado Unidos. The joint Board meeting discussed the Young Leaders Program and the Young Hispanic Leaders Program, an initiative of the Consejo. We discussed corporate sponsorship of the Young Leaders Program. The Consejo discussed the next Forum, which will be the tenth anniversary of the Consejo and Council. Seville was suggested as the possible location.

The members of the Joint Board then received a presentation of the biography of one of its esteemed members, Sr. D. José Lladró.