The publication of a book always involves debts of various kinds. One of the pleasures in writing or editing books is that the author or editor gets the opportunity to thank publicly some of those who have been of help along the way. In this case, we want to give credit to those whose special efforts were critical in putting together the conference that led to this volume. Principal among them were our Chilean colleagues who, from their perch in Santiago, saw that Chile was in great danger of disappearing from Washington's field of view.

In FLACSO-Chile, those working at the International Relations Study Area—especially Carlos Portales, now Deputy Minister of Foreign Relations for Political Affairs—were crucial to organizing and carrying out this event.

The conference was held at the Wilson Center in December 1989. It was both an academic exercise, including serious efforts to analyze the transition to democracy in Chile, and a political event of major significance. The Chilean group that participated constituted a significant conciertación, a pulling together of political groups that had been at loggerheads for years, in a joint effort to achieve the smoothest possible transition to democracy. This book is a collection of the papers presented at that conference. And, although the editors have made an effort to update the text through careful editing and some notes, the papers themselves appear as presented at that time.

In the Latin American Program, Andrew I. Rudman, program associate, and Lucy Hetrick, program assistant, were indispensable to the success of the conference and to the lengthy, sometimes tortuous process of converting the conference papers into this book. Leah Florence edited the transcripts of the discussion to extract the pearls of wisdom found there.
The Latin American Program and FLACSO also wish to thank the Ford and Mellon foundations for their generous support that made the entire project possible. We hope that they will consider this product worthy of their generosity.

Joseph S. Tulchin
Augusto Varas