Preface

This book is the result of research carried out jointly on a subject of great academic and political relevance: bilateral relations between the United States and Chile. The past and current importance of the United States in Chilean foreign affairs is unquestionable, a situation that is expected to remain unchanged in future years. In recognition of this fact, we have deemed it necessary to analyze carefully the evolution of this relationship throughout its history, in order to understand the fluctuations that have occurred and to make it easier to propose future alternatives. Systematic academic studies on contemporary Chile–U.S. relations are noticeably scarce, and we hope that this book will stimulate further discussion on this crucial area of Chile's foreign affairs.

Our work has been done as part of the activities of the Foreign Affairs Section of the Latin American School of Social Sciences (FLACSO–Chile) and the Program on Latin American Foreign Policies (PROSPEL) of the Academy of Christian Humanism. Both projects have received financial support from the Ford Foundation.

In the course of this research, we have benefitted from valuable comments on the part of numerous colleagues. We wish to express our appreciation especially to José Miguel Barros, Augusto Varas, Alicia Frohmann, Sol Serrano, José Garrido, and José Antonio Cousino. Their opinions on previous drafts are reflected in this book and allowed us to improve specific aspects of the text. We also wish to mention the assistance, provided in the course of numerous conversations in Santiago and in Washington, D.C., of several politicians and diplomats from both Chile and the United States. Nevertheless, the authors are solely responsible for the opinions expressed herein.

We cannot neglect to mention the support given us in gathering
the information by Isaac Caro, María Eliana Castillo, Daniel Asenjo, and, quite especially, Enrique Hermosilla. The typing of the different versions was done by Cristina de los Ríos and Alejandra Cea.

Last, we wish to express our recognition of the interest and professional encouragement displayed by Florida International University in translating the Spanish version of the book into English to make possible its publication in the United States by Lynne Rienner Publishers. The updated English-language edition includes a brief final chapter that covers U.S.-Chilean relations during the critical period in Chilean political life between the national plebiscite in October 1988 and the democratic election of Patricio Aylwin to the presidency of Chile in December 1989.

Heraldo Muñoz
Carlos Portales
Elusive Friendship