



# NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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*Neo Winnunzama  
was delegated*

November 22, 1989

Mr. Thabo Mbeki  
International Secretary  
African National Congress  
Lusaka, Zambia

Dear Mr. Mbeki:

As we discussed when you visited NDI, I am inviting you to participate in an international delegation that will observe the December 14 presidential and congressional elections in Chile. These elections will mark the first competitive national elections since the 1973 military coup.

Last year, NDI organized a 55-member international delegation that observed the historic October 1988 presidential plebiscite in Chile. The delegation was led by former Spanish President Adolfo Suarez, who noted that: "the role of the international observers influenced very positively the fairness of the plebiscite and the electoral process."

President Suarez, who played such a critical role in Spain's transition to democracy, will again lead the NDI international observer delegation for the upcoming elections. The delegation also will include political leaders and civic activists from countries that are undergoing or have recently undergone democratic transitions. Thus, in addition to observing the elections, the delegation will attempt to learn from the successful Chilean experiences. These include coalition building, election monitoring, civic education and grass roots organizing.

The delegation will be in Chile from Monday, December 11 through Sunday, December 17. Prior to the elections, there will be briefings in Santiago, by Chilean electoral officials, political leaders, and representatives of civic organizations. To obtain a national perspective on the election process, the delegation will divide into teams that will visit Chile's different regions on election day. The teams will reassemble in Santiago on Friday, December 15, for a debriefing and press conference. Finally, on Saturday, December 16, there will be a roundtable discussion that will focus on the use of elections to promote democratic transitions.

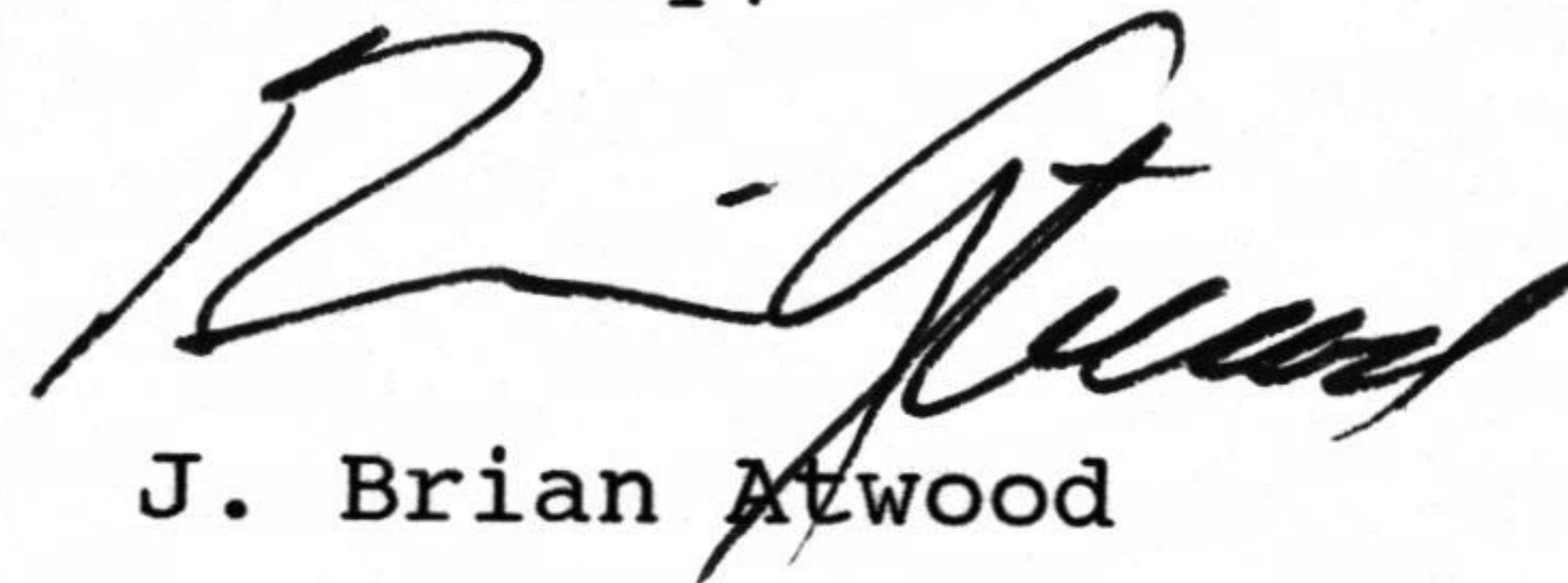


Please let the NDI office know as soon as possible, but no later than November 27, whether you will be able to join us in what promises to be an exciting and rewarding experience. You can contact NDI Director for Latin America and the Caribbean Martin Edwin Andersen or NDI Program Officer Peter Silverman, by telephone (202)328-3136, FAX (202)328-3144 or express letter.

The NDI office will cover all expenses associated with your participation, including airfare and in-country expenses. Please review carefully the attached memorandum regarding your flight arrangements. Once your participation is confirmed, NDI will send you briefing materials and other logistical information concerning the program.

I hope that you will be able to participate in this historic event.

Sincerely,



J. Brian Atwood