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President Patricio Aylwin  
President of Chile  
Palacio de la Moneda  
Santiago, CHILE

March 23, 1992

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Dear President Patricio Aylwin, back in August  
I write to congratulate you for your bold move  
to propose that the Quinquen Valley be turned into a  
national park. It is great that political authorities  
are starting to recognize the rights of native peoples  
to land and culture. I would encourage you, on  
behalf of the Pehuenche, to continue to press your  
Congress, for this important legislation.

Also, I would encourage you to do what you  
can to help the Pehuenche that live in the river basin  
of the Bio-Bio. I understand that "three of the six  
proposed dams would irreversibly destroy over 1/2 of the  
Pehuenche territory" and that this will "do away with  
almost all of the subsistence agriculture practiced in  
the region." It seems to me that the social and  
ecological costs here might outweigh potential benefits.

Respectfully yours,

Thomas J. Nerger