

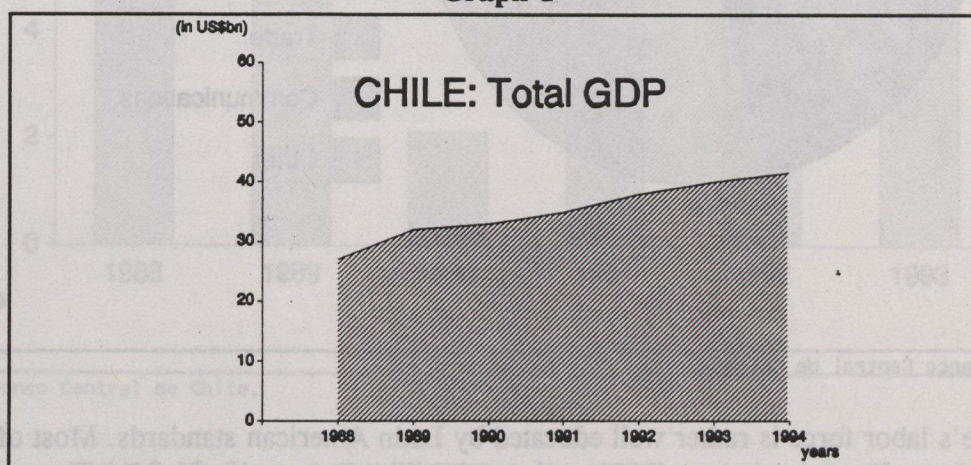
## CHAPTER I

## CHILE: SOME GENERAL INFORMATION

## I. THE ECONOMY:

1. Chile is located in the South-western tip of Southamerica and borders with Perú on the North; Bolivia and Argentina on the East; South with the South Pole and West with the Pacific Ocean.
2. Chile covers a continental area of 756,626 square kilometers and over 2,000,000 square kilometers if islands and the Antarctic territory are included. Santiago, the capital city, is located in the Metropolitan Region while the rest of the country is divided into 12 Regions. According to the 1992 National Census, Chile's population borders 13,300.000 people, with nearly 40% of it concentrated in Santiago. The VIIIth (Bio-Bio) Region and the Vth (Valparaiso) Region concentrate another 24.0% of the total population.

Graph 1



Source: Banco Central de Chile.

3. Total GDP will have expanded from US\$ 27 billion in 1988 to around US\$40 billion by 1993. As a result, per capita income was expected to reach US\$3,000 by the end of that year (See Graphic 1). Gross fixed capital formation grew steadily from 16.7% of GDP in 1988 to almost 20% during 1992.
4. Some key social indicators for the year 1990 were: a population growth rate of 17 per 1000 inhabitants, infant death rate at 16.0 per thousand inhabitants and life expectancy at birth of 72 years. According to the 1992 Census, the illiteracy rate for those 15 years old and over was only 8.9%, down from 11% in the 1970 Census. Students enrolled in Primary school amounted to 2,002,957 (98% of the corresponding age group), those in Secondary School to 699,455, in Scientific-Humanistic Secondary Schools to 436,893 and in Technical-Professional Secondary Schools to 262,563 in 1991.