

Office of the Governor

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor
Wendi Patella
609-777-2600

RELEASE: January 28, 1999

GOVERNOR DEPARTS FOR ECONOMIC FORUM IN SWITZERLAND, WILL MEET WITH CEO'S AND WORLD LEADERS

Gov. Christie Whitman will depart tonight for Davos, Switzerland where she will attend the World Economic Forum's annual meeting and take part in policy discussions on the development of economic regions and the world economy. Immediately following the forum, the Governor will visit with New Jersey troops stationed at the NATO base in Stuttgart, Germany.

During the conference, the Governor will deliver remarks during a panel discussion on "Making Sense of the New Political Landscape in the United States." This is the second year in a row that Gov. Whitman has been invited to attend the prestigious international event.

"The World Economic Forum is an opportunity to promote New Jersey before international business and political leaders," Gov. Whitman said. "It is a chance to build on prospects for development and expansion in the Garden State and to develop New Jersey's vital international trade relationships."

Gov. Whitman is one of only three United States governors to be invited to this year's conference. Gov. George W. Bush of Texas and Gov. Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania has also been invited to attend.

International trade plays a crucial role in New Jersey's economy. New Jersey ranks fifth among states in the United States for foreign direct investment. The Garden State is ninth in exports among states. In 1998, it is estimated that New Jersey firms exported almost \$22 billion worth of products abroad. More than 600,000 New Jerseyans -- nearly 16 percent of the workforce -- are employed through export production and foreign investments.

During the conference, the Governor is scheduled to meet with world leaders including Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Alexander Downer; Jose Miguel, Minister of Foreign Relations for Chile; Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, Mayor of Mexico City; Dr. Herminio Blanco, Mexican Secretary of Commerce and Industrial Development; Sir Leon Brittan, Vice President European Commission Brussels; and Fernando de la Rúa, Governor, City of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The Governor will meet with conference participants including James Harmon, Chief Executive Officer, Export-Import Bank of the United States; Dr. Heinrich von Pierer, President and CEO, Siemens AG; David Bell, Chairman, Financial Times; Hans-Ulrich Schroder, president and CEO, Ascom President and CEO; and Daniel Vasella, President, Novartis International AG.

The World Economic Forum is a Swiss not-for-profit and non-partisan foundation that promotes interaction among leaders from government, business, academia and the arts with the objective of improving the state of the world.

Conference attendees also are expected to include more than 800 chief executives, some 200 government leaders and high ranking government officials

Gov. Whitman will be accompanied by Commerce Commissioner Gil Medina during the conference, which is closed to the press.

Governor's Itinerary World Economic Forum, Davos Switzerland

Friday, January 29, 1999

11:45 a.m. Participate in panel on "Making Sense of the New Political Landscape in the United States"

3:30 p.m. Meet with James Harmon, Chief Executive, Export- Import Bank of the United States

5:30 p.m. Meet with Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Alexander Downer

7:00 p.m. Attend private dinner hosted by President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland

8:00 p.m. ATTEND Working Session for members of IGWEL

Saturday, January 30, 1999

9:00 a.m. Meet with Jose Miguel, Minister of Foreign Relations for Chile

9:45 a.m. Meet with Dr. Heinrich von Pierer, President and CEO, Siemens AG

10:30 a.m. Meet with Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, Mayor of Mexico City

11:30 a.m. Meet with Dr. Herminio Blanco, Secretary of Commerce and Industrial Development, Republic of Mexico

12:30 p.m. MEET with Sir Leon Brittan, Vice President European Commission Brussels

1:00 p.m. PARTICIPATE in lunch meeting for members of IGWEL

7:30 p.m. ATTEND Working Session focusing on North America

Sunday, January 31, 1999

8:45 a.m. PARTICIPATE in Discussion With Members of IGWEL

3:30 MEET with David Bell, Chairman, Financial Times

p.m.

4:30 p.m. MEET with Ascom President and CEO Hans-Ulrich Schroder

6:30 p.m. ATTEND Dinner hosted by Charles Holliday Jr., Chairman and CEO of DuPont

Monday, February 1, 1999

8:30 a.m. MEET with Daniel Vasella, President, Novartis International AG

9:30 a.m. MEET with Fernando de la Rúa, Governor, City of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Depart Davos, Switzerland