

Author A.C. Frieden Investigates Uruguayan Politics

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (Feb. 10, 2009) – Author A.C. Frieden traveled to Uruguay to continue researching for his upcoming novel set in Latin America. As in his prior visit to Uruguay in early 2008 and to other destinations in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela, Frieden interviewed key political figures and investigated sites relating to his story. This research trip took him to the capital, Montevideo, and to the trendy resort town of Punta del Este. “In this tense election year, Uruguay may be on the verge of a significant political change,” Frieden said, “which will say a lot about the sustainability of leftist movements throughout Latin America, all of which ties into subplots and political context of my upcoming thriller.”



Above: A.C. Frieden at the *Palacio Legislativo* in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Uruguay has a mixed history of dictatorship and democracy, coupled with frequent overt and covert foreign intervention,” Frieden added. “This makes this country a good example of the paradox encountered in my novel, the manuscript of which is now more than half completed.”

During his visit, Frieden met with **Senator Francisco Gallinal** of the National Party (aka, the *Blancos*) at the senator’s offices in the *Palacio Legislativo* (the parliament) in Montevideo. With his legal background, Senator Gallinal has been instrumental in recent legislative developments, particularly with reforms in health care, education and telecommunications. He has served in the Senate since his election in 2000 and has become a vital ally of **Dr. Luis Lacalle**, the National Party’s leading presidential candidate for the October 2009 elections.



Above: A.C. Frieden with Senator Francisco Gallinal in the *Palacio Legislativo*.

Frieden also spent over two hours with one of Uruguay's top journalists, **Alfonso Lessa**, currently the chief journalism editor of *Teledoce* (Channel 12), the nation's leading television station, where he also hosts the popular weekly current events program *Telemundo*. Mr. Lessa's career includes being editor at the country's top-selling daily, *El Pais*, and writing several books relating to Uruguay's dictatorship period and the country's politics since the restoration of democracy.



Above: A.C. Frieden with Alfonso Lessa at Montevideo's Channel 12 television station.

Frieden and Lessa discussed a number of politically important topics relating to Uruguay in particular, and South America in general. Of special interest to Frieden were Lessa's perspectives on reconciliation with Uruguay's past dictatorship and the terrorist group *Tupamaros*. "The press is often a fragile pillar of democracy," Frieden said after the interview. "So it's very interesting to hear first hand about the changing roles of the press during and after Uruguay's dictatorship."

Frieden also interviewed **Dr. Augusto Durán Martínez**, a law professor and legal advisor (*Prosecretaría de Presidencia*) to former Uruguayan President Luis Lacalle (now running in the 2009 elections). Dr. Durán Martínez has extensive experience in international law, human rights and constitutional law. Frieden and Martínez met in Punta del Este for a lengthy discussion about Uruguay's political problems and issues facing the continent as a whole, among them complex matters relating to MERCOSUR, the OAS and relations with Argentina and Venezuela.

During his short stay in Uruguay, Frieden also interviewed **Dr. Alphonse Max Emanuiloff**, one of Uruguay's most experienced journalists and political observers. With his background as editor of the daily *Ultimas Noticias* and other publications, and with his insights into the turbulent years of the dictatorship, Dr. Emanuiloff shared his candid views on the Uruguay's historical left-right political struggles and the failures of the current governing leftist coalition, the *Frente Amplio*. He has authored numerous books on politics and international relations since receiving his doctorate in political science in the U.K., after which he moved to Uruguay and served as a foreign correspondent for various publications in South America, the U.S., Africa and Australia.



Above: A.C. Frieden at Casapueblo, an architectural landmark hotel in Punta del Este, Uruguay.

About the author: A.C. Frieden is a Swiss-Brazilian mystery novelist and lawyer living in Chicago. He is currently working on two political novels, including one set in Latin America. For more information, visit his website at www.acfrieden.com and his literary travel blog.

All images © 2009 by A.C. Frieden and/or Avendia Publishing. All rights reserved.

Avendia Publishing Inc.
Attn: Media Relations Dept.
444 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1200
Chicago, IL 60611
Email: media@avendiapublishing.com