

Proletarians of all countries, unite!

THE SPEECH FROM THE CAGE

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This historic speech was delivered by Comrade Gonzalo from inside a cage in the naval base of Callao, on an island outside of Lima, dressed in a black-and-white prisoner's suit. The fascist Peruvian government had attempted to humiliate him in front of the world press after his arrest on 12.09.1992. Instead, he delivered this speech, which became a true combat weapon in the struggle of the Communist Party of Peru against the 2nd Right-opportunist line, which emerged in 1993 and opposed the continuation of the people's war. In his speech from the cage, Comrade Gonzalo called on the Party to continue the people's war, to adhere to the decisions of the 3rd Plenary Session of the 1st Central Committee of the Party, synthesized the decisions of that plenary session and proposed the transformation of the Peruvian People's Guerrilla Army into the Peruvian People's Liberation Army and of the Revolutionary Front in Defense of the People into the People's Liberation Front. He moreover directed the international communist movement to take up marxism-leninism-maoism to found, refound or strengthen the Communist Parties of every country and initiate, reinitiate or develop armed struggle in the face of the threat of an imperialist 3rd World War, so as to create a new great wave of the proletarian world revolution. By doing this, Comrade Gonzalo completely destroyed any doubt one could have that he had «capitulated» after his arrest, as the Peruvian State would claim a year later. The speech from the cage was almost immediately published as an official document of the Lima Base of the Communist Party of Peru in October 1992, under the title «Chairman Gonzalo's Speech Shines Victoriously and Powerfully Before the World!». It was then reproduced by the Peru People's Movement abroad and became a weapon in the two-line struggle abroad. Later, it was republished as «Chairman Gonzalo's Speech Shines Victoriously and Powerfully Before the World as a Combat Weapon!».

THE SPEECH FROM THE CAGE

Comrades of the Communist Party of Peru!

Fighters of the People's Guerrilla Army!

Peruvian People!

We are living historic moments, each of us knows that this is the case, let us not fool ourselves. In these moments we must strengthen all forces to confront difficulties and continue carrying out our tasks. And we must conquer the goals! The successes! The victory! That is what is to be done.

We are here as children of the people and we are fighting in these trenches, they are also trenches of combat, and we do it because we are communists! Because here we are defending the interests of the people, the principles of the Party, and the people's war. That is what we do, we are doing it and will continue to do so!

We are here in these circumstances. Some think this is a great defeat. They are dreaming! We tell them to keep on dreaming. It is simply a bend, nothing more, a bend in the road! The road is long and we shall arrive. We shall triumph! You shall see it! You shall see it!

We should continue the tasks established by the 3rd Plenary Session of the Central Committee. A glorious plenary session! You should know that these accords are already being implemented and that will continue. We shall continue applying the 4th Strategic Development Plan of the People's War to Conquer Power, we shall continue developing the 6th Military Plan to Build the Conquest of Power, that will continue; that is a task! We shall carry it out because of what we are and because of the obligation we have with the proletariat and the people!

We clearly say that today the democratic road has begun to develop as a road of liberation, as a road of people's liberation! That is the circumstance in which we are unfolding. We should think with a great sense of history, we must stop closing our eyes. Let us look at reality, let us look at the history of Peru. Let us look at the last three centuries of Peru. We should think about it. Look at the 18th century, look at the 19th century, look at the 20th century and understand them! Those who don't understand them are going to be blind and the blind don't serve the country, they don't serve Peru!

We believe that the 18th century was a very clear lesson. Think about this. There was a dominator. It was Spain and where did that bloodsucking domination bring us? To a very profound crisis, as a consequence of which Peru was divided. From there come the origins of today's Bolivia. It is not our invention but facts.

Fine, the last century, English domination. Where did their rivalry with France take us? To another big crisis: the 1870s. The result? War with Chile. We must not forget it! And what happened? We lost territory. Our nation suffered a schism despite the blood shed by heroes and the people. We must learn from this!

The 20th century. How are we doing? In the 20th century we are dominated by imperialism, mainly North American, this is real, everyone knows it. And where has it brought us? It is reminiscent of the 1920s, here and now, in the worst crisis of the entire history of the Peruvian people. Learning the lesson of past centuries, what can we think? Once more the nation is at risk, once more the republic is at risk, once more our territory is at risk. It can easily be lost, and to interests. This is the situation; this is where they have brought us. But we have a fact, a Peruvian

revolution, a people's war, and it is advancing, and will continue to do so. Where have we gotten with this? To a strategic stalemate. And we must understand this well. It is a strategic stalemate! It solidifies itself in an essential situation. What have 12 years served for? To plainly show before the world and mainly before the Peruvian people, that the Peruvian State, the old Peruvian State, is a paper tiger that is rotten to the core. That has been proven!

Things being that way, let us think of the danger that the nation, that the country, can be divided, that the nation is at risk. They want to dismember it; they want to divide it. Who wants to do this? As always, imperialism, those who exploit, those who rule. And what should we do? What is our task now? It is appropriate that we push forward the People's Liberation Movement and that we develop it through the people's war because the people, always the people, have been the ones who defend the country, who have defended the nation.

It is time to form a People's Liberation Front, it is time to form and develop from the People's Guerrilla Army a People's Liberation Army. That is what we must do and we shall do it! That is what we are doing and that is what we shall do! You gentlemen shall be witnesses.

Finally now, listen to this. As we see in the world, maoism is marching unstopably to lead the new wave of proletarian world revolution. Listen well and understand! Those who have ears, use them. Those who have understanding – and we all have it – use it! Enough of this nonsense. Enough of these obscurities! Let us understand that! What is unfolding in the world? What do we need? We need maoism to be embodied, and it is being embodied, and by generating Communist Parties to drive and direct this new great wave of the proletarian world revolution that is coming.

Everything they told us, the empty and silly chatter of the famous «new age of peace». Where is it now? What about Yugoslavia? What about other places? That is a lie; everything became politicized. Today there is one reality; the same contenders of the 1st and 2nd World War are preparing a new 3rd World War. We should know this and we, as the children of an oppressed nation, are part of the booty. We cannot consent to this! Enough imperialist exploitation! We must finish with them! We are of the third world and the third world is the basis of the proletarian world revolution, with one condition, that the Communist Parties brandish and lead! That is what we must do!

We believe the following. Next year will be the 100th anniversary of the birth of Chairman Mao. We must celebrate these 100 years! We are organizing it with the Communist Parties. We want a new manner, a celebration which will be the conscious comprehension of the importance of Chairman Mao in the world revolution and we shall begin the celebration this year and we shall finish it the next. It will be a grand process of celebration.

I want to take advantage of this opportunity to salute the international proletariat, the oppressed nations of the world and the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement.

LONG LIVE THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF PERU!

THE PEOPLE'S WAR WILL INEVITABLY WIN!

WE GREET FROM HERE THE FUTURE BIRTH OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF PERU!

We say:

GLORY TO MARXISM-LENINISM-MAOISM!

And finally we say:

HONOR AND GLORY TO THE PERUVIAN PEOPLE!