



It has been ten years since Chairman Gonzalo of the Communist Party of Peru (PCP) made the following speech, whose impact was felt around the world. Although he was in the clutches of the government that presented him to the press several weeks after his capture in an attempt to mock the revolution, Chairman Gonzalo turned the tables on his captors and issued a call for the People's War to continue. This call remains as timely and relevant today as it was on 24 September 1992. The ruthless dictator Fujimori, who pledged to wipe out the People's War launched by the PCP in 1980, is now discredited and gone, and his replacement has had no greater success in restoring reactionary stability to this country. As Chairman Gonzalo pointed out, Peru can never free itself of the burdens of imperialism, semi-feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism except through new-democratic revolution and people's war. On the eve of elections in November, a new wave of PCP-led attacks on government targets was reported in the mountain highlands of Ayacucho, the birthplace of the People's War. Fujimori attributed certain political positions to Chairman Gonzalo while holding him in isolation in an underground

Comrades of the Fighters of the People

dungeon where he has remained for a decade. Revolutionaries and progressive-minded people around the world have demanded that Chairman Gonzalo be allowed to freely and publicly present his own views. Over the past decade, a world-wide movement has sent seven international delegations to Peru to defend the life of Chairman Gonzalo. Today we continue to defend the life of Chairman Gonzalo, Comrade Feliciano and other imprisoned PCP leaders and members and demand that he be given free and direct access to relatives, friends, lawyers and the international press.

The following is a translation of Chairman Gonzalo's speech from prison, taken from the version signed by the Communist Party of Peru (PCP) Lima Base. -AWTW

We are living through historic events, each one of us knows this to be the case. Let us not deceive ourselves. At this moment we must ready all our forces in order to face the difficulties and to continue accomplishing our tasks! To win new victories and finally triumph! This must be done.

We are here as the sons and daughters of the people and we are fighting in the trenches, this is also combat, and we do this because we are communist! Because here we defend the people's interest, the principles of the Party and the People's War! That is what we have been doing, what we are doing, what we will continue to do!

We are here in these circumstances. Some think that this is a great defeat. They are dreaming! We say let them dream on. This is

merely a bend in the road. Nothing more! A bend along the road. The road is long and we will travel it to the end. We will reach our goal and we will win! You will see it! You will see it!

We must continue with the tasks laid down in the Third Plenary Session of the Central Committee, a glorious event! Let it be known, these resolutions are already being carried out. We will continue to apply the Fourth Plan for Strategic Development of the People's War for the Seizure of Power. We will continue to develop the Sixth Military Plan to Build Towards the Seizure of Power. That will continue! That is our task! We will carry it out because of who we are! Because of our responsibility to the proletariat and the people!

We clearly state that today, the democratic road has begun to unfold as a road to liberation, as a road to people's liberation. These are the circumstances in which we are developing. We should examine this with a sense of history. Let us stop closing our eyes. Let us look at the truth. Let us look at the history of Peru. Let us look at the last three centuries in Peru. This is what we should examine, the eighteenth century, the nineteenth century, the twentieth century, and understand their lessons! Whoever does not understand this history will remain blind. And this blindness cannot serve the country, cannot serve Peru!

We see that the eighteenth century offers a very clear lesson. Let us examine this. There was one dominator, it was Spain, and that domination sucked our lifeblood. Where did it lead us? To an extremely deep crisis. As a consequence, Peru was divided up.

Communist Party of Peru! People's Guerrilla Army! of Peru!

From this came the origins of today's Bolivia. This is not our invention, this is history.

Then, in the last [nineteenth] century: British domination. Where did their contention with France lead us? To another great crisis, the 1870s. The result? War with Chile. Let us not forget this! What happened? We lost territory. Our country suffered a great split, in spite of the blood spilled by the heroes and the people. We must draw a lesson!

The twentieth century. How are we faring? In this twentieth century there is an imperialism dominating us, principally US imperialism. This is something real and everyone knows it. Where has this led us? Except for the 1920s, here and now is the worst crisis of the entire history of the Peruvian people. Taking a lesson from the past centuries, what are we to sum up? Once again the nation is in danger, once again the republic is in danger, once again the territory is in danger, it could easily be lost to foreign interest. This is the situation. They have brought us to this point. But we have a new reality, a Peruvian revolution, a People's War, it continues and will continue to advance. How far have we advanced? To strategic equilibrium! This we must understand well. It is a strategic equilibrium that is being consolidated in a very critical situation. Twelve years [of people's war - AWTW] has demonstrated what? It has clearly shown to the world, and especially to the Peruvian people, that the Peruvian state, the old Peruvian state, is a paper tiger. It is rotten to the core. This is what has been demonstrated!

This being the case, we should

think about the danger that the nation, the country, may be divided. The nation is at risk, they want to tear it to pieces, they want to divide it up. Who wants to do this? Like always, imperialism, those who exploit, those who dominate. What should we do? What is correct today? It is time to make a leap in strengthening the People's Liberation Movement and we must develop this while directing the People's War. Because the people, it has always been the people, who have defended the country, who have defended the nation.

The time to set up the People's Liberation Front has arrived. It is time to constitute and develop a People's Liberation Army starting from the People's Guerrilla Army. This is what is correct today! We will do this! It is what we are doing now! It is what we are going to follow through on! You, sirs, shall be witness.

Finally, listen to this. We see world-wide Maoism is marching relentlessly forward in its task of leading the new wave of the world proletarian revolution. Listen well and understand. Those who have ears, use them. Those who have understanding, and we all have it, use it well. Enough nonsense! Enough confusion! Understand this! What is happening in the world? What do we need? We need Maoism to be a living force, and this is happening. We need Maoism to generate new communist parties to direct this next great wave of world proletarian revolution that is upon us.

All that they told us, their empty and stubbornly ignorant chattering about the famous "new stage of peace" - where has this ended up? What about Yugoslavia? What about

other places? It all was politicised, it was a lie. Today there is only one reality. The same contending powers behind the First and Second World Wars are now preparing the Third World War. This we should know, and we as the sons and daughters of an oppressed country are part of the loot. We cannot let this happen! Enough of this imperialist exploitation! We should finish them off! We are part of the Third World, and the Third World is the base for world proletarian revolution, with one condition: that the communist parties develop and direct it. This is what we must do!

Here is what we think: next year will be the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Chairman Mao. We must celebrate the centenary! And we are organising this with the communist parties. We want a new kind of celebration, a celebration that recognises the conscious understanding of the importance of Chairman Mao in the world revolution. We will start the celebration this year and it will culminate next year. It will be a great programme of celebration. I want to take 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 be Victorious!

We Salute the Future Birth of the People's Republic of Peru!

We say: Glory to Marxism-Leninism-Maoism!!

Finally we say: Honour and Glory to the People of Peru!! ■