

SPEECH DELIVERED BY JUANITA CASTRO IN  
THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ON APRIL 6, 1965

Citizens of the Dominican Republic:

The thrill of stepping down on this land, which is as admired and beautiful as that of Cuba, has indeed intensified the emotion I feel in bringing you a message of pain and hope.

I am the daughter of an island which, like your ancient Hispaniola, God chose to situate side by side, first, to amaze a Genoese sailor and later to serve as the setting for bitter conquests, ultimately becoming the cradle of two nations which share origin, religion, a simple, happy nature, deep convictions and great confidence in all past, present and future problems of their homelands.

There are few nations which have a more similar history of political strife than Cuba and the Dominican Republic. Right from here, these very beautiful beaches which make me very nostalgic for my unfortunate country, sailed the Indian chief, Hatuey, the first man who carried the germ of freedom to the island of Cuba.

Three centuries later, General Maximo Gomez chose this land from which to set sail in his attempt to bring freedom to the island of Cuba, guided by a relentless spirit which still serves to inspire all Cubans.

Your island also served as a springboard for Jose Marti's loyal friend, Marcos del Rosario, whose courage has become a legend. And this island of hopes and dreams, is also where Marti himself, the father of Cuba's fight for independence, came in search of the moral and material aid needed to obtain freedom for the island of Cuba.

On other occasions, it has been Cuba which has extended her hand across the waters of the Caribbean, offering all available help to the Dominican Republic. No other nation has been more deeply aware of suffering of the Dominican people than Cuba.

Cuba's fertile land has produced many men who have written glory into the pages of the Dominican Republic's history and literature. In some instances, it was the Dominican Republic which served as birthplace for Cuban heroes such as the unforgettable José María Heredia, the "Niagara poet."

Since I set foot on this marvelous land, for some strange and miraculous reason I have felt just as though I were back in the oriental sector of Cuba where I first saw the light of day. Perhaps it is the similarity of the countryside, the softness of the breeze, the blueness of the sky, or the warmth of the reception with which I was greeted, as though we had known each other for a long time. All of these things have contributed to my feeling so much at home that I find my eyes constantly trying to escape behind the mountains, along the rivers, and through the narrow streets of your little towns, as though they were trying to locate the little corner of Cuba where I was born.

This feeling of "having returned home" is what I wish to convey to you as I talk. Listen to me as you would to a beloved member of your family who has come back home to tell of the woes and torments suffered on another land.

I have come from a land which crime has bathed in blood, hatred has enslaved, a land which has been tormented by the evil of some men who betrayed my country, rendered her defenseless, and delivered her into the hands of foreigners.

I come from this land with a special message for the Dominican people. I am going to speak, as I always do, with great sincerity, and tell nothing but the truth.

That is why my conscience and my loyalty to my country and to God, have made it necessary for me to tell the truth which lies behind Fidel Castro's treason and to speak it throughout the world.

The truth! That dramatic truth that the Cuban people cannot proclaim because of censorship and police repression and because they are terrified of the communist bloodhounds and of the wall which that tyranny uses for executions. The truth that Fidel Castro hides with his propaganda of lies which is carried in enslaved Cuba's newspapers, magazines and on its radio, later to be repeated by agents of communist imperialism and picked up by the world's "useful idiots" and other well-trained parrots.

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The truth must come out so that the peoples of all nations can know and identify their enemies, whether these be demagogues or communists disguised as "patriots", "heroes", "nationalists", "pacifists", or in any other tempting role to which they do not live up upon reaching power.

My mission, thus, is to bring a message from the Cuban people to the Dominican people, to ask them for their moral support, assuring them of the Cuban people's backing which has always been with the Dominicans during the many difficult stages of its history. The Cuban people always shared the struggles, actions, sacrifices and hopes of the Dominican people in their fight to obtain the objectives of their nation so as to make it a democratic country, standing side by side with the other nations of the Continent, bound by indestructible ties of solidarity, mutual aid and respect.

The Cuban people made the Dominican fight for freedom their own and now shares in your hopes and ideals that, through constructive work, the foundations of its institutions and of a progressive democracy may be laid.

In socialist Cuba no one may own property or a business of any kind, whether these be medium-sized or small. Some businesses have been allowed to continue for the moment but their owners have no voice in their direction and live from day to day, expecting to be removed.

The workers and the Cuban peasants who at one time were owners of their lands and enjoyed a most progressive social legislation, have lost everything. Fidel Castro has become the master and owner of everything. He must render accounts only to his omnipotent bosses in Russia and Red China.

Today, socialist Cuba has more than sixty-five thousand political prisoners. There are close to half a million Cubans in exile in foreign countries. Hundreds of thousands of Cubans would like to escape from that communist Inferno, but they cannot. If they had the chance to, they would leave "en masse." I can assure you that if Cuba shared a land frontier with some country, the only ones who would remain would be a small group of communist fanatics who are enjoying the privileges that go with enslaving a nation.

In socialist Cuba children are being indoctrinated with Marxist-Leninism so that they may know how to disobey their parents and pay tribute to Fidel. The idea that there is no God is very cleverly injected into their little minds and they are told they must only do that which is ordered by the Communist Party.

The so-called scholarship centers, the children's circles, the schools and the universities are maintained basically to turn youths into fanatics, just as the Nazis did over thirty years ago. In this way, parents lose their children's love. Christian principles cannot be taught. Those who attend the few churches which still remain are watched, persecuted and tormented at the establishments where they work. They are constantly under pressure to give up their beliefs in God and in the family.

Professionals, students, workers and peasants in Cuba are all slaves of the communist, socialist State.

There is no freedom to work. There is no freedom to choose the type of work one may want to do. There is no freedom to cultivate the land. There is no freedom to acquire small lots. There is no freedom to request land from the State which is the sole owner of all land while is completely in the hands of foreman, Fidel Castro, and is administered according to his every whim. There is no freedom to collect for work already done. There is no freedom to reap the fruit which has been planted. There is no freedom to buy what is needed. There is no freedom to eat. There is no freedom to be a master in your own home. There is no freedom to educate your children. There is no freedom to travel from one city or suburb to another. There is no freedom to speak. There is no freedom to express individual ideas. There is no freedom to live. The Cuban people have no freedom to do anything. All activities are directed and controlled by the implacable, bloodthirsty communist tyranny.

In communist Cuba today there is sufficient food for the Russian bosses, for the regime's foreign guests, who are later used as propaganda instruments, and for the chiefs of the Communist Party. This party has had different masks and names. It was once known as the Popular Socialist Party and is now called the United Party of

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the Socialist Revolution. Communists change their political attire and their name according to their historic opportunity. They were once the allies and ministers of Batista and now are the allies and ministers of Fidel Castro.

Those who actually fought for the Revolution, those who risked their lives: the professionals, men of enterprise, workers, peasants, students... the majority of those who helped the Revolution are not the ones who are governing. Most of the former are in jails, in exile or have been executed.

Those who govern are the Russian and Red Chinese bosses who are in Cuba passing themselves off as "technicians" and their puppets in the United Party of the Socialist Revolution who contributed nothing to the Revolution's triumph. These foreign and local communists were most comfortably installed in high positions throughout the Revolution. After victory was assured, they came forward to "join" and take over the Revolution. Using deceit and treason, they converted the people's Revolution into a communist one, delivered the country into the hands of Soviet imperialism with the help of Fidel Castro and his gang of traitors.

The immense majority of Cubans repudiate and fight this communist oppressor and are invariably accused of being "bourgeois", "counter-revolutionaries", and "worms" by the tyranny.

The immense majority of Cubans who want social justice are accused of being "bourgeois", "counter-revolutionaries" and "worms" by the communist tyranny.

The immense majority of Cubans who know that Fidel Castro is a traitor to the Revolution, who has delivered the country into the barbaric hands of communist imperialism, are accused of being "bourgeois", "counter-revolutionaries" and "worms" by the tyrannical regime.

I can state, categorically, that the immense majority of the Cuban people... probably more than ninety percent... prefer to be accused of being "bourgeois", "counter-revolutionaries" and "worms" rather than become one of those despicable communists.

Because the Cuban people already know that communists are not patriots, that they are not nationalists, or heroes, not anti-imperialistic, nor decent nor honest.

The Cuban people despise the communists. The Cuban people hate the communists... because they are the agents of the most inhuman and cruelest imperialism that the world has ever known.

Communists have betrayed their country.

Communists are fanatics of an ideology which denies the existence of God and the nobility of men.

Communists want to enslave humanity by defending Marxist-Leninism, a system which is nothing but a totalitarian dictatorship which keeps itself in power through military force, terror, repression and mass executions.

Communists speak of "liberty", "equality", "rights of workers", "independence", "sovereignty", "social progress", and "peace."

Nevertheless, when communists come into power, they impose slavery and inequality, they eliminate the rights of workers, annul independence and sovereignty, and submit themselves to Soviet imperialism, destroying progress and social conquests. The people then have to endure more hardships, the rich become poor, the poor become miserable outcasts, and "peace", which the communists proclaim so loudly in their insatiable drive to dominate the peoples of all nations, becomes war and the extermination of life. The "peace" of the communists is the peace of the graves.

The Cuban people know all this. They know this from bitter experience as do all the people who have been enslaved by barbaric communism. That is why thousands of citizens of communist countries make daily breaks through barbed-wire, walls, coastal artillery, and seas plagued with PT boats ever poised to assassinate men, women and children as is happening but a few miles from here in the salty waters which separate Cuba from the coasts of Florida.

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A few days ago, two small boats, with an over-load of 94 men, women and children, arrived in the United States, fleeing from that communist inferno that Cuba is today.

Thousands of Cubans . . . humble workers and peasants . . . who have been brazenly called "bourgeois", "counter-revolutionaries" and "worms" by those despicable communists, have braved the open sea, crossed Death Alley, and have taken refuge in the United States and other friendly countries.

Death Alley . . . as the sea which separates Cuba from the United States has been appropriately called . . . has been the setting for the murders of entire families of unfortunate workers and peasants whom those despicable communists have brazenly labeled as "bourgeois", "counter-revolutionaries" and "worms."

Death Alley has seen the death of children who were escaping the Castro-communist tyranny with their parents. These innocent creatures and their parents . . . humble workers and peasants . . . were also given the "bourgeois", "counter-revolutionary" and "worm" label by those hateful communists.

Death Alley . . . which is also the term used by the Cuban people to refer to the waters and the coasts of Cuba which Russian PT boats use for their human safaris . . . has served as a delivery room for baby boys and girls whose anxious mothers were endeavouring to escape in small boats.

One of these little girls, who is now in Miami, was Christened "Charity" by her parents, thus honoring Cuba's patron Saint.

Another little girl who also saw the first light of day on Death Alley, was named Barbarita in honor of St. Barbara.

One peasant woman, who had her baby in a boat as she escaped with several other peasant families, was saved by the grace of God. The father and the other friends who were on the trip, had nothing with which to cut the umbilical cord. They had to take a rusty instrument which they found at the bottom of the boat and tie the navel with a piece of cloth, torn off from the tormented father's trousers. When the tender, innocent child was out of danger and in a Miami hospital, the child's name became the word which the mother exclaimed when she was informed that the child was all right: "Miracle."

And still, those despicable and inhuman communists dare to call the exiles "bourgeois", "counter-revolutionaries" and "worms."

Miami's graveyards hold the remains of little Cuban children who were dead on arrival in Miami. They died on the decks of little boats which were escaping from communist Cuba, their little bodies covered with the salt of the ocean and of their parents' tears.

As these parents stepped down, barefooted, on U.S. soil, they were clutching the lifeless bodies of their offspring.

Some day, these pathetic scenes will find their way into the pages of history so that coming generations may never forget the horrors committed by Fidel Castro and his criminal Marxist-Leninist system. These horrors are paralleled only by those of Attila, Genghis Khan, Hitler and other similarly sinister characters.

As far as Cuba is concerned, history has already rendered its verdict and has condemned the man guilty of treason and deceit. In its pages, the martyrdom of the Cuban people will forever be engraved, along with that of the Dominican people.

History will also reveal how innocent children were forced to escape communist clutches along with their parents who preferred to die on Death Alley rather than be tortured in the inhuman political imprisonment which would have certainly befallen them if they managed to escape being shot at the "wall."

History will dedicate a page to those little girls . . . Barbarita, Charity, and Miracle as well as to the more than twenty-five thousand boys and girls who had to flee from Cuba alone in order to escape being indoctrinated by the communists. These children are now in the United States studying in schools, thanks to the

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generous contributions which have been made by the United States Government and the various Church organizations.

At the Youth Center which has been set up in Florida City, Florida, to take care of Cuban children who had to leave Cuba without their parents, I had the honor of sharing memories of our homeland with them as well as of shedding a few tears along with them. There I saw a group of children whose pure souls were being sheltered by God and his representatives on this earth. We prayed together before the altar of Cuba's Patron Saint and I am sure that God heard our prayers. I too felt like an orphan. We were all lonely but at peace with our Christian consciences. We both shared the same *via crucis*. Communism and its evil had divided our families, our homes...

Millions of Cuban homes suffer this sad fact. My case is not unique and neither are those of more than twenty-five thousand boys and girls who have taken refuge in Miami and are living without their parents or relatives. Everyday I pray for those homes and families that have been sacrificed by the treason which has been perpetrated by communism, an atheistic and materialistic system of domination.

From the very first moment my conscience told me that I had to do something to mitigate the damage caused by those who started by dividing my own family and ended up dividing so many more.

The only way I could contribute... as I was alone and do not have the means to personally eliminate the evils that ravage my homeland... was by going out and telling the truth of what has happened, denouncing the treason, alerting consciences, raising my voice wherever it would be heard, accusing the guilty ones with all the energy and vigor which must be used to fight the terrible communist danger, so as to save the people of other nations and to request aid for martyred Cuba so that she may free herself from communist clutches.

Those of us who have lived through a dramatic experience such as communism know full well that it is a sin and an act of disloyalty to our country to stand by quietly and passively watch the crimes which are committed daily. I could not hide what I knew for it is something which affects our entire civilization. That is why I must reveal their monstrous plans. Only in this way will I be at peace with my conscience and with my country.

Could anyone consider himself honorable and maintain silence in the face of such infamy? Could anyone who had an ounce of human feelings fail to reveal that Fidel Castro has secretly installed nuclear war-heads which are aimed at the main countries of this Continent so as to dominate or destroy them? Could anyone with any kind of dignity silence the fact his fellowmen are being slaughtered everyday? Could anyone with any kind of patriotic feelings be silent knowing that Fidel Castro with the help of Russia and Red China is planning to take over all the nations in this American Continent so as to enslave them the way he has Cuba? Could anyone who considers himself to be at peace with his conscience fail to admit that, unfortunately, one of his own family has turned out to be a pseudo-Stalin or Hitler? Could anyone who is at all concerned about the destiny of humanity silence the fact that there are plans underway to provoke a continental catastrophe which is exactly what Fidel Castro is doing in order to justify his failure and placate his ambition for limitless power?

I found myself in this agonizing situation. I had heard these plans from Fidel's own lips as well as from other agents of criminal communist imperialism. I corroborated the fact that what was being planned was already secretly under execution.

I feel certain that by making my denunciation public I am living up to my duty to God and to my country and that I am contributing to the saving of millions of human lives on this Continent, lives which are being threatened by those monstrous plans.

The Dominican nation also figures in the plans that Fidel and the communist imperialists have concocted.

You must take measures to avoid having a repetition of the Cuban tragedy on your soil.

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I know for a fact that the Castro-communist tyranny wants to takeover this country because it does not suit them to have this nation on the road to democracy and to have on this island a happy, progressive people, which is naturally the legitimate aspiration of all Dominicans.

In order to make the democratization of this country impossible, Fidel Castro order ed, some time ago, that his agents infiltrate all sectors: professional, economic, labor, peasant, and student. Communism always tries to line up instruments and allies which it ultimately eliminates after it has assumed power. It does so by making promises, practicing deceit or by using force.

These Castro-communist agents employ many different tactics. They make people think they are "patriots", "defenders of freedom", "anti-imperialists", "socialists", "Marxist-Leninists", "comrades of workers and students". Thus it is that they line up their followers so as to turn them into fanatics and in the well-known "instruments" or "useful idiots" as Lenin described them. These poor souls begin by believing the false promises that communists make and the communists end up by using them for their propaganda or subversion. If the communists finally do gain the strings of power, the former are eliminated, jailed, forced into exile or shot.

The most dangerous, however, are not the self-confessed communists but rather those who hide their Marxist-Leninist or communist beliefs beneath the guise of other ideologies. These are the ones who operate behind the scenes, enticing intellectuals, newspapermen, professionals, community leaders, workers and students who go along with their communist slogans. It is these very slogans which should serve notice to all to be on guard. This is what identifies them.

Before Cuba fell into the claws of communist imperialism, the Cuban people, who neither were nor are communists, did not have sufficient experience to understand just how far those intellectuals, politicians, labor and student leaders, tainted with communist ideology would go because they had disguised themselves, as they always do, as "defenders of liberty" and "democracy".

This was our first mistake. Most of us had not studied or observed what the communists had done since they had taken over their first country. We chose to forget their history of treason. And we were fooled.

Later, when the Revolution fell into their hands, many Cuban revolutionaries, who were not communists but who had permitted communists to infiltrate the lines of the Revolution, found themselves being jailed, persecuted or shot by the very communists they had considered to be their friends and allies. That is why history and experience have shown that those communists who today masquerade as "patriots" and are permitted to spread their ideology and tactics, tomorrow will be the ones who enslave the nation.

Those communists who speak of "liberty" today will deny us that same liberty tomorrow. Those communists who today demand that their lives be respected, tomorrow will pull the trigger as we stand before their firing squad. Those communists who are permitted by a democracy to use laws for their defense, tomorrow will destroy those laws so that they will not be available for the defense of their victims.

Many communists deny the fact that they are communists but one has but to observe their well-known tactics and slogans.

They are communists if they speak of "imperialism" but have never fought the worst imperialism history has ever recorded: communist imperialism which has enslaved more than sixty-six nationalities and countries and more than twelve hundred and fifty million inhabitants.

They are communists if they criticize "aggressions"... as they call them... "against Cuba and Viet-Nam." They have never, however, criticized the criminal aggressions and foreign intervention of Cuba and North Viet-Nam.

They are communists if they criticize the action which freed the hostages which had been taken by the Congolese, many of whom were savagely murdered.

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They are communists if they criticize the justifiable retaliatory measures which democratic countries have taken and are taking against the barbaric communist agents and their military occupation troops in Viet Nam, Cuba, and other nations under the domination of communist imperialism.

They are communists if they have never denounced the massacres in Hungary, Tibet, Russia, Red China nor the genocides which are being committed in Cuba and other communist countries.

They are communists if they form "Peace Fronts" in democratic countries, but neither form them or request that they be formed in communist countries and then use these "Fronts" (as they do in democratic countries) to foster campaigns against communist guerrilla action.

They are communists if they are affiliated to or publicly or secretly sympathize with the Dominican Popular Socialist Movement or Party and the Marxist-Leninist Party.

They are communists or "useful idiots" if they do not act to prove that they are anti-communist.

One cannot be a democrat, a lover of liberty, a defender of workers, peasants, intellectuals, students and of all people in general if one is not anti-communist.

Those who are real revolutionaries must rebel against all totalitarian systems, wheter these be Nazi or communist.

In an attempt to disarm revolutionaries, social-democrats, Christian socialists, etc., communist propaganda has often said that one cannot be an anti-communist.

That is the way they began in Cuba. They first created a collective and individual complex regarding anti-communism. Then the communists "joined" the Revolution. The final stage found the communists eliminating, jailing, expelling or executing all those who did not share the opinion that "being anti-communist was equivalent to being anti-revolutionary."

Thus they set the trap. It is the same method that was used by the Bolsheviks in Russia when they took over the Revolution which had been fought by the different revolutionary sectors, all of which were exterminated by the communists the moment they indicated they did not consider it a crime to be anti-communist.

They are communists or their tools if they sport ridiculous beards and speak of "pacifying" in the face of an enemy, such as communism, which spends all of its resources on armaments and will not feed its people.

Those communists who disguise themselves as "pacifists" are the ones who are conspiring against freedom and democracy which is a truly pacifist system.

Those communist "pacifists" and their ridiculous beards are agents of a system which aspires to dominate all of mankind through subversion or war.

Many of the leaders of the Dominican Popular Socialist Party received their training in subversion in Cuba and some of them are still there receiving instructions from Moscow and Peking which they so subserviently serve.

Many agents of the Dominican Popular Movement are in Cuba as myrmidons of the Department for the Security of the State (G2) which is the inhuman instrument of Police Repression or communist military intelligence service.

There they learn how to stalk citizens, house by house, block by block and town by town. They use physical and mental torture. They are specialists in the art of enslaving people and merely wait the opportunity of using their skills here if the Dominican people and their institutions do not act against them swiftly and in time.

This is not the first time, nor will it be the last, that communist imperialism and its Caribbean puppet, Fidel Castro, display their intention of taking over this country.

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They have tried it many times before, I remember well how happy Fidel was about three years ago when he heard of the activities in which his agents here were engaging. They had "carte blanche", as he put it:

That "carte blanche" to which tyrant Fidel Castro was referring was the freedom to undermine institutions, to demoralize the people with socialist-communist propaganda, to unleash a struggle between classes, to place the people up against the Armed Forces when they gather for public acts, riots or manifestations.

That "carte blanche" Fidel spoke about was freedom to keep the real democratic and anti-communist political parties from being organized, to indoctrinate youths with Marxist-Leninism, to keep democracy from flourishing, to terrorize government leaders so that they could not quickly organize active and energetic political parties, to permit freedom of action to the communists, and to create the attitude that it was wrong to be anti-communist.

That "carte blanche" which was granted to the communists was one of the weaknesses of certain supposed democrats who, either because of lack of action or because of complicity, turned out to be, in practice, tools of international communism and ended up by nipping democracy in the bud.

Those who desire to be democratic and free must fight communism and, at the same time, must organize a political and economic system adequate to a real, progressive democracy.

That is another one of the truths that must enlighten the conscience of the Dominican people.

Because when a nation loves God, is proud of its traditions, practices democracy, believes in the necessity of family union as an indispensable basis for the integration of society, it is difficult for a foreign, materialistic, atheistic doctrine like communism to penetrate the people's collective conscience, destroy their ideals and launch them on the road to hatred and destruction.

Lies cannot prosper when hearts are full of love and thus able to resist deceit.

When a nation has the security of its beliefs, no one can trick it into believing false promises of "marvelous paradises" because all nations today are too much aware of the enormous lie which so many sister nations are living because of these communist promises.

One cannot speak of justice from a sport where injustice and crime reign supreme.

One cannot speak of freedom when one has to stand on an enslaved land, where men, women and children have been turned into beasts of burden with no hope of redemption other than liberty or death.

One cannot promise agrarian reform from a land where all property has been taken over by the communist State and where the peasants, instead of receiving land, have been deprived of the little piece of land they used to call their own and now wander around, like dogs without their masters, hungry, sick... as they watch their crops being burned, their livestock being stolen, their homes turned into ruins and their families dispersed and condemned to hard labor, receiving starvation wages if any at all... And overseeing all of this stand battle fatigued foremen who have replaced the colonial whip with a Czech machinegun, the symbol of the modern slavery that communism is imposing wherever it is successfully able to inject its deceit.

One cannot speak of labor conquests from a land where workers have lost all of their rights which they had gained after many long years of hard struggle, where there is no freedom for unions, no minimum wage scale, or set number of working hours because the State forces them to work night and day, Sundays included, without a moments rest for their bodies or souls.

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One cannot speak of having plenty of everything in a land where not even the peasant is permitted to grow food for his family's consumption and is forbidden to raise pigs and chickens while the city dweller has to stand in long lines waiting and hoping to get just anything to feed his children.

One cannot speak of good times from a land where communism has managed to ruin everybody and where all are starving, enslaved, desperate, and murdered the minute anyone dares raise his voice to protest these great injustices.

For all of these reasons, the Dominican people cannot possibly desire a repeat performance of this ruin and horror and, I am sure, this beautiful land of yours will never permit communism to settle on its shores.

I am also sure that those Cubans who have not renounced their claim to freedom and are standing by, ready to fight, in the fields and in the cities, their hearts filled with all the energy that their country needs, will some day be joined by those who were forced to flee their native land and all of them, together, will reconquer the liberty they lost.

Let us now commemorate that glorious day on which our Cuban patriots, Maximo Gomez and Jose Marti, signed the historical MONTECRISTI MANIFESTO on this very land of yours.

Dominicans: On this day, let us join our hearts and create a new Manifesto of faith and hope so that in a not too distant future, happiness may once again be restored in my homeland, Jose Marti's birthplace, and on this beautiful island which gave birth to Maximo Gomez.