

Mr President,  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I thank very deeply for the honour and confidence deposited in the Radical Party of Chile by the Council Conference of the Socialist International, that has accepted our application to become a membership of this Organization.

We, the Radicals of Chile, have a democratic tradition of more than 100 years, since the establishment of our Party in the northern part of the country in 1863, and the first words about socialism spoken in America were said at the Chilean Radical Convention in 1906. Then, when my Party governed the country, from 1938 to 1952, we settled the basis of social progress and industrial development under socialist formulas.

Those were the facts that authorized us to ask from you our entrance to the great world wide family of socialist and democratic parties.

We are completely conscious of the responsibilities we are assuming before you and your ideals to-day. We clearly know what is expected in Ibero America from Socialist International. There we live between two great and powerful dangers: on one side, imperialism and capitalism. On the other, the risk of tyranny. We know that there is only one way to defend our countries and that is to organize, at a continental scale, a solid action in front of imperialism.

Enormous sectors of Latin American countries are hungry and angry and if we don't keep them from the effects of imperialism we shall not be able to give them the food and the human dignity that are indispensable to build a fair, socialist and democratic society.

Now, when you speak in Europe about South and Central America you talk specially of the "guerrillas". The press of these days has spoken about the death of Che Guevara. Many people, nearly all the people here, is against the "guerrillas" and so we are regarding the situation of Chile, because there we have democracy and freedom, but we must realize that in many places the "guerrillas" are an answer to tyranny and also to imperialism. Cuba is an answer to imperialism. There, before Fidel Castro, was a tyranny, that of Batista. And now there it is another sort of tyranny, which we dislike, but sugar, the main product of the country, now belongs to Cuba and not to the big former north American enterprises that took the profits to New York and left hungry in Cuba.

In America we need to give an honest reply to the exploitation of the Continent if we want to defeat ~~imperialism~~ tyranny, and that consists in building a strong and clear socialist and democratic policy for the whole area.

In Chile we expect to do our duty. The Cristian Democrats have said that they are the representatives of the progressive ideals of Europe, but they had, and have, the support of the old capitalism and are doing in Chile a sort of government that gives to the foreign enterprise special privileges that do not have the Chileans. Under the government of Cristian Democrats Chile is gradually becoming a paradise for foreign capitals, and that is what we have to fight firstly in order to preserve the sources of our country to give better levels of living to our people.

America is now under the pressure of new penetration systems of North America destined to obtain the growing markets of the area for the benefit of capitalists installed in N York. The Alliance for Progress is one of the names of those new penetration systems.

There it is a great task for Socialist International

national. I honestly think that it is absolutely necessary to revise procedures and take note that there is a very great area of the world that needs the assistance and help of the socialist of the world. On this respect we appreciate the words we heard this afternoon to Mr Morgan, delegate of Labour Party of Great Britain.

We shall do our best to work closely to you and all the popular parties of Ibero America, ~~xxxx~~ totally decided to encourage a great common action endorsed to preserve, over the face of the world, peace, freedom, socialism and democracy.

Thanks to all of you again.

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Discurso del senador Jonás Gómez en el plenario de Zurich  
Octubre-1967 agradeciendo la aceptación del Partido Radical a  
la II Internacional Socialdemócrata.