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Fidel Castro Ruz  
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## ***Fidel 60 years ago: Cuba is going to sit Yankee imperialism in Punta del Este in the "dock of the accused"!***

How is the rope with the hangman going to be understood, the chain with the slave!, and that is imperialism, the chains; they cannot be understood.



*Fragments of the appearance of Fidel Castro Ruz before the press to explain to the people about the organization of the concentration for the Second General Assembly of the People of Cuba, January 22, 1962, "Year of Planning".*



Fidel during an appearance on Cuban television to explain to the people the unjust expulsion of Cuba as a member of the Organization of American States (OAS), January 22, 1962. Photo: Liborio Noval/ Fidel Soldado de las Ideas Site.

Cuba is not fighting a battle for Cuba in Punta del Este. Cuba is going to fight in Punta del Este a battle for the whole of America, since that battle is being fought around a key, fundamental principle: the right of self-determination of the peoples, the right to sovereignty of the peoples, of the peoples of America. And, of course, when you defend the sovereignty of the peoples of America, you are also defending the sovereignty of any people anywhere; the right of every people to give itself the form of government it wishes.

What do the imperialists want? For to freeze the imperialist "status quo", that is, of imperialist exploitation, that exists in Latin America (...) That is, the 30 million Indians in Latin America would have to resign themselves to the conditions of poverty, of misery in which they live, of slavery, of semi-slavery; the peasant masses, the working masses.

**How do you want to approach it? Well, they want to raise it on the basis that Cuba does not have the right to make its Revolution. We must sanction the country that makes a revolution and obtain the agreement, the support of the OAS, precisely so that imperialism can champion for its respects in Latin America!**

Who is going to discuss those rights? Are they the villages? In the first place, the Yankee imperialists will discuss the problems of Latin America, being as they are two absolutely opposite poles, with the distance that mediates between a highly industrialized country, a

capitalist, monopolistic country, which owns most of the wealth of the world, and the impoverished and exploited peoples of Latin America; mediating such a difference; then, the mere fact that the Yankee imperialists are discussing Latin American problems is already an intervention in Latin America.

The shark is going to be arguing with the sardines, the rich are going to be arguing with the beggars, the billionaires with the hungry peoples!

Hence the importance it has, not only for us, because at the last minute, we defend ourselves here; Cuba's self-determination is not defended in Punta del Este, neither the right to sovereignty nor the right of self-determination. This right of self-determination, the right to sovereignty of Cuba, we Cubans defend with our cannons, with our tanks, with our armies, with our divisions!

When the Inter-American Peace Commission here... What a joke this is, an inter-American peace commission composed of the representative of the United States, a representative who has spent three years intervening, attacking, harassing, sending weapons, organizing mercenaries, burning sugar cane fields, sending explosives and, finally, invading us and preparing new invasions.

**They are so brazen that they ask permission to come and investigate here, and what did the Cuban government say to them? Well, if you come to Cuba, come in combat zafarrancho. Because here, here, everything that smells of interventionism, of interference, everything that comes here with interventionist, interventionist and any other kind of intentions, we are going to receive with cannon fire; so it's a strict thing.**

We have to defend our sovereignty, because we have the weapons to defend it and, above all, we have the most important thing, we have a whole people to defend that sovereignty.

How is the millionaire master, the millionaire imperialists, exploiters of America and the world, to be granted the right to intervene in the peoples of Latin America? That is absurd, and we are concerned, above all, about the fate of the other peoples of Latin America. What are the imperialists looking for there?, the right to intervene in any people of Latin America. Wherever the people begin to rebel, wherever the people begin to show discontent against imperialist exploitation, they have the right to intervene, even with their armed forces.

**Of course, the imperialists do not usually ask anyone's permission to intervene, because when they launched their ships and sent them in front of Santo Domingo to try to keep Trujillismo there, they did not ask anyone's permission. When they made that determination, they did not consult anyone in Punta del Este; when they organized their invasion against Cuba in April, they did not gather the foreign ministers to ask for permission, but since they know that "they backfired", as they say vulgarly, and that they came out "sounded" of truth in Playa Girón, then, what do they think?, that the thing is not so easy in Cuba, and then now they are going to ask permission; what they are going to do now is to ask for permission. But since when do they ask for permission? Who gave the imperialists permission to intervene in South Vietnam?**

They have intervened everywhere without asking permission, but now they want to have the complicity of those governments to intervene, and not only in Cuba! What they are interested in is setting the precedent, and that the governments of America themselves give them permission to intervene in any country where there is a revolution.

It is the point of view that we have been holding: that Latin America is threatened by imperialist invasion, why? Because there is great concern in Latin America, because the peoples awaken to reality, and the peoples are tired of exploitation; and in the countries—in those countries where governments are surrendered to imperialism—whose governments do not have the most elementary sense of national dignity, and who are the ones who form the chorus in Punta del Este of Pharisees, and the chorus of accomplices of the United States in the plans against Cuba. The peoples are becoming more and more restless; revolutionary consciousness grows. And since it is impossible for the peoples to resign themselves to living in the conditions of misery to which imperialism has subjected them and to resign themselves to the freezing of that situation, it is logical that the peoples – sooner or later – rise up against these conditions, and then the imperialists will intervene in any nation of Latin America, where people get tired of exploitation.

**So, don't even dream, those are "dreams of a midsummer night"; do not be under any illusions: neither Punta del Este gives cold to anyone here, nor are we going to pay any homage to the mojiganga that of the Americans. The mercenaries do not leave there until they pay the compensation they have to pay for the damages they have done, and that each year that passes will have to be greater.**

**Cuba's position is a very clear position, it is a very firm position. We go there to Punta del Este very well represented, to maintain the firm position, of defense of the right of self-determination of the peoples. Cuba is going to defend that right, but in addition, it is going to harshly accuse the imperialists there, it is going to denounce the interventionist, interventionist policy of the United States, in Cuba, in Santo Domingo and in the other peoples of Latin America.**

That gentleman, Dean Rusk, may in his life hear clearer, clearer and more definitive truths than those that our delegation, led by President Dorticós, is going there to pronounce; and there closely, he will have to explain, because there this man will have to explain what Playa Girón is going to have to explain, to see by virtue of what theory, of what right, on what the imperialists based their invasion of Playa Girón. Are we going to see what those gentlemen say there, how do they explain to the peoples and to the Conference of Foreign Ministers...? For me they are going to try not to hear a word of what is said there, because there they are going to say clear things, unobjectionable truths.

There they are going to have to face Cuba. Cuba is not going there in a plan to "spare your life", no sir; Cuba goes there to accuse the imperialists, our life has been forgiven for a long time, we have forgiven ourselves, the people of Cuba, with their decision of will, with their courage, with the solidarity of all the peoples of the world, with the solidarity of all men of conscience, of thought worthy of America, of Africa, of Asia, with the solidarity of the socialist world.

That is Cuba's position. Cuba is going there to denounce the imperialists, and it is going to denounce the imperialists with all the moral force that gives it its reason, its truth, to know also that it is representing and defending, a great right for the continent, and that it is defending, in addition, a right of the peoples of America and that it has the support of the worthy men and women of America.

If anything characterizes the defense of Cuba, it is the breadth of the front that defends it. So the imperialists themselves cannot hide that. Yesterday I read an AP cable and it said there was great turmoil throughout America; that a crowd had gone to receive President Dorticós... These are the things explained by the AP (...) When Mr. Kennedy went to Venezuela and Colombia, they had to leave the villages unguarded and had to fill the streets with soldiers. A Venezuelan joke tells that Kennedy asked, "Ah, how strange! How did the people of Caracas dress! I've seen that everyone here wears helmets and rifles and

wears a uniform." Because they did not see a citizen over there, they say that the only one who dressed the same as him was Romulo Betancourt! Those were the conclusions.

Well, then, is that representative democracy? What a rare democracy that is, right?

Of course, that is not the picture of these countries and these governments that want to condemn Cuba in Punta del Este; these things happen to them, they have no village heat, what they find is pure ice, village cold wherever they arrive! They have the peoples against them, and how are they going to prevent that situation? That is why they fear so much, which is why they fear the example of Cuba so much. But, well, and what is going to be done! It will be a disgrace for the imperialists, but what remedy do they have left, but to resign themselves, or to bring upon them greater misfortunes.

Because, what they have achieved with all their war against Cuba, is to earn more and more hatred! It is that the peoples pay more and more attention to Cuba! (...) That is simply a logical thing; because the peoples measure the forces of imperialism and the strength of Cuba. Then it turns out the United States to be committed... for the first time it has failed to destroy a revolution in contemporary times; for the first time it has failed to subdue peoples. And in the face of this new phenomenon, the peoples think, meditate, analyze and feel more and more sympathy for the Cuban Revolution.

This apart from other things, the links that exist between Latin Americans and us: we speak the same language, we have more or less the same culture, similar traditions, similar problems. That is to say that there are great spiritual bonds between the peoples of America, we understand each other, we speak to each other, we understand each other, because we speak the same language. Whereas... there, for example, Rusk, will not understand anything; the others will be speaking and he will be asking the translator to tell him what that means. We do not understand each other, neither in the language nor in anything we can understand each other! How is the rope to be understood with the hangman, the chain with the slave!, and that is imperialism, the chains; they cannot be understood.

**And then, that makes precisely that solidarity with Cuba grow, be visible, be powerful, and that cannot be stopped. They are desperate to stop it, they can't find what to do to stop it, but that solidarity with Cuba will not be able to stop it. They don't have to get angry with Cubans, let them get angry with history; this is an event**

**determined by history, a change determined by history, the progress of humanity, of a humanity that has never frozen and will never freeze.**

Well, that day we will launch our message to the Americas, our message to the world, and **our response to the imperialists, our response to the Declaration of Punta del Este**, and that is why all the people there will speak, all the revolutionary people of Cuba, to approve the Second Declaration of [Havana](#); for the imperialists to see what a revolutionary people is, what a democratic people is, what a determined people is, what a people who represent a sense of dignity is, and who are a flag; because our people, today, are the flag of the entire continent, they are the flag of all the peoples of Latin America, they are the flag of honest men, of rebels, of worthy men, of suffering men!

The value of Punta del Este is, above all, the value of the ideological controversy that is going to be waged between imperialism and Cuba. And anyway, they do not have an easy task, far from it. It is going to be a morally very difficult task for the imperialists. And the imperialists have to sit there in the "dock of the accused." Because **Cuba is going to sit Yankee imperialism in Punta del Este in the "dock of the accused"!**





Fidel Castro announces the Second Declaration of Havana. Photo: File.

- Read [the full appearance](#) of Fidel Castro Ruz before the press to explain to the people about the organization of the rally for the Second General Assembly of the People of Cuba, January 22, 1962, "Year of Planning".

In video, fragment of the ICAIC News on the Second Declaration of Havana

Fidel Castro Ruz

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