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## Speeches

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# Peru's battle for national sovereignty

by Senator Josmell Muñoz Córdova

I greet Mrs. Helga Zepp-LaRouché, yesterday the founder of the Club of Life, today the founder and chairwoman of the Schiller Institute: the greeting of a senator of the Republic of Peru, the greeting of Peru, and the greeting of Alan García Pérez, President of Peru.

This greeting to Lyndon LaRouche I commend to his wife to take to this great man, the future President of the United States, hope of the peoples of the world.

My affection and my greeting to each one of you representatives of the different countries of the world, my appreciation, my love, and my brotherhood.

... I should give you a clearer idea of what Peru is like, by going back and offering warm homage to two wise men. Antonio Raimondi, a Sicilian, an Italian to whom I render homage, was in Peru in the last century and went all through Peru and marveled at the natural resources he encountered in this country—rivers, maritime, fauna, minerals, polymetallic resources, and non-metallic resources—an extraordinary country. And when he finished traveling through Peru, he said, "Peru is a beggar seated on a chair of gold."

Then there was another wise man, a German whom my country likewise recognizes: Alexander von Humbolt, who discovered a maritime current, and today Peru, in homage to this wise German, calls this current the Humboldt Current.

We achieved our independence 160 years ago, and 60 years ago in Peru, in the face of so much injustice, misery, and death, a struggle and an ideology were begun, called American Popular Revolutionary Alliance [APRA]. . . . In 1978 this great movement succeeded in constituting a great constituent assembly to draw up the political constitution of Peru, the Magna Carta. . . . In this political constitution, we declare Man to be the supreme goal of the state, and thus respect for life, respect for dignity. But again repression was imposed, and in the 1980 elections by evil means, a political

party once again won which was in the service of exploitation, in the service of the transnationals, in the service of the International Monetary Fund. And we regressed enormously. . . .

My countrymen were dying of hunger. We had the highest infant mortality rate in the world, and the average lifespan of the worker who works the mines at the highest altitudes in the world, is only 40-50 years. What did the International Monetary Fund do with my country? It is the same drama we heard yesterday and are hearing today: The letters of intent, the austerity, meant that the previous government shut the factories, massive unemployment was created, no matter how great our struggle in the streets defending productivity, defending the factories, defending the right to work. . . .

Our movement, called the Aprista party of Peru, today led and presided over by Alan García Pérez, is bringing back credibility to this people who had lost faith and hope in democracy. Whole villages no longer desired to live, and they turned themselves over to the struggle led by treasonous terrorism, to this terrorism [the Sendero Luminoso, or Shining Path, terrorists—ed.] which cohabits in my country and lives in union with drug-trafficking.

## The war against narco-terrorism

We have destroyed thousands of clandestine laboratories where they prepared the base paste and manufactured cocaine; we are rescuing thousands of citizens to incorporate them into a decent life. But I must nonetheless here denounce the aggression of the usurious U.S. banks. We don't need support which injures our sovereignty—but even when we fight against world drug-trafficking, against the terrorism which has as allies those bad citizens and bad sociologists of Paris—those individuals who in many universities of Europe, without knowing the reality of my country, support the terrorism of Shining Path, which they subsidize with dollars, whereas over there, in Peru, we are fighting with our national currency.

Having suffered the "dollarization" of Peru, where our national currency had no value, and having lost Peruvian identity—now I tell you with much satisfaction that the national currency has buying power and the currency is respected. We are fighting against dollarization; and how are we fighting?

Our soldiers and our police are facing armies of drug traffickers and armies of subversive terrorists, and, nonetheless, of 100 of our policemen who go out to fight, only 40 have weapons. Sixty per 100 policemen who are defending the citizens of the world against the scourge of drug-trafficking go to risk their lives, and why are the police not armed? Because the previous governments submitted to the International Monetary Fund [demands] that they not fight drug-trafficking, and now we are fighting our fight. It is now or never—and we are not going to fail, we will not fail, and we are resolved to give up our lives to save the citizens of the

world, to save the future generations.

We ask ourselves, what is the point of so much development in the industrialized countries, what good is so much technology, if the future generations are going to die of drug addiction? No one ignores the fact that if we don't fight now, our children will be victims of drug addiction. Therefore we are contributing to . . . future generations, and therefore, under the leadership of Alan García, we are determined to give our lives—but Peru will not go back to being a center of cocaine cultivation or any other drug which affects, damages, and damns the health of the world's citizens.

As was natural, and as Peru's President already warned at the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund is attacking Peru, and, as was said yesterday by chairwoman Helga LaRouche, the debt of Peru and Peru have been declared non-creditworthy; the clique of U.S. bankers, at the urging of the government, has closed off loans to Peru. The war against Peru has already started.

We respect the people of the United States, we know that it is a very noble people, but we are against the government of the United States. We are in a fight, a war, and we are not going to retreat before the U.S. usurious banks, we are going to defend our sovereignty, we are going to defend life, we are not going to go backward to allow the hunger of the people, the disgrace and misery of my brothers, to pay the debt—this debt which has not contributed to development, these loans that never arrived in Peru, but enriched the bureaucracy and the oligarchy of Peru. [This] we will not permit, and I ask you—already we are fighting the war against the International Monetary Fund over there in Peru, every day policemen and soliders die in the fight against drug-trafficking, every day politicians die, every day we are putting our lives on the line in this fight which perhaps you don't know about—and I ask, will you abandon Peru in this fight?

You must understand that the fate of Peru is the fate of the other countries of the world, the fight against drug-trafficking is the fate and the future, and the different future of which our President Alan García speaks. . . .

All of this hope, all of this potential, requires support [for the fight] now being led by Peru. *Now*: Tomorrow could be too late. I was telling some leaders yesterday that, when Argentina, a neighboring country, got into a war against England over the Malvinas islands, Argentina received many greetings, many telegrams, many cables, but it lost the war. We in Peru need greetings, but more than that we need for you to go back to your countries and support, through the government, this fight against exploitation, against usurious banking. This is the greatest and most patriotic support for rescuing life, for rescuing the children of coming generations.

We in Peru don't want handouts. As an underdeveloped country, we want to be taught to fish, we don't want fish. We want to eat and always, as in that adage, we want to develop ourselves. We have the same initiatives and hopes with which

many of you have been fighting, many delegations of the world's countries whose fate is more or less similar—but the difference is in that we in Peru have already started this fight, and we need your support. So I must recognize the effort of this conference. I have to thank the initiatives of the parliamentarians, of the senator and deputy who spoke yesterday. I must say thank you for the words of encouragement of many delegates which I am transmitting to the President of the Peruvian Republic. This allows us to think that we are not alone in the fight, in this war; we will be in conditions of inequality, but we are resolved to keep fighting because we are convinced that we will not go backward, we are convinced that we will not be traitors to our coming generations, we want to live with dignity, we want to save the right to life, the right to live in democracy with respect for human rights.

There are extraordinary powers which are coming together; it is amazing how the extremes come together when it is a question of a patriotic fight such as ours. There is the terrorist group Shining Path with its flag of the hammer and sickle, defying this revolutionary government from inside my country. Every day we have clashes and we have fights [against the terrorists] in the streets, in the Andes, in the little factories that are left in Peru. There are daily battles against this terrorist group that hides in obscurity, that hides in the diatribes which claim to defy a nationalist force—a force born in the heat of 60 years of struggle. And we have to be indignant when this force [Shining Path terrorism] receives the economic aid of many European institutions, and condemn this aid [which contributes] to the hunger of many children, the death of many children. Three days ago, President Alan García visited one of the few hospitals we have where mothers can give birth, and found in every bed two women giving birth. We have a children's hospital, with two or three babies in each cradle. Is this possible?

I ask, must we allow a people to live in these conditions, do we have to tolerate that men and women every day have to commit suicide because they have no jobs, because they don't have work, because they don't have the means to bring home their daily bread, and they prefer a cowardly death, suicide, or going over to the drug-trafficking business, or going up to the Andes valleys to grow cocaine?

I believe that all of you are going to be with us, because we want to save all the citizens of the world, as Alan García said at the United Nations. We don't demand that these citizens be Peruvian; we are not interested in nationality, we believe in life. Alan García and I are citizens of the world, so my fraternal embrace to each one of you, to the organizers of this conference, and I hope that in this conference you will reach agreements destined to be the real, effective help we need today. Tomorrow may be too late.

Long Live Peru!

Long Live Alan García!

Long Live Life!

Long Live the Club of Life!