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# COMMON GOALS

## CONCLUSIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE CONGRESS

Christian Democracy, at the present historical stage of the South American continent, aims at leading the peoples of Latin America towards conditions which will assure them the full spiritual and material development, expressed by following objectives:

- Real observance of Christian values in public life;
- Primacy of the human personality, with full recognition of its rights, freedoms and responsibilities;
- Effective representative political democracy which guarantees the exercise of those rights, freedoms and responsibilities;
- Implementation of an economic democracy, which permits the participation of all in the natural and industrial wealth of the continent, with the traditional target of improving conditions of hygiene, health and civilization in Latin American nations;
- Strengthening of social democracy, which implies justice for all and the emancipation of the working masses, bringing them to the highest levels of life;
- Rejection of Communism, imperialistic exploitation and colonialism.

### Inter-American System and Continental Solidarity

In order to arrive at the political unification of the South American continent, the Congress of Christian Democracy in Sao Paulo, recommended the following measures:

- Implementation of the Charter of the Organization of American States, by a form of mutual assistance which does not tend to continental isolation but, rather, is prepared to cooperate with world forces, in accordance with our understanding of the Inter-American System;
- The aim of the Inter-American System is to give legal and political form to continental solidarity. Continental solidarity implies agreement between the United States and 20 countries of Latin America that they have a common destiny which binds all of them to unite in facing the grave problems and threats of the contemporary world.
- Conscious of the fundamental importance of the task of shaping the destiny of the South American continent and of the judgement of public opinion, the Christian Democratic parties recognize the necessity of a clear definition of the Inter-American System: its profoundly natural character, its basic aims, its present limitations and deficiencies, and the rectifications it requires to reach its full moral and political justification and to serve efficiently

the complementary, but not always identical, interests of peoples that compose it.

- The Christian Democratic parties declare their full support of the principle of continental solidarity and their belief in the possibility of a concordance of the fundamental interests of Latin America and the United States of America.
- For the Christian Democratic parties nothing is more important in the political life of the South American continent than to perfect the bases of the Inter-American System, develop its functioning and balance reasonably the advantages and the obligations, complementary and reciprocal, between both Americas.
- The Inter-American System is to be defined as a political agreement in which the United States of America and the twenty Latin American nations have freely associated to work out their common destiny. It opens perspectives of major significance for the better understanding of the dynamic nature of the permanent interests that unite both Americas.
- The essential interests of Latin America, which the Inter-American System has to assure are three: Internal security, assured through means other than national armed forces; promotion of liberty and representative democracy throughout the continent; integration of Latin America in its political, economic and social aspects.
- The Inter-American System has to exist in order to substitute gradually, in Latin America, the reality of interdependence for the present fiction of "absolute sovereignty," and to replace the fatal limitation of "national markets," insufficient in the present state of development of world economy, by the dynamic possibilities of "integrated markets."
- The integration of Latin America requires political initiative of the highest quality and courage, massive technical assistance, continuous and varied, concrete supra-national organizations, and vigorous investment and financing.
- To implement the three basic aims — Security, Liberty and Integration — it is absolutely indispensable that initiative, responsibility and efforts of a political, technical and financial nature, be assumed and discharged simultaneously by the Latin American countries and the United States of America.

### Other Means Towards Unity

To the end that the political and economic integration of the Latin American countries be gradually attained, the Sao Paulo Congress expressed its determination:

- To support the ratification of the Pact on Pacific Measures that orderly and just procedures in inter-American relations, as well as the implementation of the XXXV Declaration of Bogota concerning the continuity of diplomatic relations, will be assured.
- To affirm that military security should not compromise the Latin American standard of living in its technical, economic and cultural aspects.
- To create conditions that will attract the capital and technicians needed to develop the Latin American economy.
- To propagate a better knowledge of Latin American countries through the universities.
- To promote the co-ordination of social groups and organizations, on a non-governmental basis, in order to advance the integration of Latin America by the active participation of its people.
- To support reciprocal recognition of the legal rights of citizens of other countries, on the basis of length of residence.
- To support the creation of a supra-national Latin American Financial Institute.
- To eliminate the need of passports by Latin American citizens for intra-Latin American travel.
- Having in mind that Inter-Americanism will strengthen the ties between the member governments, while genuine democracy tends to unify peoples, the Congress will promote the idea of an American Parliamentary Union, formed by members of parliaments, freely elected, to meet once a year to discuss, without national limitations, the problems of the American Community of Nations.

#### General Declaration

In more general terms, the immediate aim of Christian Democratic parties in the present historical situation in Latin America is to forward the progress of the continent's peoples:

- To a spiritual life in accordance with the Gospel — which must provide the basis for progress in the Americas.
- To security based on respect for human liberties.
- To participation in the natural and industrial resources of the continent for the attainment of high standards of health and culture, by means of rigorous social justice .

The peoples of the Americas expect that these three goals will be converted immediately into concrete institutions designed for their achievement. Words alone have no value. The creation of CONCRETE INSTITUTIONS — that is the task to be achieved by Christian Democratic parties, or they fall irremediably in the fulfillment of their destiny and hope.

This task implies:

A) To achieve a standard of life that conforms to the Gospel, the Christian Democratic parties

will defend, in the temporal order, a system of personal liberties without privileges or discriminations.

B) To achieve security based on human liberties, the Christian Democratic parties must re-assert the effectiveness of representative democracy and oppose every dictatorship, be it of the right or left, nationalist or military.

C) To achieve social justice — the access of all human groups to the wealth of the Americas — the Christian Democratic parties must institute two measures, among others: the distribution of land, on immediately realizable terms, directed to the widest possible ownership; the restoration of enterprise, as cooperation between intelligence and labor, not only in production but also in income and government, allowing capital a reasonable compensation for risk.

The Christian Democratic parties, which represent Christian standards of universality and fraternity, reasserted their will to cooperate in every possible way in the endeavour to secure the common good of peace — the basic condition of the independence of each American country. This program encounters Communism, with respect to which Christian Democratic parties propose two lines of conduct: Regarding the fact and philosophy of Communism, they reject its materialism and reassert their anti-totalitarianism; regarding aggressive Soviet imperialism, they proclaim their obligation to defend Christian values and the systems of values that are their guarantees.

#### Economic Realities of Latin America:

The existence of 20 Latin American markets, separated by 20 frontiers and serving 20 diverse national interests, contradictory on occasions, makes it impossible to develop their economies according to modern principles. These national economies are inevitably condemned to play an inferior role in relations with the highly developed economies of so called "integrated areas." They are unable to overcome their inherent structural limitations because:

- Consumers markets are insufficient to support economies of high productivity;
- They are incapable of using capital in the necessary volume and speed and they lack economic justification for foreign investments;
- They cannot create the conditions of scientific investigation and technical perfection required by modern economy.

These basic limitations of the fragmented economies of Latin America determine the character of its exports and the inevitable loss of wealth caused by an unfavorable balance of trade. They are also major obstacles to the industrialization and mechanization of agriculture.

The state of the natural and human resources of the Latin American continent points clearly to the road of our destiny, to the benefits offered by a plan to amplify and integrate our markets and to the transformations which this big potential

market will undergo, once integrated, in the consumption of the goods of civilization by the peoples of Latin America, now living on a marginal economy.

For various reasons, complete and immediate integration on the economic plane is impossible in the present circumstances. Conscious of this reality, the Christian Democratic parties understand that integration should be achieved through gradual steps, each characterized by a clearly defined objective.

As concrete recommendations in the economic sphere, the Congress presented the following:

1 — Strengthening and development of international organizations that gather the necessary data for knowledge of Inter-American economic reality and common action based on this knowledge. For this reason, the Congress declares its interest in maintaining ECLA (United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America) and expresses its wish that the Organization of American States take economic coordination as its main objective.

2 — On the basis of already accomplished precedents, to facilitate actual Inter-American commerce. The recent conference of the representatives of Latin American Central Banks in Montevideo proved that the commerce of Latin American countries is complementary.

3 — The creation of common markets of a regional and selective character is completely realistic and possible in the present stage of the development of national economies.

The Christian Democratic parties will in addition work for the calling of an economic conference of Latin American countries to consider a common policy towards other economic areas already in existence or being organized now.

### **Organizational Problems**

The Congress of Sao Paulo passed several resolutions concerning the improvement of the work of the Christian Democratic Movement in Latin America and defining its various future activities. Following are the principles of some of the most important resolutions:

- to fight incessantly against the dictatorial regimes;
- to distinguish clearly and to separate religious and political planes of action and stress the non-confessional character of the Movement;
- to accentuate the position of Christian Democracy as the expression and instrument of the emancipation and elevation of the working masses;
- to promote minimum wage standards in national parliaments, the standard to be readjusted periodically according to the cost of living by a tripartite commission composed of representatives of workers, management and government;
- to promote the ratification of the Convention on Social Security on an international level to protect migrant labor.

## **Recommendations of the Congress:**

### *YOUTH*

- to form an Latin American organization uniting Christian Democratic Youth of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru and Uruguay;
- to affiliate the Latin American organization to the International Union of Young Christian Democrats in Paris;
- to create a Provisional Organizational Committee with its seat in Santiago de Chile, having one representative from each of the above enumerated countries.

### *SYNDICALISM:*

- to create a special commission for trade union problems, charged with preparing a study of trade unionism for the next congress of Christian Democracy;
- to convoke a conference of the Christian Democratic experts on trade union problems in Buenos Aires on December 13-15, 1957, to study the relationship of the Christian Democratic parties to trade unionism.

### *INSTITUTE OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC STUDIES:*

- to create in Montevideo, with the Uruguayan Union Civica charged with its organization, an Institute of Christian Democratic Studies.

### *COORDINATING OFFICE:*

- to solicitate from NEI, CDUCE, and IUYCD the establishment of an office in Latin America (preferably in Santiago de Chile), to coordinate their activities with the Christian Democratic Organization of America.

### *CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC INFORMATION SERVICE:*

- recommend to Christian Democratic parties the close and efficient cooperation with the Christian Democratic Information Service, which soon will be created in Paris.

### *SOLIDARITY OF THE MOVEMENT:*

- recommend to Christian Democratic parties the necessity of solidarity and continued interest in the activities and problems of Christian Democratic parties in other countries.

### *TECHNICAL PREPARATION:*

- recommend to Christian Democratic parties the formation of technical and ideological teams to prepare material for successive Christian Democratic Congresses.

### *PROMOTION OF EXCHANGE:*

- recommend the promotion of exchange and scholarships for intellectuals, and for political, youth, trade union and feminine leaders with the Christian Democratic parties of Europe through a system of inter-party scholarships.

### *NEXT CONGRESS:*

- call next International Christian Democratic Congress in Lima, Peru, in 1959.