



## **April 6 Event** **Once Again, the Communist Party**

### **Speech of Ástor García, General Secretary of PCTE**

Dear comrades, dear fellows who are joining us today, dear members of the international delegations,

On behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Workers of Spain, thanks to all of you for your attendance here today.

**To the members of the Party**, who have mainly traveled hundreds of kilometers, who have got up early, who will later have to jump on the road to arrive tired to your homes, at night, I want to express you the acknowledgement of the central leadership for your answer to the call of this event which is highly important for the Party.

**To the Communist Youth, our CJC**, quarry of communist cadres, school of revolutionaries, present and at the service in every task the Party requests to you, I want to thank you for your so positive answer to the call we made in last March 3, in your 10<sup>th</sup> Congress, right after you just closed three days of discussions addressed to place you at the forefront of the working-class and popular youth from our country.

**To the comrades who are on safety and logistic tasks**, sincere thanks for your effort and your work. This event could not be held without you.

**Comrades from the international delegations**, representatives of our siblings from Mexico, from Italy, from Greece, from Turkey... Who can be better comrades, who can be better trench fellows than those who have proved, with facts and not only with words, that they are able to receive one or one thousand bullets, whether made of plumb or poisoned words, for us, for our common and shared proposal on the defence of Marxism-Leninism, of the need of the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism, of the tireless struggle against those who only want to prevent the working class from accomplishing its historical mission.

Comrades Rafael, Guido, Giorgos, Kemal, convey to your parties our most fraternal greetings, the sincere embrace and the eternal friendship of Spanish communists.



**Fellows of the staffs of Carrefour, Telefónica, Coca-Cola, Peugeot,** and many others who have not been able to come, but support this event from the distance, receive our respect and admiration for giving your all for the rights of the working class at your workplaces.

You fill with significance the word solidarity, workers' struggle and defence of the dignity of one class that, in spite of the many blows it daily receives, rather sooner than later will rise up and seize in its hands everything it produces, will end up once and for all with the exploitation and the relentless robbery capitalists subdue us to.

**To the rest of attendants,** Party friends or just curious people who have come today because you want to know first hand what the PCTE says, I want to give you the most sincere thanks for filling today this Ateneo of Madrid, for recovering together with us these walls and these rooms for the communist and revolutionary speech.

With a difference of almost 100 years, communists are back at the same Ateneo of Madrid where Mikhail Borodin, delegate of the Comintern, met with PSOE members, in the first months of 1920, to lay the foundations of what would become the first communist party in our country.

Near here, in April 15, 1920, the Spanish Communist Party was established and, already being the Spanish Section of the Communist International, it was called the "Party of the Hundred Children" due to the youth of its leaders. Yes, comrades, those who gave the starting signal to Spanish communism were very young members. Whenever somebody criticizes you or underestimates you for being young, tell them that Pasionaria established the Spanish Communist Party when she was 25 years old...

In April 13, 1921, also in this city, the Spanish Communist Workers' Party (PCOE) was established, with prominent working-class leaders like Isidoro Acevedo, who broke up with the 2<sup>nd</sup> International and adopted as their own the internationalist principles lighted by the October Revolution and bolshevik Russia.

Few months after that, on November 1921, the merge of these two organizations, sponsored by the Comintern, gave birth to the Communist Party of Spain, Spanish Section of the Communist International too, the historical acronym of communists which gave glorious examples of revolutionary and workers' struggles in our country for decades.



Comrades, fellows, friends, the Communist Party is born in Spain in light of the October Revolution but, mainly, and nobody must doubt at all that we proudly claim it, Spanish communists are son of the International!

We are the outcome of the necessary and compelled split from social-democracy in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, due to the shameful support of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International parties to “their” bourgeoisie, to “their” landowners, to “their” imperialists against the rest of workers from other countries.

Therefore, there is in our DNA not only the bolshevik experience that led to power the working class in Russia, but also the open struggle against those who betray the working class and end up leading it to submission to capitalists, to become cannon fodder in the rows between capitalists.

Nowadays, our Party does not have the same name that almost 100 years ago. But nobody must doubt at any moment on our commitment with the working class' struggle, on our commitment with the overthrow of the capitalist power and on our commitment with the construction of one country for the working class.

We do not have more commitments, we do not have more ties, just like then, our only aim is to lead forwards the coherent revolutionary struggle to proceed to the construction of socialism-communism in Spain. Once again, Communist Party. Once again, the Communist Party.

And today, much as the capitalists' propaganda may say, the Communist Party is a need for our class and for our people.

One party, one organization, is not the Communist Party only because it calls itself like that, because it gives that title to itself. It is that because it has a strategic goal, the construction of socialism-communism, to which it subordinates all of its tactics. It is that because it has the ability to express the independent stance of the working class in the political and ideological struggle. It is that because it does not submit, at any moment, to the interests of other classes or other social groups.

Comrades, friends, how is the Communist Party not going to be necessary?

We openly state our goals and our *raison d'être*: we exist to take the working class to power, we exist to end up with the capitalist power in Spain, we exist because the social majority, those who produce it all with our work, see ourselves systematically deprived



from that wealth, which mainly serves to satisfy the need of a few ones. We live in a system based on the organized and systematic robbery to the working majority. How is the Communist Party not going to be necessary?

If those who produce are the majority, the majority are those who have to decide what is to be done with the outcome of our work, with the wealth we produce. Thus we must take over the country, over the society, recover what belongs to us and end up once and for all with the robbery and the plunder capitalists have condemned us to.

There are voices that tell us there is no longer the need of the existence of communist parties. Some of those voices come even from ancient communists. There are people who affirm we are antique objects, we are stagnant, outdated, we are something from other century and that, in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, there is no longer sense for our existence.

Comrades, the more you hear that, the more reasons there will be to struggle. The more you hear that, it will be because we will be doing a better work, because our opponents will need to use even more all of their efforts to discredit us, to disparage us, to try to divide us and to delay our growth and our progress.

To those who cast doubt on, or are surprised of, there is still the Communist Party, to all of those who think capitalism is the only possible system, that the only parties to be seriously taken are the capitalist parties, address to them with calm, with confidence, and pose them some of these things I am going to mention now:

1) The capitalist parties tell us that the economic recovery has arrived. That we have overcome the crisis. However, data show that, *in Spain, poverty increased during the crisis 4 times more than what it has been reduced during the recovery*. Therefore, there is no recovery for the majority of the working class and the popular strata in general. Is the Communist Party not necessary?

2) The capitalist parties call us to trust in the system, to postpone our claims for tomorrow. However, data say that what they call the middle class *has nowadays 10 points of the national income less than it had in 2010*. Who have governed in this period in Spain? The PP and again the PSOE. And along with them the political forces that support them or will support them, their crutches on the left and on the right. Is the Communist Party not necessary?

3) The capitalist parties tell us that we can progress with individual effort, i.e., to become bourgeois. However, data say that *if one person is born in a high-income family will earn about 40% more than children born in lower-income family cores*. In other words, poverty



and richness are inherited. Whoever is born as a poor is practically assured to stay poor. Is the Communist Party not necessary?

4) The capitalist parties tell us that bourgeois democracy is the system which guarantees the more and the better respect to human rights. However, data say that *the difference in life expectancy between the richest and poorest neighbourhoods of Barcelona reaches up to 11 years, and up to 7 in Madrid*. In other words, the bourgeoisie lives between 7 and 11 years more than workers, which constitutes a true social genocide. They steal to us the outcome of our work and they steal to us life itself. Is the Communist Party not necessary?

5) The capitalist parties tell us everything must be subordinated to recovery and economic growth, but data prove that *“since the beginning of the recovery the richest 1% has 24,42 out of 100 euros, while the poorest 50% has to share 7 out of 100 euros”*. The recovery and the growth are recovery and growth for capital, not for the working people. Is the Communist Party not necessary?

6) In the same sense, homes without any kind of income are increasing in Spain and, at the same time, multi-billionaires as well. There are 617.000 homes without incomes and 1.690 people with more than 40 millions of euros, a bunch of families. Is the Communist Party not necessary?

7) The capitalist parties agree to make our country completely dependent on energy. They close our thermal power stations and demonize our energy resources such as coal, but press media entitled in last February 20 that *more than 40% of Spanish population suffers from energetic poverty*. And it subtitled that *energetic poverty in Spain could be responsible of some 7.100 early deaths per year*. Besides, according to Eurostat, *last year the cost of electricity was 745,90 euros per person, 55,6% more expensive than 10 years ago*. Have your salaries increased 55,6% in the last years? NO, they have fallen three points in that periods. Is the Communist Party not necessary?

8) The capitalist parties talk about State Pacts against child poverty, but data say that *28% of under-16 minors (2,1 millions of children) live at the risk of poverty; 700.000 of which do it under a situation of severe shortage, i.e., they do not have assured food or stuff as basic as light or heat*. And it went on saying that *half of those children repeat grades, against 8% of the rest of students*. Let's ask around us, let's ask to that supporter of capitalism and to capitalists: Is that situation tolerable? Is the Communist Party not necessary?



9) All over the world, the wealth of billionaires increased 12% in the last year – 2.500 millions of dollars everyday – while the wealth of the poorest half – 3.800 millions of people – decreased 11%. Is the Communist Party not necessary?

10) Every week, in our country, almost three millions of unpaid extraordinary hours are worked. THREE MILLIONS.

Does still anybody have the courage to tell us the Communist Party is not necessary?

This, friends, is capitalism. It is the outcome of capitalist management, carried out in our country by social-democratic and conservative governments. We can keep on providing data on every aspect of the life of our class and our people, data on the youth, on women, on pensions, on temporary hiring, on whatever you want, and all of them tell the same.

They tell us there is no way out within capitalism, that capitalism is a dying and exhausted system whose survival means a death threat for humanity.

This is why, comrades, this is why, friends, there is the historic and urgent need for its replacement for socialism-communism.

Therefore, how is the Communist Party not going to be necessary, when it is the only party, it is the only organization, which openly says it has a model of country where these things do not happen, where these things are not tolerated, where these things are a bad memory from a past we do not want to go back to!

This is why the Communist Party must be strengthened, why we have to organize ourselves in the Communist Party and to develop it to the maximum in the places where we work and live, making us increasingly stronger to resist the attacks of capitalists and their parties. To strengthen the Communist Party is a necessary pre-requisite to make today's resistance become tomorrow's counter-attack.

But there are those who, even though they call themselves communists, they bear the name of Communist Party, forget this reality. When the communist parties become a part of what they are compelled to destroy, it is when they lose their meaning.

We have a large experience in Spain: the communist movement has given several examples of situations of renounce to the only mission which gives sense to our existence. Because of betrayals, because of incapacities, because of how overwhelming the task was, it does not matter any more, the truth is that our movement has been on



the verge of demise.

But luckily it has not done it. Humbly, but loudly and clearly, we claim that within the PCTE live with strength the ideas and desires of our comrades

- who established in 1920 that Party of the Hundred Children,
- who established in 1921 the PCOE,
- who established on November 1921 the PCE,
- who fought in the National-Revolutionary War against the fascist beast, who became the only real force of opposition to Francoism,
- who resisted the eurocommunist betrayal,
- who created in the 1984 Congress of Communist Unity a party that aimed to defeat Carrillism and who defended with vehemence the experiences of socialist construction and proletarian internationalism,
- who claimed Marxism-Leninism through thick and thin,
- who said no to the deceptions of social-democracy on NATO and the EU...

The communist movement in Spain is quite alive, the Communist Party is quite alive, and at an international level we are quite alive as well. We can proudly say we are the only Spanish party present at all instances of the International Communist Movement, we are in the International Meetings of Communist and Workers' Parties, we are in the International Communist Review, we are in the European Communist Initiative, who else can say that today?

Comrades, our commitment is to keep and develop the people's and workers' struggle for socialism-communism.

We are not going to allow anybody to entertain us, to distract us or to tell us what we have to do or what we have to defend.

Our history, our blood, our experience and the communist principles are our guide. Whoever wants other proposals, other experiences or other ideologies, will have to search elsewhere.

Comrades, nowadays the political situation in Spain is determined by the subsequent electoral calls. More than three months of electoral circus, of proposal merchandising, of spectacle meant for revalidating the deception of toiling masses which must not make us lose sight of the fact we are in a highly important moment.

Yes, but it is not because it is at stake what capitalist bloc occupies Moncloa in the next period, but because we are going towards the consolidation of an enlarged two-party



system which is going to set some aspects of class struggle in Spain in the next years. The exploitation of our class and our people is going to be still produced after these electoral calls, but on a renewed way, a bit different from what we knew until now.

Unfortunately, we are not strong enough yet to be decisive in this electoral period. We are the first communist candidacy in Spain, but beyond the momentaneous satisfaction such fact can give to us, in practice it is absolutely not enough given the huge challenges in front of us. Very few workers know about us, there are still few people willing to support us.

In workplaces and study centers, in the working-class and people's neighbourhoods, we are neither strong enough yet. We are laying the foundations, we are stepping on the throttle, but it is still too soon, we are still on the early stages, the conscience of workers is still dominated by possibilism, by the lesser evil, by the acceptance of the lies spread by social-democracy.

In spite of all the data previously exposed, our class and our people are still trusting in capitalists. They are still drifting by their deceptions, and if they react against these capitalist parties, they do it many times in a reactionary way, by surrendering to the most radical versions of capitalist parties. But without breaking with capitalism.

Comrades, fellows, capitalist radicalism is useless and is dangerous. It serves as the escape valve of people's frustration and rage, but also to consolidate the two-party system, even to enlarge it. Capitalist radicalism, on both sides, is a demonstration of the ability of the bourgeoisie to recompose and reorganize its domination in a moment like the current one, when it needs the bigger unity possible to secure its model of exploitation. And yes, that essential unity is going to be still given even if we find a Congress of the Deputies with more parties than ever after April 28. There will be PSOE, PP, Podemos, Ciudadanos, Vox, Mareas, confluencias, agreements and disagreements, PNV and Esquerra, Bildu and the PdeCat – or whatever its name is now –, Canarians, Valencians... And so?

Will anybody dare to say there will be any force in that Parliament which is not capitalist? No, comrades, we are going to have from the programme of maximum goals of the bourgeoisie to the siren calls of social-democracy, but if we are not there the programme of maximum goals of the working class is not going to be there. This is why the PCTE has to be strengthened! To face them, to oppose our programme of emancipation to their programmes of domination and exploitation!





Yes, comrades, times demand us to talk about the programme of maximum goals of the class. To use our specific and immediate proposals not as measures to discuss in a chamber, but to bring the struggle in factories, in workshops, in the industrial parks, in the neighbourhoods, together; to explain our class siblings we have to start from the specific and the immediate to arrive, rather sooner than later, to build that country for the working class where we will not have to bear more exploitation nor more plunder any longer.

Comrades, fellows, these are times of dilemmas, of taking brave decisions. Here, now, I say really clear and really loud that for the Communist Party, for the PCTE, the dilemma is not to choose the way our exploitation is managed, the dilemma is not between which section of the bourgeoisie imposes its programme.

I tell you here that they are not going to make us choose the colour of our chains, nor are going to entangle us with their calls to the false unity, that one they only remember when the electoral processes are approaching.

We are big supporters of unity, indeed we want unity, indeed we want the class to be united against those who want to divide it by reason of language, of feeling of national belonging, of seniority or type of contract!

Indeed we want unity! Communist rally for unity:

- The unity of workers in workplaces.
- The unity of students in the defence of their future.
- The unity of worker women in struggle to preserve and extend the rights of women.
- The unity of the working class in all the struggles fought so our people has a future.
- The unity of those who think all the wealths of the country are subordinated to the collective interest.
- The unity of those who consider work is a right and a duty, of those who think there is no reason for which poverty is spread, salaries do not reach to live or there are homeless people in a country of empty houses.
- The unity of those who will never accept that in the working-class neighbourhoods of Barcelona our people's life expectancy is 11 years less than the bourgeoisie's, or that we live 7 years less than capitalists in the case of Madrid.
- The unity of those who oppose to the imperialist war, of those who defend that the peoples must be free to decide their future, of those who abide by the principles of internationalism and solidarity.



*Unity is a need for workers, we have no doubt on it.*

But the unity that others proclaim is something different. It is submission to their programmes to sustain and continue the capitalist system.

It is the time for them to listen to this:

- We do not want unity with those who only aim to manage capitalism.
- We do not want unity with those who do not question the European Union nor our country's belonging to NATO.
- We do not want unity with the responsables of the deindustrialization and the labour reforms, with those who introduced in our country the temporary work agencies and spread the objective dismissal.
- We do not want unity with those who reformed article 135 of the Constitution on a summer to completely subdue the country to the needs of capital.
- We do not want unity with those who privatize, with those who cut our rights and freedoms.
- We do not want unity with those who support coups d'état in third countries and place themselves at the service of foreign powers, as they have proved quite recently in Venezuela, with the howling silence of some.

Comrades, unity with the capitalist parties would mean to become accomplices of their actions against the working class and the peoples, and they will not see us there, because we are not born to subordinate to capitalists, we are born to end up with capitalists.

Friends, I think I have said it quite clear, I think I have left no room for doubts. But as these are times when one has to be really explicit, I am going to say it in other way:

*We are fed up with the call to the useful vote, we are fed up with the calls to the "leftist" vote, we are fed up with being frightened and with their attempts to continuously deceive us with calls to support the lesser evil, to support the old or new social-democracy.*

Somebody has to say it and it is us:

The PSOE is a party of traitors to our class: from the support of socialists to Casado's coup d'état in Madrid, which enabled the triumph of fascists 80 years ago, to their rejection to the guerrilla and clandestine struggle against Francoism, which was almost exclusively carried out by communists; from their funding by German social-democracy in the Transition to their betrayal to the Saharan people; from the industrial reconversion



they boosted to the GAL State terrorism; from their “NATO, no to entry” to their labour reforms, the legalization of the TWA, the Corcuera Law, the participation in imperialist wars (Iraq, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Libya), the reform of article 135 of the Constitution or, very recently, their cynicism as of the matter of the refugees or their role as a loyal lackey of imperialism in Venezuela.

Is it not really clear yet that the PSOE is an enemy of workers and peoples?

Unity with them? But what are those who are calling us to unity with this people talking about?

And what about PODEMOS and the confluences? Those who have resigned to be the support of the PSOE, those who have totally surrendered to the old social-democracy, to suggest formulas for a “modern and efficient” management of Spanish capitalism, those who said they wanted to assault the sky and have ended up crawling in offices and carpets. What do their calls to unity materialize in? Do they not want to be alone in their surrender to PSOE? Do they not want to have anybody who tells them that there were no need of so many saddlebags, nor so much bombast, nor so many false illusions, to make this trip?

They do not have to expect us in that false unity, comrades. We are building it wherever it is important, in workplaces, in the neighbourhoods, in study centers. There they will do find us.

Comrades, I am fully conscious that, in these times of false dilemmas and superficial dichotomies, there is somebody who can be tempted to take advantage from my words to say that, as we do not support PSOE and PODEMOS, we are providing air to PP, Ciudadanos and VOX.

The old dichotomy social-democracy likes so much. With me or against me. They must know that it is not going to be useful with us. It is not us those who say we want to settle a government with Ciudadanos, nor those who say that maybe we were wrong in 2016 for not supporting the Sánchez-Rivera tandem for Moncloa.

Those ones are not us, Pedro; those ones are not us, Pablo. It is you.

We have clearly said it, VOX is a expression of the programme of maximum goals of the bourgeoisie, they are those who want to end up with healthcare and public pensions, they are those who want to cut down to the minimum the taxes on business incomes and



benefits, those who want to make every soil an urban land and to privatize education, just to give some examples. What the PP does not dare to say, VOX says it while they wrap themselves in the flag, making true again something Machado already said:

**In the hard trances, masters invoke the fatherland and sell it;  
the people does not even name it, but buys it with its blood and saves it**

They, bourgeois, capitalists, have VOX.

**I say here, loud and clear, that the workers of Spain have, once again, the Communist Party.**

Comrades, fellows, friends, this event has no other claim than to openly say to everybody, communists are really alive, we do not hide, we are going to become again a decisive force in the history of this country. As Celaya said:

*We nurtured of what it was, we grew up by transforming ourselves and thus we are who we are, blow after blow and dead after dead.*

We come from far away and now what we want is you to join us there where we are going.

Towards a place where education, healthcare and all the public services serve only and exclusively to improve our lives, and not to fatten business benefits.

Towards a place where industry feeds again millions of families.

Towards a place where you work to live, and not on the contrary. Where dignity is not a price to pay to put a dish in a table. Where the right to a house is unalienable. Where a woman does not have to work eighty days more than a man per year to earn the same. Where our youngsters do not have to move far to live from their work.

We are going to a country which does not belong to multinational companies, which says NO to a European Union that plunders us, which says to monopolies it is ENOUGH. Which says to NATO: not a single dead man more on behalf of us.

Once again, Communist Party.



Communist Party to repeal all the labour counter-reforms.

Communist Party to lower the age of retirement at 60 years old.

Communist Party to make the unemployment benefit have an undefined and unconditioned nature.

Communist Party to illegalize temporary work agencies.

Communist Party to nationalize energy, banks and assurances.

Communist Party to close betting houses.

Communist Party to expropriate houses in the hands of the bank and vulture funds.

Communist Party to expel companies from healthcare and education.

Communist Party to break up with the EU and NATO.

Communist Party to start building a country for the working class.

Comrades, fellows, friends,

*To the street! It is time to wander our body and prove that, as we live, we announce something new.*

Reinforce the ranks of the Communist Party, support the Communist Party in the electoral campaigns,

create Party structures in your neighbourhoods, in your locations, in your workplaces,

fight with all your forces against reactionaries, against all the enemies of the working class, against those who deceive us and exploit us,

and never give up being in the first line of the struggle for the rights of the working majority.

Fellows, friends, comrades, *as we live, we announce something new,*

We announce a country for the working class.

Long live the Communist Party of the Workers of Spain

Long live the international communist movement

Thank you very much.