



PRESIDENT EVO MORALES

SPEECHES

APRIL 18, 2017

WORDS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA, EVO MORALES, AND READING OF THE MANIFESTO IN DEFENSE OF THE LIFE AND PEACE OF THE WORLD

GOVERNMENT PALACE

President: To inform that the last meeting between the Government and - Conalcam has unfortunately been suspended for health reasons, that is why we have called for this Tuesday and I welcome the presence of almost all the national organizations that represent the entity in charge of the National Coordination for Change.

We have discussed many issues, but a very important one is the concern of the National Government that represents the Plurinational State but also the people represented by social movements. In this meeting we have approved a manifesto to defend life and world peace, a draft document that has been corrected, improved and adopted, to express what the Bolivian people think of conflicts and threats of war, interventions of military bases which leaves much to be desired about life on the planet.

This is why we are going to ask Comrade Domingo Vásquez, our executive of the Bolivian Petroleum Federation to share the document approved by this meeting of Conalcam.

Domingo Vásquez: Thank you very much to the press, after this meeting, as the President said, and we have greeted the social movements of the country with great joy, the President is back in office, in good health, and we are all very happy, especially us, who represent civil society.

I am going to read the conclusions of a meeting and a statement called Government - Social Movements "Manifesto in defense of life and peace in the world."

We are experiencing the worst humanitarian crisis of the last 70 years; Humanity is living a heartbreaking reality, wars and conflicts of different kinds and in various parts of the world have caused a desperate situation, more than 128 million of people require humanitarian assistance in 33 countries, of which more than 40 million are internally displaced, more than 21 million are refugees and more than 3 million are asylum seekers.

This humanitarian crisis is also seen in the eyes of more than 20 million people who are suffering famine or risk of famine in different parts of the world; these are the survivors. Let's also talk about those who have died, the invasion of Iraq in 2003 has caused up to one million deaths; after more than six years, over 400 thousand people died in the war in Syria, the intervention in Libya has caused almost 50 thousand deaths. In addition, the destruction of state institutions has left a void that has been immediately filled by groups that generate violence infringing much pain.

We are aware that many of these conflicts are due to interventionism, policies of overthrowing governments, and their ambition to get hold of the natural resources of the invaded countries.

The pursuit of control over oil, gas, minerals, or geographical location are the real reasons for the imperial attacks to promote wars, conflicts, instability, chaos and deaths; in this scenario of turmoil and absence of state they seize these natural resources and then distribute them among their transnational companies.

In the last decades we have seen with horror the use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction, it seems that we have not learned from the tragic experiences of launching two atomic bombs by the US in Hiroshima and Nagasaki against civilian populations, today we suffer again the threat of nuclear war.

Science and technology is being used to spread death and not to save life, it is also important to remember that more than 90% of deaths in wars are caused by weapons or the so called conventional weapons.

We are in a world where arms are the ones that talk, in which the arms race is leading us to an abyss from which there is no return. We also see with great concern that there is a weakening of the international system represented by the UN; the United States takes unilateral measures, violating the Charter of the United Nations.

We are convinced that peace, the daughter of social justice and of the respect for the rights of Mother Earth, is the only way to save life; Bolivia is a country inhabited by many cultures, we have declared ourselves constitutionally pacifists and free of foreign military bases in our territory. In view of this dramatic world situation and in defense of these principles and values, we express the following:

Manifest in defense of life and peace in the world:

1. We strongly condemn any form of invasion or use of force, and demand that the settlement of disputes be exclusively through peaceful mechanisms.
2. We demand that the right of people to peace, sovereignty and self-determination be respected.
3. We demand that all types of war cease and those that are under way be resolved through political dialogue and negotiations that respect the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of all countries.
4. We demand the ban on the use of weapons of mass destruction, whether nuclear, chemical or biological.
5. In addition, we demand a ban on the manufacturing of weapons worldwide, and destruction of the existing ones, including nuclear weapons.
6. We demand to stop the arms race that makes of death a lucrative business and that diverts the economic resources that we must use to fight hunger and poverty.
7. We urge the United Nations not to be an instrument to legitimize unilateral invasions and actions and, instead, defend the principles and purposes that are intended to preserve future generations from the scourge of war that has brought untold sorrow to mankind.
8. We demand that the invaders of towns and destroyers of states repair the damages caused.

9. Humanity must concentrate efforts on combating inequality, respecting the rights of Mother Earth and building a world that does not divide the human family, a world in which natural resources are under the control of their peoples and where basic services are recognized as collective rights.

10. We demand respect for all religions and all cultures, diversity is one of our greatest assets. We must all contribute to the culture of peace.

It is given at the Conalcam meeting today.

Thank you very much.

(APPLAUSE)

President: I want to tell you fellows of the press, through you to the Bolivian people and to the whole world, this manifesto, wisely put, to avoid any nuclear war with atomic bombs. You know, the world knows, humanity knows that the use of atomic bombs through a nuclear war would destroy the planet.

After listening to the experts, some evaluations, some comments in the media surprises us, the tragedy that would bring us these threats of war with the use of nuclear weapons; That is why I greet Conalcam's decision to make a manifesto and this manifesto is signed by all the leaders present on behalf of their bases, therefore of the Bolivian people, thank you very much, fellows.

(APPLAUSE)