

CUBA

more or

ROBERTO ROBAINA

100% CUBANO

A close-up photograph of a person's face, focusing on the eyes and forehead. The person has dark hair and is wearing a white headband with a blue stripe. The text '100% CUBANO' is printed in blue on the white part of the headband. The person's eyes are looking directly at the camera.

CUBA
moves on!

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*Speech delivered, on December 28 1990, by Roberto Robaina,
First Secretary of the Young Communist League, at the construction
site of the 1991 Pan-American Games, Havana Cuba.*

Young Fidelists,
One-party youth,
Young people of all revolutionary ages,

Cuba moves on! Even if *machetes* get entangled in the bush.
Cuba moves on! Even if the stars refuse to shine in hard nights.
Cuba moves on! Even if each of us has to untangle the jungle
with his own hands.

Cuba moves on! Despite the difficulties of the world surround-
ing us.

Cuba moves on! Though it hurts our northern neighbor.¹

Cuba will go ahead and it's going ahead. The firmness of a
nation is measured by the firmness of its best sons. A country fails
when its sons do, but we, sons of people who have never been
defeated, are and will always be victorious.

Our enemies are as old as the Revolution. If we suffer a
setback, they have fun; if we succeed, they are sad. Our joy makes
them mad, and our sorrow makes them rejoice. But, truly, that's why

¹ *Cuba Moves On!* Title of a revolutionary song composed by Cuban singers Silvio Rodríguez, Pablo Milanés and Noel Nicola, motto of the Young Communist League.

they have rejoiced so little in the last 32 years. We make history, and they, if anything, build up hysteria.

They're building up hopes and think that the ticking of *Radio Reloj*² announces every minute the end of Cuban socialism, the collapse of our social system and our ideas. We have to tell them, loudly and clearly, that they shouldn't go on building up hopes so that they won't die of disillusion.

They're going to die of disillusion since the facilities where we are meeting today will be ready for the Pan-American Games and right here we'll meet again to applaud the first gold medal winners of these games, who are, in fact, their own builders.

They're going to die of disillusion since our people won't be on their knees because of starvation. We're, as never before, involved in a food plan that has just been thoroughly discussed by our National Assembly, and though it presents difficulties, it's already showing positive results.

They're going to die of disillusion because they think this nation will lack in raw materials. But they don't know that our basic raw material neither comes through the ports nor goes through customs. It's not imported. The basic raw material of this nation is its own men and women, the intelligence and the talents the Revolution itself has guaranteed, cultivated, promoted and developed among its best sons.

They're going to die of disillusion because we won't do anything imposed by outsiders. They say there's a dictatorship in Cuba, and that if we're so certain of our President, we should go for a plebiscite. I wonder who told the Yankees we should do as they say. Once again they're wrong. What we have to tell them first is that we, young Cuban people, are proud of our history, that last century we kicked out an empire with *machetes* only and this century, without being told to do so, we got rid of two bloody dictatorships with strikes and guns only.

2 Cuban radio station that broadcasts news 24 hours and gives the time every minute.

In this country we'll have the elections we want, whenever we want and the way we want. We, who make the Revolution, not those who make counterrevolution, are the ones to decide upon it. We, patriots, not traitors, are the ones to decide upon it. We, Cubans, not the Yankees, are the ones to decide upon it.

They're going to die of disillusion because in worst years Cuba gets going. We're creators, not imitators. A hundred years ago [José] Martí wrote in [his article] *Our America*: "When a problem arises in Cojimar, they do not seek its solution in Danzig." Cojimar is right here beside us, to the right of the rostrum, close to this site, and I was curious to know where Danzig is. I found out that it was the name of an old German harbor that now belongs to Poland and is called Gdansk, the same place where the rightist trade union Solidarity started. How right Martí was when he said that solutions to Cojimar's problems are not in Gdansk.

They're definitely going to die of disillusion because as young people everywhere are mobilizing to overthrow and oppose governments, to protest and challenge them, here we are like never before, together with our Party, together with our people and our invincible Commander in Chief, ratifying as ever that Cuban youth neither surrenders nor betrays.

A rally like this and a crowd like this are enough reasons to indeed make the bilirubin of the Yankees go up.³

Capitalism has nothing to do in Cuba. We gave it a one-way ticket that was purchased a long time ago, and no return ticket was sold. And, today, even if it has a lot of money, there is no reserved place for it and never will there be.

They think Cuban youth can be wheedled, since we haven't experienced that bitter society. We think for ourselves because in 1959 this nation was not told to believe but to basically read. And we were educated to think for ourselves.

Should we be told in English how we have to think in Spanish?

3 "Make the bilirubin go up," expression taken from a popular song interpreted by Dominican group "4-40" meaning emotional stress.

We're going to improve socialism, that's for sure, but we're not going to change it; we're going to perfect it, not destroy it; we're going to rectify it, not denigrate it and nobody is going to rush out looking for shelter in capitalism, as others have done.

Over there they talk about possible dialogue with Cuba. The young generation feels that we can affably talk to all those who may want to help improve what we have, which was built with so much sacrifice, to whoever would like to pass on to us a worthy experience; but we're stone-deaf to those who dream on bringing us back the past. Whoever would like to bring us back the past, ought to talk arms in hands, because we won't go back at any price.

We read about what's happening in the countries that gave up, to the parties that have failed, to the governments whose souls were sold again. These people, due to the weakness of their party, are no longer first but second, third and fourth class citizens. Entire nations are left without history. And, to be left without history is to be left without roots, without past and present.

Cuba, fortunately, has remained without capitalism. But for more than half a century there was a kind of it here that didn't solve any problem, that worsened our parents' lives, a Yankee style capitalism for which there is no place here.

It's true that we have shortages and we even have a ration card, but we prefer to say as Albita⁴ does:

*How good it is when there's nothing
and we share everything,
how bad it is when there's everything
and we share nothing.*

We are not aiming at having stores with filled up shelves for as long as purses are empty. We prefer to share equally what we can obtain with everyone's effort. In those societies man is the werewolf of man. Here we killed the wolf for all men to be brothers.

What has capitalism given to the peoples of Latin America? In order to maintain their high standard of living, they lay off workers, drastically cut back health, education and social security budgets, because the market economy, based on supply and demand, does not allow human beings to be worth a penny. You are a person only if you have money; you can receive medical attention or study only if you have money.

Can you imagine if our schools and hospitals were to become private institutions again?

Here in this crowd, surely, there are not only young people, but also those who lived that past. We don't need to experience it in order to know it. It's enough for us to know that at one time, in this country, man was not worth a penny.

Up there in the North, some brainy theoreticians have planned in their stupid minds the idea of Cuba going back to capitalism, and they have even written it down on paper that could have a better purpose [!!!] They have even carefully studied the possibility of respecting the property rights of houses acquired under the Urban Reform Law, since they aren't yet so out of their minds as to expect that this would be reverted. However, they are planning to allow the prices of the current real-estate market to shoot up. They would free rents in order to base them on the ebbs and flows of supply and demand.

We have seen in [foreign] newspapers the long rental listings, pages and pages of listings. Any dreamer would say, "They have solved the housing problem, look at how many living spaces are available!" But what such dreamer does not notice is that the listings are the same for weeks, while in shabby towns, city outskirts and suburbs, people build houses out of clippings of these same listings and top off their shelter with Coca-Cola metallic billboards.

In these places, the only wealth is a color picture that hides a hole in the wall. And it is like this from Brazilian *favelas* [shacks] to poor Mexican suburbs. There's poverty from Patagonia to [Rio] Bravo.

⁴ Refers to Albita Rodríguez, young Cuban singer and folk music composer.

It is said that Cuban citizens run away in boats risking their lives. Nobody wonders what socialism Mexican wetbacks, who cross the Texas Border by hundreds, run away from.

Of course, there's a difference: wetbacks are either sent back or killed; *gusanos*⁵ from here, instead, are welcomed as heroes. In Baracoa,⁶ we often have to help Haitians who run away from hunger, because in the United States they only offer repatriation to them. The U.S. encourages fleeing from our country and harasses Latin immigrants. It's even a guaranty to be a Cuban *gusano* in that continent which shows the extent of Yankee hatred for our country.

We've widely opened the doors of exile to those who don't want to have a homeland; instead, the U.S. shut the doors of their "Heaven" since only the fleer who curses against his native land is suitable to them.

There are lots of campaigns against Cuba. It could be said that since they have had to dismantle their propaganda against the former socialist countries, they are focusing all their TV and radio equipment on our country so that their press agents are not left unemployed; "invisible and silent, thanks to young and not so young technicians"⁷.

They are trying to give a distorted image of our reality, and they often succeed. We realize it when we talk to foreign journalists who visit us, who are surprised that we don't have fangs like Dracula. The campaign has worsened like a storm, but we are ready to face cyclones and hurricanes.

What is this enemy offering us today?

They shout from rooftops that there's no freedom here; but they prohibit their own citizens from visiting Cuba.

They shout from North to South and from East to West that this Revolution is starving its people and preventing them from having access to the wonders of consumer goods, but they miserably blockade even a small aspirin.

⁵ Popular name Cubans give to counterrevolutionary people [worm].

⁶ Town on the northeast coast of Cuba.

⁷ Refers to the poorly called TV and radio Martí, U.S. stations whose programs against Cuba are being scrambled by Cuban technicians

They hysterically shout from rooftops that we are isolated, lonely and lost, while trying hard to stifle governments interested in negotiating with us. They claim that we won't be able to resist, but they do everything possible for preventing us from resisting.

They are forcing the Soviet Union to break relations with Cuba to deprive us from our revolutionary ties of more than 30 years; and then, they boastfully state that we only have a few hours left.

Is it possible to find more barefaced, shameless, cynical and brazen people? They want people to be free, and they blockade them; they want people to eat, and they refuse to provide them with food; they want people to be healthy, and they refuse to provide them with medicine.

Gentlemen from the empire, we don't want your help. We don't need either your approval or your condemnation.

We, young Cuban people, would indeed be seriously worried if our Party were to be flattered by Yankee imperialists. We would have serious concerns if our Party were to be applauded by these gentlemen who invade Grenada and Panama, who blockade Iraq, and calmly watch Palestinians being massacred. What they indeed feel for our Party is respect and fear. Respect because of its stand and fear because of its example.

However, in an evening like this, it would be honest to say that there's something we must thank our blond neighbors for. We are very grateful to them. We thank them a thousand times for having made us more revolutionary; we thank them a thousand times for having helped us forge this indestructible unity among all Cubans; we thank them a thousand times for showing us day after day that we're on the right track.

What do the enemies of the Revolution want? Let me ask you: Should they manage to get Cuban youth to challenge the generation that decided to put an end to poverty in Cuba?

Should we challenge those who have fought for this country to get a better future?

Should we challenge those who forever eliminated illiteracy in Cuba?

Should we challenge those who built schools and hospitals?

Should we challenge those who guarantee education and health care for us?

Should we challenge those who are dedicated to seeking solutions to our problems?

Should they manage to get us to challenge the generation we're born from, the one we are growing up with?

Should they destroy the unity among our grandparents, parents and brothers?

They must not forget that we're an island, a nation, a culture, a nationality, an ideology, a party, and only one heart willing to do anything. And, to live, that heart alone is enough!

But we should not spoil this celebration of the 32 years [of the Revolution] talking so much about these little gentlemen from up there. We're not going to spoil this joy, this enthusiasm, this sea of blue, white and red youth in the colors of our country, talking about this subject. Those people are not worth a single confetti in this party nor a candy from our *piñata*.⁸

There are more serious things to worry about and to keep us busy. We're now celebrating the 32nd year and we have called it *32 and onward* which means that from January on, Cuban youth will speed up the march toward the 33rd year together with our Commander. What we, Cuban youth, are going to do is face up year 1991 and there's no need for anybody to come and tell us what to do, for we're sharing every minute with this nation and when peoples' time comes, their sons always know where they should be.

Where were we in 1990?⁹ We were with our history in the streets. We marched holding torches to pay tribute to Martí,¹⁰ we gave our hearts on February 14,¹¹ we loved women as never before on their anniversary,¹² we reminded April¹³ to the Yankees; we were

8 Large figurine made out of papier mâché, stuffed with candies and used at parties.

9 Refers to various politico-ideological campaigns carried out by the Young Communist League during 1990.

10 January 28, anniversary of José Martí's birth.

11 Valentine's Day.

12 March 8, International Women's Day.

13 April 1961, anniversary of the defeat of imperialism at the Bay of Pigs.

guajiritos [young peasants] together with our peasants;¹⁴ we had a nice summer and a dynamic winter; we went walking with Camilo's unique smile;¹⁵ we gave no truce while learning to love Che;¹⁶ we dreamt about something better for those who deserve our love.

We walked with the present along the furrows of the sugar cane harvesting; our young help took turns either in the sugar mills or in the factories; we threw ourselves voluntarily or permanently into the agricultural camps.

We were in the social minibrigades, in the construction of agricultural camps, we linked our keys with causeways and we worked energetically in the construction of facilities for the Pan-American Games.

We set up youth commercial units for services and gastronomy, we were involved in drilling and extracting oil, we were on merchant and fishing boats, we flew with Cubana [Airline] and worked on the railways; we boosted the *Turquino Plan*,¹⁷ sowing, caring and harvesting coffee, we participated in the work of all contingents and there isn't a single work, a single worker and peasant endeavor to which the Cuban youth has not contributed.

Young people donated their blood when Iran was hit by an earthquake and our pioneers'¹⁸ organization lent its holiday camp to Soviet children victims of the Chernobyl accident. Thousands of our young doctors, construction workers and teachers were involved in internationalist brigades helping more than 25 Third World countries while a large number of our brothers and sisters were or still are in Angola. We represent a high percentage in the Revolutionary Armed Forces, the Ministry of the Interior and the Territorial Militia Troops.

New young figures had outstanding performances in fencing, world junior baseball championships, boxing, as well as in all dis-

14 May, anniversary of the Agrarian Reform.

15 October 28, anniversary of Camilo Cienfuegos's death [hero of the Cuban Revolution].

16 October 8, anniversary of Che Guevara's death.

17 Special program introduced in 1987 to boost up coffee and cocoa production in the mountains with young people brigades.

18 Members of grade 1 to 9 student organization.

ciplines of the Central American Games, in women basketball, wrestling, musical aerobic gymnastics, popular marathons and races.

We had a successful congress of the Federation of University Students, where we dotted the Is and crossed the Ts in several subjects of general and special interest to students, all of which were openly analyzed without mincing words.

We're proud of our athletes and intellectuals, not only because of their well-deserved prizes which honor the country so much, but also because they angrily reject those who buy talents and are proud of the country where they were born, educated and where they had the chance to develop their abilities and skills. Just to mention an example, among many others: the 17 year-old ballet dancer Carlos "Junior" [Acosta], prize-winner in France and Switzerland, the youngest of 11 children of a truck driver, was educated in the Cuban ballet school [National Ballet School].

The work of six lustrums is starting to give other results as well. There are lots of devoted anonymous young people who spend almost all of their time in the laboratory in order to earn such achievements for us as the antimeningococcic vaccine and the vaccine against hepatitis b, new sugar cane varieties, neurosurgery multidisciplinary equipment, neurotransplantations and heart operations. The entire vast field of biotechnology confirms to us once again that if Fidel once said that there were lots of Camilos among our people, today we can say that by work and grace of education and for the work of the Revolution, there are lots of Finlays¹⁹ among our people, so this is a nation of Camilos and Finlays.

This is nothing but a brief summary in which, undoubtedly, there are gaps, for the simple reason that we haven't written down everything we've done, because we don't go around notebook in hand listing what we are doing, but rather what we have yet to do.

We can feel proud of what we've done in 1990 in sports, culture and science, and we are optimistic and confident about what we expect from 1991.

We talk about good things, but not everything is good, not everything is an achievement, not everything can give a good image meaning everything is all right. Therefore we can't sit down and relax. What has been accomplished can't be taken as a spring mattress to lay on it and contemplate the achieved work.

We can see the fruits of these 30 years, but we, young Cubans, inherited something from the generation that trained us and educated us. That generation taught us to be forever nonconformist and optimistic.

First of all, we, young people, do not agree with many things which we know could be improved and firstly too, we fight confident that we want to and can improve them.

But in the fight we don't want to be mere spectators. We want to be where the problems are to identify them and to give solutions of our own.

Our parents' work is not a perfect one, because it is essentially a human work and no human work is perfect. What is indeed clear to us is that it is a sincere work, to which they have devoted all their available energy and even more.

All ballast, paternalism and self-sympathy should be left behind.

We are going to defend the wonders we have achieved even if it costs us our lives, and we are going to be tenacious and truceless when fighting the mistakes we are still making.

In a special period such as this one, our young leaders must also be special to be able to head a youth like ours; the best example is the best motto, and our own lives have to be the best flag. We will never accept the one who says, "Do as I say not as I do." The one who's not willing to materialize what he or she says, should remain quiet and give up being a vanguard and leader of a youth like ours.

The example is our best theory and our best practice. There are patterns that inspire us, because the generation that led us didn't say, "Go and attack garrisons," but led the attack themselves. They didn't say, "Go and fight in Girón" [Bay of Pigs], but got on the tanks themselves.

¹⁹ Refers to Dr. C.J. Finlay (1833-1915), Cuban scientist who discovered the yellow fever vector.

We, young Cubans, as well as our parents, know how to make the best out of the worst. And we all are making our best right now, and if in the future we have to keep going with pedals, people are already assembling their bicycles, that's why we are delivering them. Today, people came to this rally riding them. But nobody is going to stop us, because, slower or faster, we are going to continue moving ahead.

There are still some shy, squeamish and pessimistic people who even wonder why we are having the Pan-American Games in such hard times.

It's not a coincidence that we have arranged to meet in a place like this, near these facilities.

Cuba has fought a lot in the international arena, before the existence of the special period, to be the seat of the Pan-American Games.

It was even our turn when they gave it to Indianapolis. The U.S. laid several obstacles to prevent Cuba from being the seat of this event.

But, could we reject the honor of being awarded the games thanks to the prestige earned by our nation?

Are we going to give up building these facilities?

Can we give up when we already have the means and the resources to do it?

Undoubtedly, many people are upset as to this event taking place in Cuba, mainly because in this event we are going to improve the results like never before.

But even if these reasons are not enough for those on-duty and inactive critics of the work they are not doing, within the Pan-American Village, 1,500 homes will be available to our people.

This is an international commitment, a question of honor, and Cuba has always fulfilled with dignity its international commitments.

In times of boastfulness, Cuba is building itself without allowing any provocation. We are aware of the fact that we are living hard times, but we are people of hard times, people of difficult situations, and we'll manage to have fun and face life without losing heart.

Actually, the path we've chosen is not an easy one, it's full of danger, difficulties and it requires a great deal of sacrifices from everyone of us as well as audacity, devotion, energy and, above all, optimism and will to overcome.

Naturally, we look at the world surrounding us and we are deeply saddened when we watch our brothers who have quit the struggle without struggling, who gave up without a battle, who handed over their arms without having shot, who gave up life by killing their ideas, who committed political suicide and made their nations suffer the most humiliating vexation we've ever seen.

They have made many mistakes, but no matter how serious they might be, none of them is worst than going back to the past.

Mud and filth is being dumped on those frustrated socialist projects. The critics' euphoria is unlimited and they joyfully set up themselves as grave-diggers of the most beautiful dream ever conceived by mankind.

Now they don't want to be called communists, but men feeling the need of eliminating poverty, inequality, discrimination and outrage will continue to be born and live; men who are absolutely convinced of the possibility of educating a better human being, who can feel solidarity towards the one he doesn't know, who is moved by the suffering of his fellow man, no matter in what latitude of the Earth he or she is suffering, will continue to be born and live.

Such men and women will continue to live and work for the sake of mankind. The end of those pseudosocialists is not the end of hunger, misery and unemployment in the world, because such harms were not invented by communists, but communists were invented to get rid of them, to fight for taking mankind out of such a miserable life.

In the heart of those societies, there still are authentic communists, there are honorable communists who have temporarily lost a battle, there is a youth who was educated under the most progressive ideas of humanity and who is now stricken by the amount of ignominies that were committed in the name of socialism.

That, comrades, teaches us that we can't walk away from the chosen path and that we can't play capitalism, that we can't, under

any condition, accept errors of principles, and that every time we walk away from our fellowman we are on the edge of disaster.

Of course not everyone wants to live of his or her work and talent. There are people who have special talents to live of the fibs, to live of the product of other people's efforts. An old saying warns that, "The quick-witted lives of the fool's work, and the fool lives of his own work." But today we have to change it to, "To the fool who doesn't work, it will cost him work, because the time of the fools is over."

We have a lot of work to do in the social and political fields, because there are people in our society who are trying to thrive without lifting a finger.

The lazy, the *colero*,²⁰ the lumpen, the *merolico*,²¹ the *jinetero*,²² the parasite, the one who doesn't do what he or she should and does what he or she shouldn't; the one who mistreats people and considers himself superior, the one who thinks that a Cuban is a lesser human being and only caters to whom has dollars; the one who has a peso sign in his or her eyes; the one who steals and schemes people; the *macetero*²³ who is still wandering and the one who runs his or her own *shopping*²⁴ [out of his or her home], they were all defined by Martí in a paragraph which portrays them from head to toe. And it seems that, 100 years ago, Martí foresaw that we, young people, would participate in an event like this to denounce such attitudes. And we prefer to read what he said:

"The man who enjoys the well-being that he has not worked for is useless and generally harmful; he is a pillar of injustice or poor friend of the reason; the man who undeservedly savors comfort and pleasures which do not correspond to his individual effort and con-

20 Cuban expression for a person who illegally earns money by lining up in stores to then sell his turn.

21 Cuban expression for a person who illegally produces and sells goods.

22 Cuban expression for a person involved in hard currency trafficking and in acquiring imported goods through various forms of relationships with foreigners.

23 Cuban expression for a person who earns large sums of money by being involved in illegal dealings.

24 Cuban way of calling stores that operate in hard currency and mainly sell imported goods.

tribution, loses the habit of creating and the respect for those who create."

Our nation and our youth won't accept ever that lazy people live of creative work. No one has the right to enjoy what he or she has not helped creating.

There's no room for them among our people, among our Party and among our youth.

Today, we are living crucial, difficult and beautiful times, hard and honorable times, decisive and heroic times, but we are capable of resisting because we believe in the future; we are capable of resisting because we believe in people's strength; we are capable of resisting because youth, people and party are one. Trust and optimism make us feel confident. We'll joyfully face serious times.

There are some who criticize our joy. Even laughter is criticized by some professional idlers, some graduated from the university of limbo in the specialty of laziness.

Whenever we have a party or a joyful rally, they simply say that we are being superfluous or that the ribbons we tie around our heads and our slogans are meaningless. Some claim that our music, balloons, parties and graphics lack both political content and ideology.

They seem to relate ideology to yawning; they seem to relate ideology to boredom or to sadness. Why are we going to be forced to rally in silence, crestfallen, low-spirited and embittered when there are enough reasons to be happy, enthusiastic and for our heads to be held high? No one was compelled to come to this event, we even crossed the tunnel²⁵ to the rhythm of the song that goes: "Let's go to the tunnel, my dear, let's go to the tunnel, my love." We're breathing in the air of this free coast, we're singing and dancing, because socialism also means joy and work; socialism means moving ahead smilingly; socialism means facing difficulties without pessimism. Once more we say, "Knock it off!" to those who want to relate us to sadness, chattiness, worn out statements, or to the same old story; to those who sometimes lack imagination even to look at their belly button

25 Refers to the tunnel under the entrance of Havana Harbor.

and spend their time criticizing initiatives that we implement by calling them juvenile. From the time we were kids, we've been taught that we were born to be happy.

There are also a lot of gossips. Well, when the process of nationalization took place in our country, we didn't nationalize the gossip industry; it's true that this is still a private business, it's the only business based on market economy in Cuba. And, by the way, it's not a profitable one, because neither gossips nor slanders can be sold in our country. Let them go on gossiping and if they ever choke on their gossips we'll look after them in our hospitals.

There are some who even say that our people live of miracles. It is important to tell them that this is not Asa Branca, Roque Santeiro's²⁶ little town. The work accomplished by this nation was done with effort, love and blood, and it can be seen daily in our trenches. We do not live of miracles, we do not live of *señoritos* Malta,²⁷ nor do we live of José de las Medallas.²⁸

We are very happy and free here. We are free to say what we think and free to say what we feel; free to discuss on friendly terms with our elders, with respect and affection, because we share the same first firing line trench of today's battle. We can either agree or disagree with our elders as to what our country's problems are; we can say without blushing that we were born after 1959, because no one is asking us about what we did before then, but about what we are capable of doing today. No one can live of past achievements, but only of present ones.

Should any of us feel guilty that our parents fell in love before or after 1959?

What we can't do now is to lose our way, fall behind or miss the daily commitment to our country; we can't fold our arms while our efforts are needed in the common task. The pioneers arrived later and they're already treading our steps as a new vanguard of our youth.

²⁶ Character from popular Brazilian TV serial shown on Cuban TV.

²⁷ See note 26 above.

²⁸ See note 26 above.

What we do want, comrades, in an evening like this one, is to reward the Revolution on its 32nd anniversary.

Thirty two years ago, like today December 28, our Commander in Chief, in the same olive green uniform, was near Santiago de Cuba planning how to attack the enemy and make it surrender.

Back then, Commander, you were not thinking about an event like today's, or about these 32 years that have gone by and find you, as usual, getting ready for the next battle.

Thirty-two years ago, you were thinking about taking over a city where once you had attacked a garrison. At that time you counted on a handful of rebel soldiers and rebel young people. Today that army has been multiplied and it is here with you. Here there is only a tiny sample of this gigantic army which has simultaneously arisen from San Antonio to Maisí.²⁹ Here we are, as happy as on that first day of victory, because we have also inherited joy. This youth offers the Revolution its multiplied and colorful participation, its enthusiasm as the best of itself, this shouting and hand clapping, this beautiful night of December 28, its music, courage and slogans. In the past, our country counted on you to conquer a city; today, that same country has you and all the people to conquer the future.

In this path, Commander, in this path towards the future, in this path of tomorrow, no matter how entangled the bush might be, the Revolution can count on the *machete* of the Cuban youth, we'll force the stars to shine, though some of them refuse to do so; or it won't be necessary because we will learn to shine as they do, because, despite all hardships, Cuba moves on.

Because led by its Party, Cuba moves on!

Because led by its Commander, Cuba moves on!

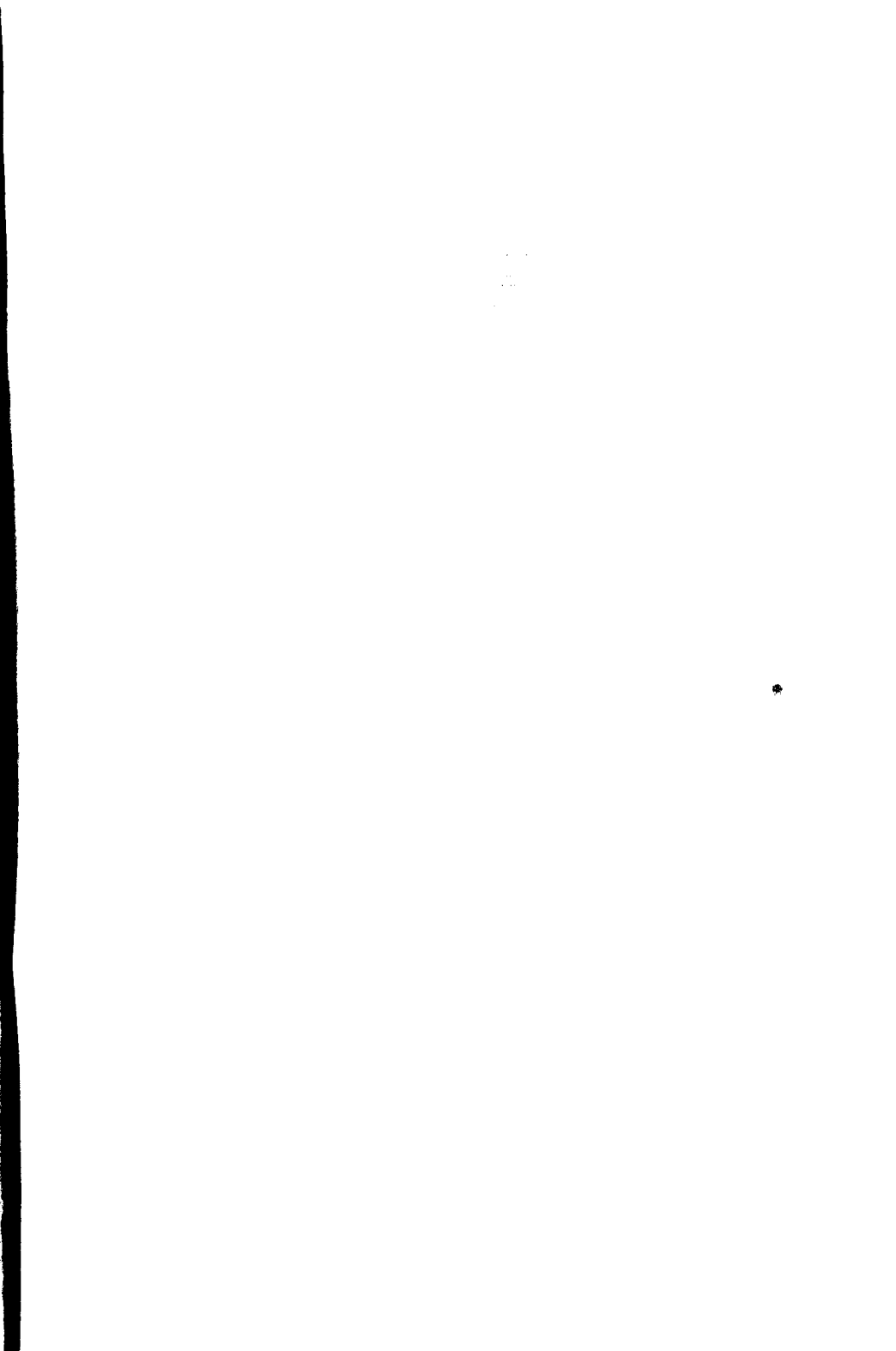
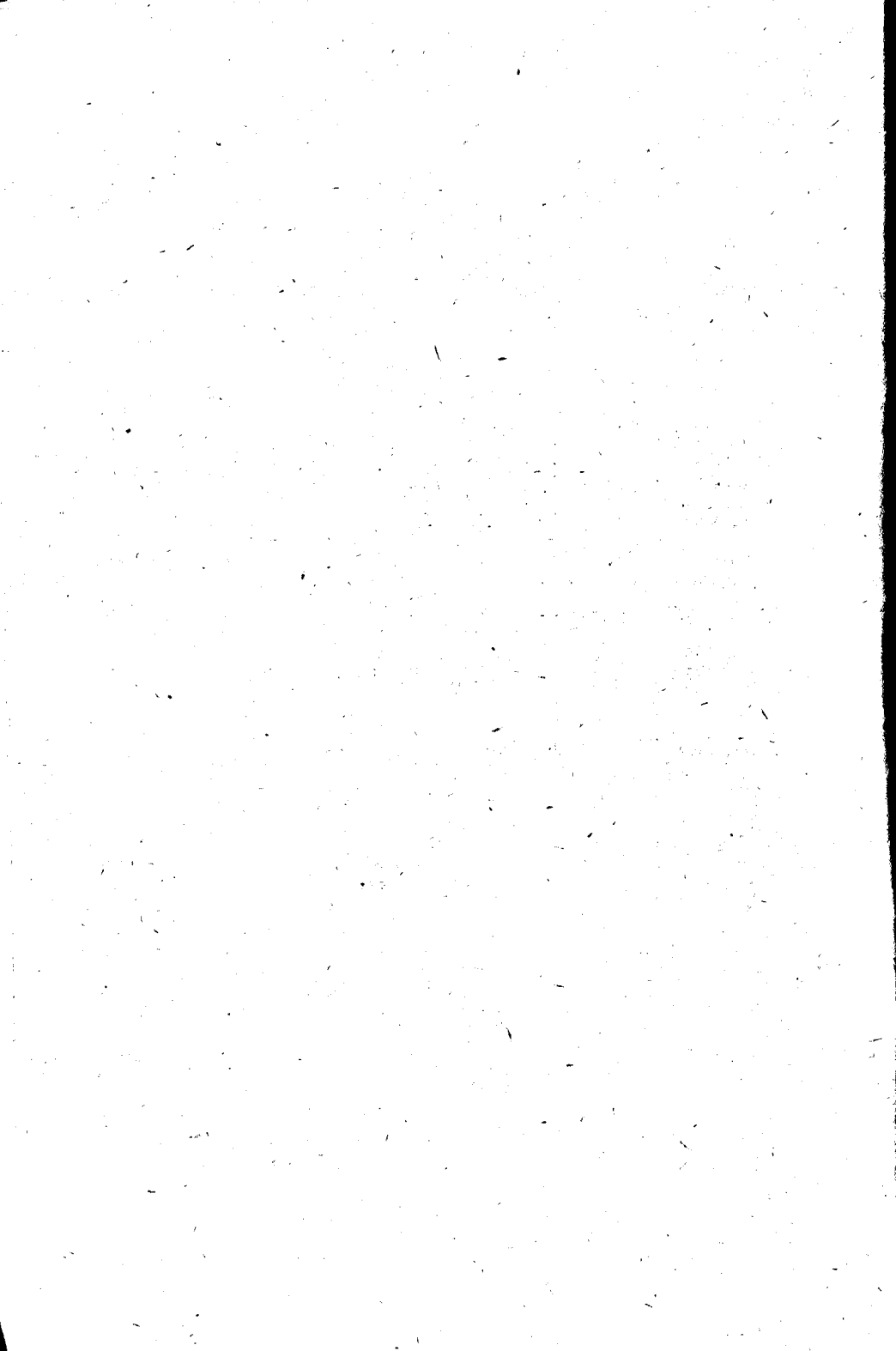
Because led by millions of Cubans, Cuba moves on!

Because with socialism or with death, Cuba moves on!

Because with homeland or with death, Cuba moves on!

We Cubans who are moving on, we shall overcome!

²⁹ The most western and eastern points of Cuba.



CUBA

more and more!

This speech is more than a statement of principles. It is a reaffirmation of the unlimited and on going support given by the Cuban Youth to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, to the Party and its Government, in all, to the Cuban people.

EDITORIAL

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