

Patria (December 31, 1898): Declaration (Declaration on the Closure of the Newspaper Patria)

AGENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA AND SUBDELEGATION OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY PARTY IN FLORIDA. — SECRETARIAT.

In the city of Tampa, State of Florida, on the twenty-second day of the month of December, eighteen ninety-eight; assembled at eight o'clock in the evening, the Councils of Tampa and West Tampa affiliated with the Cuban Revolutionary Party, as well as the Representation of the Government of the Republic of Cuba in the offices of the newspaper Cuba, acting as President Mr. Ramón Rivero y Rivero and as Secretary the undersigned, Mr. President declared the session open, stating that it had been convened by virtue of a telegraphic dispatch from Mr. Tomás Estrada Palma, Delegate of the Party and Representative of the free people of Cuba, in which he communicated that in the last issue of the official newspaper Patria, a manifesto had been published, declaring the work of our Party in the Exterior finished; that, about to return to the beloved soil of the Homeland, the Representatives of this Émigré Community wished the gentlemen present to decide on the best way to inform the public of this momentous act. Mr. Rivero expounded on considerations regarding the work carried out by the Revolutionary Organization, a unique example in history of the patriotism and unity of a people determined to achieve freedom without considering the sacrifices they had to impose on themselves; of the powerful aid provided to our brothers-in-arms, etc.

After a lengthy discussion in which several of those present participated, it was unanimously agreed: That just as on the unforgettable day of April 10, 1892, the organization of the Cuban Revolutionary Party was publicly proclaimed, in the same way, during a public gathering scheduled for the coming Sunday, the 25th, its dissolution would be announced to the people, proclaiming to the world that the Cubans of the émigré communities, with heads held high and satisfied hearts, have fulfilled the sacred duties imposed on them.

Mr. Rivero made it known that he would take care of all necessary arrangements to ensure that this act was of the utmost solemnity. The following agreements were also made:

1st: To express gratitude to Mr. Tomás Estrada Palma, Benjamin J. Guerra, Gonzalo de Quesada, Horacio S. Rubens, and all others, who, with official representation or without it, have worked for the Independence of Cuba.

2nd: To send greetings to the Liberation Army, the Assembly of Representatives, and the free people of Cuba, for the satisfactory results achieved thanks to their efforts.

3rd: To express our sorrow for the unexpected death of the illustrious leader, Major General Calixto García, both to his bereaved family and to the Assembly's Commission, of which he was the worthy President.

4th: With Messrs. Figueredo and Rivero, as well as other beloved compatriots, leaving this locality next Monday, the Councils, as a demonstration of affection, will attend in full to bid them farewell.

5th: That this Act be subscribed by all the presidents of the Clubs as proof that all have fulfilled their duties as good men.

Mr. Rivero, in eloquent and moving phrases, recalled the memory of the illustrious one who disappeared at Dos Ríos, the soul of the Revolutionary Organization, the mainstay of our Independence, José Martí; and evoking his doctrines, he urged everyone to make them our motto on the redeemed land, the only way to secure the future happiness of the Patria. Mr. Rivero's phrases were widely applauded, and the session was declared closed.

I certify it,

Gualterio García, Secretary.

Approved by Ramón Rivero y Rivero, President.

With this issue, the newspaper Patria bids farewell, including in its pages this declaration by the Cuban revolutionaries in Tampa, whose name was on the publication founded by Martí from its very first issue.