Speech delivered upon assuming the presidency of the National Falange. October 1951[1]

Falangist comrades:

The National Board has entrusted me with the honorable and serious mission of presiding over the Party. I assume it with deep humility and, at the same time, with a firm resolve to fulfill it completely. I know that distinctions are only valuable when one manages to deserve them and when they are justified by facts; I understand, therefore, how great the responsibility is before every Falangist who expects from the Leadership a faithful and accurate interpretation of their hopes.

I know my limitations better than anyone, but I hope to make up for them with God's help and with yours, following, to the extent of my strength and circumstances, the example of dedication and sacrifice of all my predecessors.

It will fall to the new Council of the Falange to adopt important decisions. You can be sure that, in doing so, we will endeavor to duly consider, without any prejudice, all opinions expressed within the Party, with the sole objective of finding the best solution for our ideals. I have the firm determination that no Falangist shall feel excluded from the deliberations leading to such decisions. And once they are adopted, whatever they may be, I am certain that the entire Falange, unanimously and without reservation or hesitation, will put its enthusiasm and energy into the task of carrying them out.

An essential idea must guide our thoughts and conduct now more than ever: we are servants of a cause to which we have devoted ourselves by mandate of our consciences. We are trying to fulfill our duty as Christian men. We are fighting for the redemption of the proletariat. We are engaged in the effort to build a just and human world in which workers have the moral and material dignity they deserve.

This endeavor is not easy or immediate to achieve: it is the work of our lives and perhaps will also be that of our children and grandchildren. But it is the work of each of our days. It is not a chimera of the future. It is our daily work of building, here and now, with the inadequate materials of the present, with its mud and our weaknesses, the perfect structure of the Chile we long for. In our action, therefore, it is not permissible for us to dispense with current reality, nor to deny our contribution to the solutions of the moment, however imperfect they may be; we must seek what is best within what is possible, not only for the future, but also for the present.

But in doing so, we cannot forget our destiny, set aside our historical task, or compromise the future of our ideals.

[1] The document is a draft and is undated. The date has been estimated based on its content. The document predates October 12, 1951, as on that day Aylwin delivered a speech in Talca where, in his capacity as president of the National Falange, he proclaimed Eduardo Frei Montalva as presidential candidate.

In sharing these concerns and hopes, with which I begin this new stage, I want to extend to each of you, Falangists across Chile, the cordial greetings of your new Leadership: a greeting of faith, brotherhood, and optimism.

Chilean youth: Onward!