

Speech 05: Salvador Allende - Last Speech -

Practice 1 | Vocabulary

Directions: Listen and repeat.

- **Titular** - having a particular title or status but no real power or authority
- **despicable** - very unpleasant or evil
- **conscience** - the part of your mind that tells you whether your actions are right or wrong
- **shriveled** - to become or make something dry and wrinkled as a result of heat, cold, or being old
- **imperialism** - a system in which one country controls other countries, often after defeating them in a war
- **modest** - not talking much about your own abilities or possessions
- **sedition** - the use of words or actions that are intended to encourage people to oppose a government
- **fascism** - an extreme right-wing political system or attitude that is in favor of strong central government and that does not allow any opposition
- **humiliated** - to make someone feel ashamed or stupid and lose the respect of other people
- **treason** - the crime of doing something that could cause danger to your country, such as helping its enemies during a war
- **felony** - the act of committing a serious crime such as murder or rape; a crime of this type
- **cowardice** - lack of courage to face danger, difficulty, opposition, pain, etc.

Practice 2 | Speech

Directions: Read the speech aloud with your teacher.

Salvador Allende's "Last speech"

Santiago de Chile, on 11 September, 1973

My friends,

Surely this will be the last opportunity for me to address you. The Air Force has bombed the antennas of Radio Magallanes.

My words do not have bitterness but disappointment. May they be a moral punishment for those who have betrayed their oath: soldiers of Chile, **titular** commanders in chief, Admiral Merino, who has designated himself Commander of the Navy, and Mr. Mendoza, the **despicable** general who only yesterday pledged his fidelity and loyalty to the Government, and who also has appointed himself Chief of the Carabineros [paramilitary police].

Given these facts, the only thing left for me is to say to workers: I am not going to resign!

Placed in a historic transition, I will pay for loyalty to the people with my life. And I say to them that I am certain that the seeds which we have planted in the good **conscience** of thousands and thousands of Chileans will not be **shriveled** forever.

They have force and will be able to dominate us, but social processes can be arrested by neither crime nor force. History is ours, and people make history.

Workers of my country: I want to thank you for the loyalty that you always had, the confidence that you deposited in a man who was only an interpreter of great yearnings for justice, who gave his word that he would respect the Constitution and the law and did just that. At this definitive moment, the last moment when I can address you, I wish you to take advantage of the lesson: foreign capital, **imperialism**, together with the reaction, created the climate in which the Armed Forces broke their tradition, the tradition taught by General Schneider and reaffirmed by Commander Araya, victims of the same social sector who today are hoping, with foreign assistance, to re-conquer the power to continue defending their profits and their privileges.

I address you, above all, the modest woman of our land, the campesina who believed in us, the mother who knew our concern for children. I address professionals of Chile, patriotic professionals who continued working against the **sedition** that was supported by professional associations, classist associations that also defended the advantages of capitalist society.

I address the youth, those who sang and gave us their joy and their spirit of struggle. I address the man of Chile, the worker, the farmer, the intellectual, those who will be persecuted, because in our

country **fascism** has been already present for many hours -- in terrorist attacks, blowing up the bridges, cutting the railroad tracks, destroying the oil and gas pipelines, in the face of the silence of those who had the obligation to act. They were committed. History will judge them.

Surely Radio Magallanes will be silenced, and the calm metal instrument of my voice will no longer reach you. It does not matter. You will continue hearing it. I will always be next to you. At least my memory will be that of a man of dignity who was loyal to his country.

The people must defend themselves, but they must not sacrifice themselves. The people must not let themselves be destroyed or riddled with bullets, but they cannot be **humiliated** either.

Workers of my country, I have faith in Chile and its destiny. Other men will overcome this dark and bitter moment when treason seeks to prevail. Go forward knowing that, sooner rather than later, the great avenues will open again and free men will walk through them to construct a better society.

Long live Chile! Long live the people! Long live the workers!

These are my last words, and I am certain that my sacrifice will not be in vain, I am certain that, at the very least, it will be a moral lesson that will punish **felony, cowardice, and treason**.

Santiago de Chile

11 September 1973

Practice 3 | Questions

Directions: Answer the following questions.

1. Why is it called the "Last Speech"?
2. To whom was this speech addressed?
3. How do you deal with the complexities of life?