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Leader, Coalition in Defense of Water and Life

(Translated)

STRATEGIES FOR CHANGE > The Lessons Of Cochabamba

So people don't want this model
but they don't want to return to the past,
a situation where few people make
decisions in the name of the people
in the name of the country.
They confused the well being of a nation
with the well being of just a few people.
And the war over water demonstrates
that people are willing to build
a new alternative
where the people themselves
are in charge of solving their own problems
without closing their eyes
to an alternative to a globalized world
with a globalized economy.
But where the relationships of exchange
and investments are fairer
not like now.
I believe that people are
giving that message
and in the case of water
we have decided
to implement a solution
where the people are the main protagonist
not politicians
not foreign investors
not those interests.
Of course we're going to need investment
we're going to need the money
it's a poor country without the resources
to find solutions to its problems.
But it needs to be an investment
that is transparent like water
so we can see who has the costs
and who has the benefits
and how it benefits and costs
both groups.

We have inherited a company
like all public corporations

with technical problems
with financial problems
with legal problems
and with administrative problems
and we are facing these problems.
This new societal project
is not just a social or economic project
but a political one.
It has to do with people making decisions
about their own problems
and finding solutions.
If we show that simple working people
are capable of solving
their problems
we can be at the point
of asking, that everything
that was privatized
everything that was sold
everything in the hands of the corporations
be returned to the hands of the people.

STRATEGIES FOR CHANGE > Lose The Fear

I believe we live in a world of fear
people are afraid of everything
they're afraid of the dark
they're afraid of losing their jobs
afraid to speak
afraid to give their opinion
afraid to act.
I think that it's important
for us to lose our fear.
we're going to lose that fear
once we have the capacity
to be united, to be organized
once we regain the confidence
in ourselves and in other people
then we can open our hearts
to those feelings of solidarity
of brotherhood to all
thinking that globalization
is uniting everyone
we all have the same problems
but we all have the same dreams
it's important to lose the fear.

UPDATES > Cochabamba

Note

Cochabamba's water system is now run by an organization of community and government representatives. At a secret World Bank tribunal, Bechtel is seeking compensation from Bolivia for lost profits. Bechtel is demanding at least US \$25 million - - which is equal to 1.7% of Bolivia's public spending, or 125,000 new water connections in Cochabamba.