

ABERRI EGUNA 1999



On the 4th of April, UDALBILTZA issues a unitary appeal to attend the Aberri Eguna (Patriotism Day) outside town halls throughout Euskal Herria.

EUSKAL HERRIAREN EGUNA

We are living in historic, crucial times for our people, in which the joining of forces proves very necessary in order to consolidate a political process which places all Basque citizens on an authentic stage of peace and democracy for Euskal Herria, which generates so much hope in our society.

Euskal Herria constitutes a historic, linguistic and cultural community in possession of a national conscience: It is a nation: A nation, with all the rights that correspond to one. The territories and inhabitants which make up the Basque nation, located in two states which insist on denying that national reality and made up of three distinct legal-administrative realities, are entitled to organize their relations and freely and democratically decide on their future.

A nation can only be constructed by the adherence of its citizens. Because a nation means cohesion, identity, sharing different values and being a collective. And above all, jointly dealing with basic challenges which depend on being part of a people or not. To this end, the national construction of Euskal Herria must be interpreted as being a dynamic and democratic process, sustained by the free participation and decision-making of all Basque citizens, which requires an effort to integrate on the part of all political and social forces.

We, municipal representatives from the seven historical territories, met under these criteria and principles on the 6th of February last in Iruñea, and decided to set up a municipally-based Basque National Institution, a major milestone in the history of our people. For the first time, it is possible for an institution to bear witness to Basque territoriality, to be able to make a declaration and appeal for the next Aberri Eguna to be the day of Basque citizens, the day of Euskal Herria.

On the 4th of April, all we Basques shall have an appointment. An appointment with celebration and commitment: the Aberri Eguna.

An invitation to all those who wish to build a future of peace, justice and freedom for Basque society. A society which wishes to live in a situation of solidarity rather than dependence, openness rather than isolation, in progress and looking to the future, sure of itself. The Aberri Eguna is also a day to renew and take on new commitments. Social, cultural and political commitments; personal

and collective ones. Euskera, solidarity, the struggle against inequality, justice, human rights, the environment, among many others, constitute areas of work and commitment which require the involvement of all Basques. From the standpoint of recognition of the social and political plurality of Basque society, we issue an appeal to citizens of Euskal Herria to take part in the acts and calls to celebrate the Aberri Eguna which have been formulated by institutional, municipal, social and political bodies.

Only if we have confidence in ourselves shall we win a future for our people.

On the 4th of April, Jalgi zaitetz plazara. Zatoz gurekin Euskal Herria eraikitzen.

Committee of the Assembly of Municipal Representatives of Euskal Herria.

Gernika, on the 18th of March 1999