

Council to meet in Paris

Hosted by the Socialist Party (PS) of France, the SI's second Council meeting of 1988 will be held in Paris on 6-7 December and will be chaired by SI President Willy Brandt.

Pierre Mauroy, the first secretary of the PS will welcome delegates and the meeting will

involve the participation of SI member parties and party leaders.

Among the main themes on the agenda are 'The World Economy - Joint Action for Global Development' and 'Equality - Women in the Democratic Socialist Move-

ment'.

In addition, the Council will hear reports from the SI Disarmament Advisory Council (SIDAC), the SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (SICLAC), the SI Middle East Committee (SIMEC) and the SI Southern Africa Commit-

tee (SISAC), their work providing the basis for discussion on these subjects.

The Council will also decide on the dates and main themes of the 18th congress of the Socialist International to be held in Sweden next year.

Madrid Council

The previous SI Council meeting was held in Madrid on 11-12 May, at the invitation of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE), and discussed 'East-West Relations and the European Response' and 'Latin America: Peace in Central America and Debt and Democracy' as its main themes.

Opened by SI President Willy Brandt and Felipe González, the PSOE general secretary, the meeting was attended by a

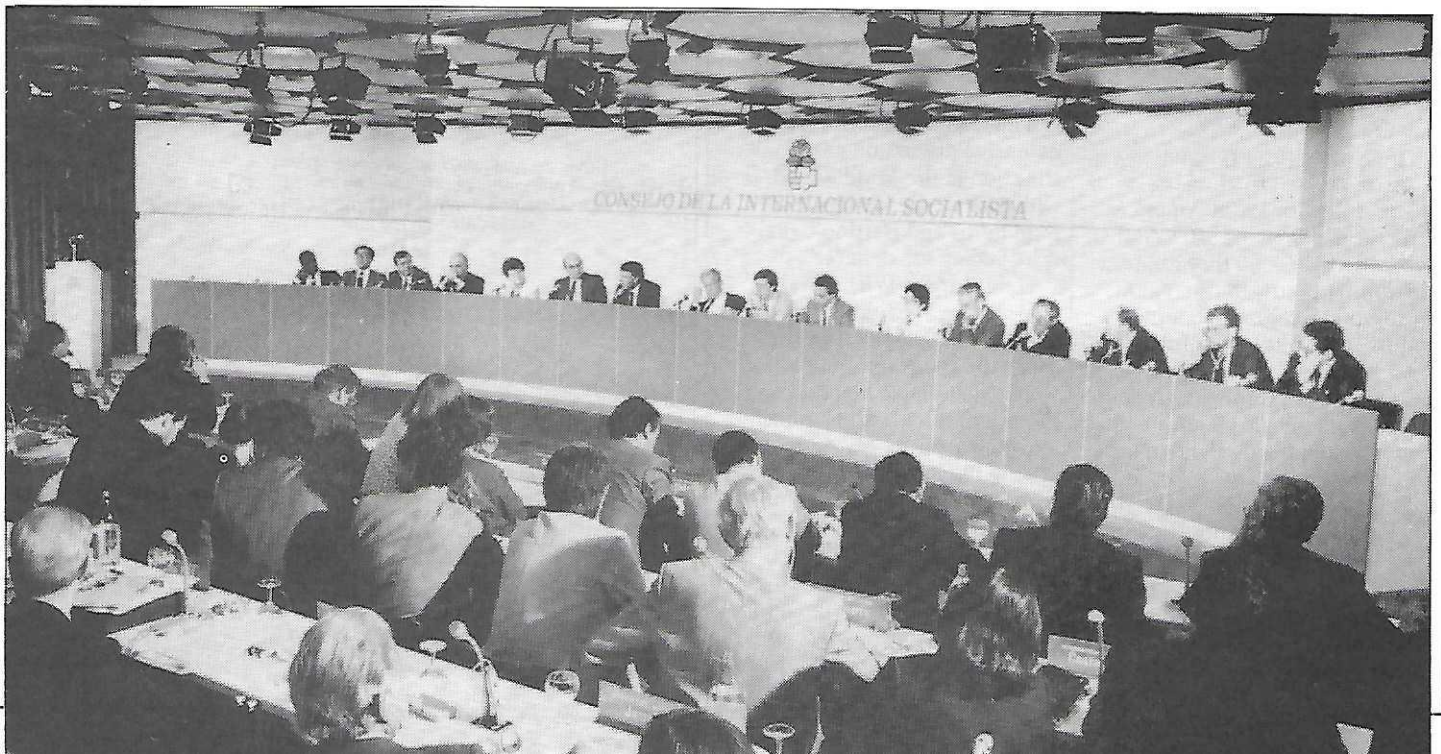
substantial number of SI leaders, including:

Enrique Silva Cimma, president of the Radical Party of Chile (PR); Daniel Oduber, the national director of the National Liberation Party (PLN) of Costa Rica; José Francisco Peña Gómez, the leader of the Dominican Revolutionary Party of the Dominican Republic; Guillermo Ungo, the leader of the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR) of El Salvador; Oskar Lafontaine, the deputy chairman of the Social

Democratic Party of Germany (SPD); Neil Kinnock, the leader of the Labour Party of Great Britain; Mario Solórzano, the general secretary of the Democratic Socialist Party of Guatemala (PSD); Shimon Peres, the chairman of the Labour Party, Israel; Antonio Cariglia, the general secretary of the Italian Democratic Socialist Party (PSDI); Bettino Craxi, the general secretary of the Italian Socialist Party (PSI); Michael Manley, the president of the People's National Party (PNP)

of Jamaica; Eiichi Nagasue, the vice-chairman of the Japan Democratic Socialist Party (DSP); Walid Jumblatt, the leader of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) of Lebanon; Raymond Becker, the general secretary of the Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party (LSAP/POSL); Gro Harlem Brundtland, the chairwoman of the Norwegian Labour Party (DNA); Euclides Acevedo, the president of the Revolutionary Febrerista Party (PRF) of Paraguay; Vitor Constancio, the

SI Council meeting in Madrid



secretary general of the Socialist Party of Portugal (PS), Ingvar Carlsson, the chairman of the Swedish Social Democratic Party (SAP); Jaime Paz Zamora, the leader of the Revolutionary Left Movement (MIR) of Bolivia; Leonel Brizola, the leader of the Democratic Labour Party (PDT) of Brazil; Dom Martina, the leader of the New Antilles Movement (MAN) of Curacao and Kalevi Sorsa of the Social Democratic Party of Finland (SDP) and chair of the SI Disarmament Advisory Council (SIDAC).

Discussions and resolutions

In the first part of the Council session, the theme of East-West relations and disarmament – the subject of Willy Brandt and Felipe González' opening speeches – was also addressed by a number of SI leaders, including Gro Harlem Brundtland, Ingvar Carlsson, Neil Kinnock, Oskar Lafontaine, Vitor Constancio and also by SIDAC chair, Kalevi Sorsa. Following debate and the presentation of a SIDAC report, a resolution on disarmament was then adopted.

The Council then moved on to discuss the other main theme of Central America and the question of debt and democratization in Latin America. SI vice-presidents from Latin America and the Caribbean and other delegates reviewed the latest developments in the region and a resolution was adopted on this theme.

Following the presentation of a report by the SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (SICLAC) and discussions on the situation in different parts of the region, resolutions were also adopted on Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Haiti and Paraguay. In the case of Paraguay, the Council agreed to establish a special committee to work in support of democracy in that country.

The subject of debt and democracy was introduced by SI vice-president Michael Manley, the chair of the SI Committee on Economic Policy (SICEP), who also reported on the activities of SICEP. The



Willy Brandt and Felipe González in Madrid

Council decided that SICEP should hold a special session of the committee in Berlin to discuss the policies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank in advance of the institutions' annual meeting in the same city.

The Council also devoted extensive discussion to the situation in the Middle East, with SI Vice-presidents, Shimon Peres and Bettino Craxi introducing the debate.

Hans-Jurgen Wichniewski, chair of the SI Middle East Committee (SIMEC) gave a report on the committee's work, including a meeting on the eve of the Madrid Council in which a number of guests – among them representatives from the Palestinian community, Egypt and the Soviet Union – had participated. On SIMEC's behalf he also introduced a draft resolution on the Middle East which was then adopted by the Council.

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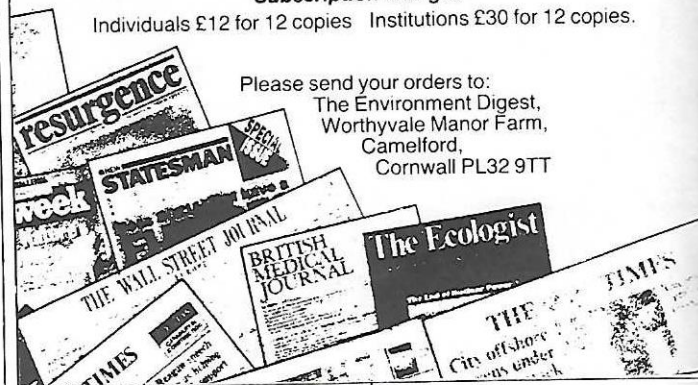
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Meeting of the Council of the Socialist International Madrid,

Resolution on Disarmament

The recent electoral victories for social democracy and democratic socialism, in France and the Federal Republic of Germany, give us a new impetus to pursue a second "Ostpolitik" (Eastern policy) from Western Europe to the USSR and its allies. A new policy to reach agreements on disarmament but also concerning political, economic and cultural cooperation.

We should be able, following the example of Willy Brandt's Ostpolitik from 1969 on, to pursue the Ostpolitik not only from the Federal Republic of Germany but from all Western European countries, alliance members and neutrals alike.

We have a special responsibility to make a new opening to Eastern Europe and the USSR, considering that peaceful relations are not contradicted by internal reform and progress in those parts of Europe whose people are our neighbours.

The Treaty between the Soviet Union and the United States on the elimination of their intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles, signed on December 8, 1987, is a historic achievement. The agreement entails the elimination of two modern categories of nuclear forces and sets a remarkable precedent for effective verification measures.

The final value of the INF agreement, however, will depend on its follow-up. It must be followed by additional reductions in strategic nuclear weapons as well as conventional forces and tactical nuclear weapons. Every effort should be made to rectify existing asymmetries and imbalances in the conventional and tactical nuclear field through arms control and disarmament measures, instead of through military compensations.

The SI urges the Soviet Union and the United States to conclude an early agreement on a 50% cut in strategic nuclear forces and to solve the problems surrounding the ABM Treaty. It is also important to pursue vigorously a Comprehensive Test Ban as well as a ban on chemical weapons. We call for progress towards these goals at the forthcoming Moscow summit.

Europe, especially Central Europe, faces the most dramatic concentration of conventional and nuclear forces opposing each other. There is a considerable risk of accidental or inadvertent war, which could also be provoked by conflicts in other regions.

European conventional disarmament must take as a starting point the principle of stability at lower levels of forces and armaments on both sides. The principle of stability includes the need to remove existing asymmetries and imbalances and to carefully review military strategies and doctrines. Stability is not a question of

numbers games, however. The quest for stability should be based on a comprehensive and objective assessment of capabilities and, above all, entail the determination of disarmament objectives in the form of mutual ceilings instead of comparisons of existing individual weapons systems and military units.

The reduction of conventional forces in Europe should be founded on the principles of common security based on partnership. War and aggression have lost any meaningful purpose; consequently military structures and doctrines must reject offensive dimensions and capabilities for surprise attack. Instead, the governments and political forces of Europe should assemble to discuss their mutual security concerns, with the aim of achieving mutually assured defence at the lowest possible level of forces and armaments.

The geographical framework of European disarmament should be the whole of Europe, from the Atlantic to the Urals. This is without prejudice to specific additional limits applicable in more restricted areas. The negotiation framework should be the CSCE. In the first phase, a special responsibility for conducting negotiations lies with those CSCE participants that are members of NATO and WTO ("the 23"). At the same time, the right of the neutral and non-aligned countries to have a say in European disarmament should be respected and they should join the negotiations in the CSCE framework.

Those negotiations should comprise all countries in the area concerned. Negotiations on nuclear weapons should not be excluded.

The negotiations should aim at common ceilings and limitations involving radical reductions of forces and armaments as well as new defence postures. It is particularly important to achieve radical reductions of offensive weaponry, such as tanks, combat planes and helicopters, missiles and artillery, including nuclear warheads on missiles and dual-capable delivery systems. It is also important to limit the structure and deployment of forces and the number of troops.

With regard to nuclear weapons, the INF agreement should be followed by agreements to eventually eliminate all tactical nuclear weapons having a range below 500 km on both sides. Tactical (battlefield) nuclear warheads and dual-capable systems should be scaled down alongside conventional reductions. Negotiations should be carried out in parallel or association with the Conventional Stability Talks.

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One step could be the elimination of nuclear warheads from countries which do not themselves possess nuclear weapons. In this context, denuclearisation could be formalised through regional and sub-regional zonal arrangements.

There is a close relationship between European security and the security of other regions. Measures of disarmament in Europe must not lead to the introduction of additional armaments, whether land-, air- or sea-based into other parts of the world. It is important to secure disarmament and confidence-building measures, crisis management arrangements and the peaceful settlement of conflicts throughout the world.

Resolution on Central America

The Council of the Socialist International examined the present situation in Central America and in particular the development of the peace process in the region initiated by the Esquipulas II agreement.

The Council stated once again the permanent position of the Socialist International in favour of negotiation and dialogue as the means to resolve the crisis in Central America.

The process of Esquipulas II, which the Socialist International fully supports, represents a clear and decisive path to secure peace and ensure democracy.

In evaluating the peace process, the Council of the Socialist International viewed with satisfaction the continued efforts of its member party's government in Costa Rica, for peace and negotiations in the region.

The Council appraised positively the dialogue developing in Nicaragua between the government and the armed opposition initiated by the agreements of Sapoá, as well as the other measures adopted by Nicaragua in compliance with the Esquipulas II agreement.

The Council recognised it to be important that these negotiations continue, and urged the anti-government forces to carry on with the negotiations.

The Council also noted with satisfaction the opposition of the United States Congress to the demands of President Reagan's administration for the approval of funds for the military activities of the armed opposition in Nicaragua, and

expressed its hope that the attempts to renew that military aid be rejected in order to ensure a peaceful solution to the conflict.

The Socialist International calls upon the government of the United States to support the peace process with measures of goodwill which, in the case of Nicaragua, should be demonstrated by the lifting of economic sanctions.

The Socialist International hopes that the dialogue between the government of Nicaragua and the parties of the opposition will advance with further understanding, and will allow the strengthening and consolidation of the democratic institutions.

The Socialist International expressed its concern over the inability of the government of El Salvador to comply with the Esquipulas II agreement, over the deterioration of the human rights situation, and the lack of any advances in the search for a political and negotiated solution to the armed conflict that has afflicted that country for eight years.

The Council fully supported the brave decision of its member party in El Salvador, the MNR, to return and participate in the internal political life of the country, legalising the party despite the great personal risk that this implies for its leaders. The Council also expressed its support for the cooperation by the other forces in El Salvador who are in favour of peace and democracy.

The Socialist International hopes that the dialogue in El Salvador which has been called for by the international community for so long will soon be renewed.

The Socialist International asks that the government of El Salvador

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protect the physical integrity of the leaders and members of its fraternal party and that of other leaders and members of the Salvadorean democratic forces.

In relation to Honduras, the Council regretted that there has been no progress in the development of the Esquipulas II agreements, and expressed the urgent need for these to be complied with, most particularly the adoption of concrete measures which would contribute to the reduction of the growing militarization of the region.

The Socialist International condemned the attempted armed uprising against the legitimate government of Guatemala and expressed its absolute solidarity with all the democratic forces in that country today involved in the construction of a more just society, and in overcoming the aftermaths of decades of authoritarianism and the disregard of basic freedoms which the Guatemalan people have suffered.

The Council restated, consistent with its previous declarations, the need for the signatories of the Esquipulas II Agreement to comply with the promises made in order to definitively achieve peace, stability and democracy in Central America.

The Socialist International Council expressed its concern over the situation in the Republic of Panama and its categorical rejection of the economic sanctions imposed by the United States on that country which violate the principle of non-intervention and cause great suffering to the people.

The Council reiterated its support for the total adherence to the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, which guarantee the return of the Canal to Panamanian sovereignty.

The Socialist International supports a solution to the Panamanian crisis freely and independently negotiated between the government and the opposition, and which guarantees the holding of free elections, the institutionalisation of the armed forces, and the supremacy and independence of civil power.

Resolution on Southern Africa

In view of the deteriorating political, economic and military situation and the intolerable human suffering in Southern Africa, the SI reiterates its unconditional condemnation of the apartheid policy pursued by the South African regime. Apartheid violates the basic human rights of the vast majority of South Africans. The oppressive South African regime pursues a policy of brutal repression against its own people, including killings, torture and widespread detention without trial. The SI deplores the imprisonment and abuse of children. Apartheid is a crime against humanity and has to be eliminated.

The SI expresses its grave concern about the February ban on all activities of 17 major anti-

apartheid organisations, including the UDF, and the severe restrictions on the activities of COSATU, and the banning of their leaders. This demonstrates the ruthless nature of apartheid. It sets South Africa on a course which will lead to a further escalation of violence in the future. The banning of these organizations – in conjunction with the suppression of freedom of both the South African and foreign press – is intended to suggest a reduction of internal resistance to apartheid. The world, however, will not be fooled.

It is becoming increasingly difficult legally to oppose the apartheid regime. New legislation is being introduced to further restrict trade union rights and to end all foreign financial support to any organisation which opposes government policy. The SI urges Western governments, political parties and other organisations to exert massive pressure on the South African government to abandon this proposed legislation. The SI will energetically work to counter any such measures which are implemented.

The SI salutes those, particularly in the religious community, who have continued to profess their faith and expose the evils of apartheid, regardless of the consequences for their own personal security.

In this regard, the SI rejects attempts made by right wing western governments and parties to present Buthelezi and the Inkatha movement as a peaceful moderate force in South Africa; whereas it is obvious that the Inkatha movement and its violence serve the goals of apartheid.

The SI condemns the continued use of the death penalty which further contributes to the climate of oppression. We call for the abolition of the death penalty and for the release of the Sharpeville Six.

The SI deplores the continued repression by South Africa of the people of illegally occupied Namibia and its aggression against the Front Line States. The territorial integrity of Angola is constantly violated by South African forces. We condemn the support for UNITA by South Africa and some other countries. We call upon the international community to safeguard Angola's territorial integrity, and we hope that the current negotiations will open the way to a peaceful solution. Through its material support white South Africa is involved in the atrocities committed by RENAMO in Mozambique. The SI is appalled by the attacks on and the murders of ANC representatives in the Front Line States as well as in Europe. We call on governments to guarantee the security of ANC personnel in their countries.

The SI demands:

- the immediate and unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners in Namibia and South Africa;
- the abolition of the state of emergency;
- the immediate and unconditional

implementation of the 1978 UN Security Council Resolution 435, which calls for free elections in Namibia under the supervision of the UN.

The SI calls upon the international community, in particular the industrialised countries, to:

- renew the impetus of the international actions against apartheid and to increase the political, diplomatic and economic pressure on South Africa by legally binding sanctions. The Nordic countries have set an example in this regard;
- impose immediate sanctions in order to:

- cut off the direct airline connections to South Africa and to deny landing rights to South African Airways;
- boycott the import of South African coal and gold;
- stop the oil exports to South Africa;
- prohibit the transfer of advanced technologies to South Africa;
- deny new loans, either public or private, to South Africa and
- refuse a roll-over of existing loans;

– increase the support for the liberation movements, the ANC and SWAPO, and other democratic forces inside and outside South Africa in their struggle for a non-racial, democratic and unified South Africa and a free and independent Namibia;

– increase effective economic, financial and other assistance to the Front Line States to enable them to counter the South African strategy of destabilization, and to guarantee an autonomous and independent development.

The SI appeals to the governments and public opinion in the industrialized countries to exercise effective pressure on South Africa. The cry for freedom from the millions of people in Southern Africa who suffer heavily under the apartheid regime has to be answered by immediate actions, nationally and internationally.

Resolution on the Middle East

The Socialist International expresses its deep concern at the deteriorating situation in the Middle East.

Human suffering has increased in the West Bank and Gaza, in particular during the present Palestinian uprising. The failure to bring about a political solution to the conflict in the Middle East, and to create any real peace process, has caused deep frustration amongst the Palestinian population. Their uprising is also, to a large extent, the result of the unbearable conditions in the Israeli occupied territories.

The Socialist International appeals to all parties concerned and to the Jewish and Arab populations of the region to refrain

from violence and from any action violating international law and human rights; during the period of the military occupation the Israeli military administration has a special responsibility. We strongly condemn violence committed by Israeli armed forces in the occupied territories. At the same time we strongly condemn terrorist attacks by Palestinian or other organisations against Israeli civilian targets, which also worsen the crisis.

The Socialist International remains committed to a peaceful solution to the crisis and strongly believes that a real peace process is possible. We reaffirm our support for an International Peace Conference, to be held under the auspices of the United Nations and convened on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations and Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. In this conference the parties concerned, including the Palestinians, who should have the right to choose their own representatives, should aim to guarantee the security of existing States, including Israel, and to implement the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

The SI values the initiative of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz as a first positive step forward and hopes that it will contribute to a political solution. It also welcomes the willingness of the Soviet Union to play a constructive role in the search for a solution. We urge the next Summit meeting, Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev and President Ronald Reagan to find a common understanding between the two countries and produce rapid progress.

The SI fully supports the efforts of its own member parties in Israel, the Labour Party and the United Workers' Party MAPAM to bring about peaceful negotiations and a political solution on the basis of socialist principles.

We also give our support to Palestinian endeavours to find a negotiated solution for peace. The PLO could make an essential contribution to the process of peace by changing its national charter by recognising the State of Israel.

It is essential to renounce the use of violence as a means of solving conflicts and to reach mutual recognition of the existence of the State of Israel and the right to Palestinian self-determination.

Every effort must be made to improve the living conditions of the Palestinians in the occupied territories. We call upon the international community to give them economic and humanitarian aid.

We call upon the government of Israel to immediately reopen the schools in the West Bank.

The events of the last months prove that this may be one of the last chances for a peaceful and negotiated settlement and the Socialist International therefore urges all parties concerned to accept the principle of an International Conference for Peace in the Middle East.