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 Movement'.

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 Committee (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;
- Óscar Lafontaine, the deputy chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD);
- Neil Kinloch, 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 Nagase, 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/POS/L);
- Gro Harlem Brundtland, the chairwoman of the Norwegian Labour Party (DNA);
- Euclides Acevedo, the president of the Revolutionary Febrenerista Party (PRF) of Paraguay;
- Vítor Constancio, the
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, Neel 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 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, Simon Peres and Bettino Craxi introducing the debate.

Hans-Jurgen Wichnewski, 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.
Resolution on Disarmament

The recent electoral victories for democratic parties in France and the Federal Republic of Germany, as well as the recent actions of the governments of Belgium and the Netherlands against nuclear weapons, mark a new beginning in the search for a peaceful resolution to the nuclear problem. The Socialist International welcomes these developments and supports efforts to eliminate the threat of nuclear war.

The resolution on disarmament sets out the following principles:
- Nuclear weapons must be dismantled in a verifiable manner.
- Additional stockpiles of nuclear weapons must be eliminated.
- The world must work towards a nuclear free zone.
- The immediate dismantling of nuclear warheads and delivery systems.
- The complete elimination of nuclear weapons as an instrument of national security.
- The legal and political security of non-nuclear weapon states.
- The establishment of a comprehensive and effective disarmament regime.
- The role of the United Nations in the disarmament process.

Resolution on Central America

The Council of the Socialist International called upon the governments of Nicaragua and El Salvador to cease fire and to negotiate a comprehensive peace settlement. The Council also called for the withdrawal of all foreign military forces from Nicaragua and the establishment of a neutral and democratic government.

The resolution on Central America sets out the following principles:
- The immediate cessation of all military activity.
- The withdrawal of all foreign military forces.
- The establishment of a neutral and democratic government.
- The free and fair elections.
- The protection of human rights.
- The respect for international law.
- The resolution of all political disputes through peaceful means.

The Socialist International calls for a comprehensive and impartial peace conference to be held in Cuba, with the participation of all parties to the conflict. The conference should be convened by the United Nations and should be based on the principles of the Paris Agreement and the Torquemada Declaration.
11-12 May 1988

protested the physical integrity of the leaders and members of its delegations to the international conferences and expressions of solidarity with the government of the Salvadoran peoples and the Salvadoran Democratic forces. In response to this, the IOF Council regretted that there had been no progress in the development of the elections and the agreement on a cease-fire, and expressed the urgent need for these to be compiled, particularly most of the Salvadoran peoples and the Salvadoran Democratic forces, which would contribute to the reduction of the growing militarization of the region.

The IOF Council condemned the attempt armed against the legitimate government of the Panamanian peoples and expressed its solidarity with all the democratic forces in that country today involved in the construction of a new, just, and fair Latin America in overcoming the late aftermaths of authoritarianism and the disarray of basic freedoms which the United Nations had condemned to the Panamanian government.

The Council resolved, consistent with its previous declarations, the need to return to the Esquipulas II Agreement to comply with the promises made in order to definitively achieve peace, democracy, and human rights in Central America.

The IOF Council expressed its concern over the situation in the United States and the Panamanian and its categoric rejection of the economic sanctions imposed by the United States in that country which violate the principle of non-intervention and cause grave suffering to the people.

The Council reiterated its support for the national adherence to the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, which guarantee the survival of the United Nations and the Panamanian government.

The IOF Council supports a solution to the Panamanian crisis through local and international negotiations between the Panamanian government and the opposition, and guarantees the progressive elimination of all violations of human rights and its independence.

Resolution on Southern Africa

In view of the deteriorating economic, political, and military situation in Southern Africa, the IOF reiterates its support for the legitimate government of the apartheid policy pursued by the South African regime. Apartheid violates the rights to freedom and the vast majority of South Africans. The oppression of the African regime pursues a policy of brutal repression and assassination, targeting all forms, including killings, torture and widespread detention without trial. The IOF opposes this policy and demands the immediate and unconditional release of Nelson Mandela, the ANC and all political prisoners in Namibia and South Africa.

The IOF 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 Resolution 425, which calls for free elections in Namibia under the supervision of the United Nations.

The IOF calls upon the international community, in particular the industrialized countries, to take the necessary steps against apartheid in Africa, guilty of aggression, sanctions. The IOF countries have set an example in this regard; impose immediate sanctions in order to:

- boycott the import of South African coal and gold;
- stop the oil exports to South Africa;
- prohibit the transfer of arms to South Africa;
- deny new loans, both public or private, to South Africa;
- refuse a rollover 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 and independent South Africa and a free and independent Namibia; increase economic, financial, and other assistance to the Front Line States to enable them to counter the South African strategy of destabilization, and to assure an autonomous and independent development.

The IOF 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 daily under apartheid regimes has to be answered by immediate actions, nationally and internationally.

Resolution on the Middle East

The IOF Council expresses its deep concern at the deteriorating situation in the Middle East.

- The conflict with the Palestinian people is a threat to peace and stability in the Middle East.

The IOF Council supports the efforts of its own member parties in the Middle East, the Labour Party and the United Workers’ Party MAPAM to bring about a peaceful settlement on the basis of socialist principles.

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

It is essential to recognize the use of violence as a means of solving conflicts and to reach mutual recognition of the existence of the State of Israel in a just and democratic 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 political support.

We call upon the government of Israel to immediately recognise the rights of the Palestinian people.

The events of the last months prove that this may be one of the last chances for a peaceful and negotiated solution. The IOF Council therefore urges all parties concerned to avert a disastrous situation. The IOF Council therefore urges all parties concerned to avert a disastrous situation.