in my draft I expressly added that 'the attempt by the Czechoslovak reformist communists to democratise their state on the basis of the system of state property prevailing there was, in terms of internal politics, by no means devoid of prospects of success before it was throttled to death by outside military intervention. So experience has shown that private property does not necessarily lead to Fascism, nor state property necessarily to Stalinism.' This part of my draft has been left unchanged.

German Social Democrats are far from regarding liberal democracy as being necessarily linked with private ownership or from recommending the communist reformers to restore private ownership. I have shown that the question of democracy does not depend on systems of ownership, and that democracy, not ownership, is the decisive question for social democrats. And I added, in the passage discussing the prospects of the communist reformers, that to argue that such reforms would endanger the real social achievements of the regime is simply an attempt by the people who hold a monopoly of power to defend their interests. In fact, the reverse is true. Only when communist states decide in favour of democratisation will they be sure of maintaining the partial social progress that they have made. Neues Deutschland has made just such an attempt to defend the status quo, but this still does not make the allegation true.

The methods of quotation employed by ND are only possible with readers who cannot check the original text for themselves. This is an example of the methods of a one-party system, which neither can nor will meet ideological opponents on their own ground. This practice is neither new nor surprising, and it does not affect our conviction that we have to co-exist with the communist countries for the sake of peace, even if they do use these methods. But it does confirm our determination not to ignore the fundamental differences and not to accept the communists as 'allies' in domestic politics. I conclude with a quotation from Herbert Wehner, which was recorded in the resolution of the Munich Party Council: 'We have to live in a world which we share with the communists. Because we have to live with them, we must be careful that we do not get swallowed up by them.'

**BUREAU MEETING**

**Solidarity With Polish Workers**

A detailed discussion of the disturbances in Poland last December was one of the main features in the proceedings of the Bureau of the Socialist International, which met in London on January 19. A number of points of view were advanced by Bureau members. It was agreed that the events in Poland were a further example of bureaucractic communist suppression and further evidence of the failure of the communist system. The Bureau expressed its solidarity with the Polish workers who had demonstrated their legitimate grievances, and noted the admission by the new First Secretary of the Polish Communist Party that past policies had failed.

Before beginning its formal business, the Bureau stood in tribute to the memory of the late Nath Pai, of the Indian Socialist Party (see p. 38). It then formally accepted a proposal from Tom McNally (Britain) that the Socialist International should organise a series of expert conferences to study important aspects of party work such as organisation, finance, membership and publicity. It was envisaged that such groups could also study important internal policy questions, such as workers' control and the role of the multi-national company.

European issues were prominent on

**Bureau Participants**

**BRUNO FITTERMANN** Chairman, KARL CZERNETZ Austria, GEORGES HOUSIAUX Belgium, JACQUES ENCKE France, HANS-EBERHARD DINGELS Germany, SIR HARRY NICHOLAS, JOE GORMLEY, GWYN MORGAN, TOM MCNALLY Great Britain, ISRAEL GATT, ZVI HARMOR Israel, LUCIANO DE PASCALIS, GINO BIANCO Italy—PSI, ALDO GAROSCI, GIAMPIERO ROLANDI Italy—PSU, PIETER DANKERT Netherlands, K. B. ANDERSEN (Denmark), KALEVI SORSA, PAAVO LIPPOSEN (Finland) Nordic Countries, HANS JANITSCHEK, RODNEY BALCOMB, ALAN DAY Socialist International, ANNA RUDLING, MARY SQUARE International Council of Social Democratic Women. **Guests** PIERRE SCORI Sweden, GEORGE THOMSON Great Britain.
1970. The thinking of the Bureau on this matter was summed up by Gwyn Morgan (Britain). Recalling an earlier decision that the International should seek contacts with Arab socialists and countries, he said that because of the changing situation in the Middle East an 'on-going study' was needed on which the appropriate bodies of the International could base their decisions.

As regards Latin America the General Secretary reported on his visit to Chile to attend the inauguration of President Allende. He also informed the Bureau that the Radical Party of Chile had decided to apply for full membership of the Socialist International.

Turning to Asian matters the Bureau heard a report from K. B. Andersen (Denmark) on a recent Scandinavian socialist mission to North Vietnam. The delegation, comprising representatives of the Danish, Norwegian, Finnish and Swedish member parties of the International, visited Hanoi and met several political leaders. They had formed the opinion, said Andersen, that the Communists of North Vietnam had no wish to copy the Russian or Chinese models. They also believed that the North Vietnamese were capable of fighting a much longer term war if necessary. The Danish representative added that the Nordic social democratic parties had invited the North Vietnamese to send a delegation to Scandinavia.

The Bureau then heard a report from Hans-Eberhard Dingels (Germany) on a recent visit of a delegation of the German Social Democratic Party to Iran. Finally, the Bureau welcomed the Secretariat's initiative in establishing contacts with the All-Pakistan Awami League led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The next Bureau meeting of the International will be held in Zurich in March, on the invitation of the Swiss Social Democratic Party.

**REPORTS**

**BELGIUM**

**Belgian Socialists Preserve Identity as the Country's Only National Party**

The Belgian Socialist Party (PSB) has preserved its identity as the only one of the country's three major parties that can claim to be genuinely national. The PSB Congress held in Brussels on January 23-24 saw the election of a dual leadership comprising Edmond Leburton and Josse van Eynde by the overwhelming majority of 827 votes to 196 (with 71 abstentions). The two new Chairmen succeed Léo Collard, who had led the party since 1959.

Edmond Leburton, Belgium's Minister of Economic Affairs, is a Walloon (French-speaking), and Josse van Eynde, until now Deputy Chairman of the party, is Flemish-speaking. The dual chairmanship will continue for two years, after which the leadership will revert to a single chairman, to alternate between the two communities every four years. In a television interview Josse van Eynde said that he had agreed to serve as Chairman to act as a 'buffer' between the socialist federations of the two communities and to prevent Léo Collard's retirement leading to a split.

The PSB has been the junior partner in Belgium's present Social Christian/Socialist government coalition since 1968. In this time strenuous efforts have been made, notably by Socialist Communal Relations Minister Freddy Terwagne, to find a solution to the country's intractable Flemish-Walloon confrontation. After several setbacks, a constitutional revision was finally passed by the Chamber last December which provided for a large measure of autonomy for the three regions—Flemish-speaking, French-speaking and bi-lingual Brussels. These divisions explain why two of the traditional Belgian parties—the Social Christians and the Liberals—can no longer be regarded as single parties; they are also a measure of the PSB's achievement in preserving its national unity.

The first day of the Congress was largely taken up by election of the new Chairmen and tributes from the delegates to Léo Collard.

During the second day the new Party Bureau was elected as follows: EDOUARD CLOSE, ERNEST GLINNEN, G. COPPEE, FREDDY TERWAGNE,* R. LAMERS, LOUIS NAMECHE,* ABEL DU-Bois,* FERNAND DELMOTTE, A. SWEERT, G. CUDDELI, E. MACHTENS, LOUIS MAJOR,* ALPHONSE VRANCHX,* WILLY CLAES, B. VAN HOORICK, EDOUARD ANSELEE,* ACHILLE VAN ACKER, W. GELDOLF, J. RAMEAERS, GUSTAVE BREYNE,* VAN HOEYLAND, HENRI FAYAT,* F. GELDERS. The PSB's two National Secretaries, JAN LUYTEN and GUY MATHOT, are also members of the Bureau.

(*These members are excluded by PSB statutes from participation in the Bureau because they are ministers in the Belgian Government, and substitutes were elected. By virtue of becoming Party Chairman, Edmond Leburton was obliged to resign as Economic Affairs Minister).

The Congress adopted a number of resolutions, notably one congratulating the Government, and particularly the socialist ministers in it, on the recent announcement of a compromise solution to the country's communal dispute. The Congress denounced 'dictatorial and authoritarian regimes' and demanded that the Belgian Government should oppose any participation by Spain in the European Community. The PSB also pledged itself to work for East-West détente and international disarmament.

**NETHERLANDS**

**Important Political Results Of Dutch Labour Party Congress**

Rarely has a congress of the Dutch Labour Party (PvdA) been anticipated by so many with such a lot of different feelings. But for everybody one thing was sure: the Dutch Labour Party had arrived at crucial point in its 25 years of existence.

Within the party we have seen in recent years a process which has led to an almost complete renewal of leadership. The known people have been replaced by younger men and the established ideas renewed by younger generations. This internal turmoil was not only a function of the party itself. It was part of the total crisis which many people felt was affecting the Dutch party system.

Many people inside and outside the