

BUREAU MEETS IN IRELAND

The Irish Labour Party were hosts to a meeting of the Bureau of the Socialist International held in Dun Laoghaire, near Dublin, from 12 - 13 July. Representatives from member parties in the following countries attended the meeting: Austria, Belgium, Chile, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Israel, Italy (Social Democratic Party) and Sweden. The International Council of Social Democratic Women and the International Union of Socialist Youth were also represented and representatives of the Indian Socialist Party, the Portuguese Socialist Party, the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, the Vietnamese Socialist Party and the Social Democratic and Labour Party of Northern Ireland attended as guests. The Socialist International was represented by the General Secretary, Hans Janitschek, and the Assistant General Secretary, Rodney Balcomb. The Bureau meeting was chaired by Karl Czernetz of Austria, owing to the absence due to illness of the Chairman of the Socialist International, Bruno Pittermann.

Statement on Chile

The Bureau unanimously adopted the following statement on Chile:

'The Socialist International strongly condemns and draws the attention of the world to the refusal of the Chilean Military Junta, to admit the delegation sent by the Commission of Human Rights of the United Nations, to investigate the state of human rights in Chile.'

'The Junta has failed to honour its commitment to give facilities to this commission so that they might carry out their task.'

'The attitude of the Junta is tantamount to a declaration that human rights do not exist in Chile and that no progress is being made to restore them. Only full respect of human rights can be accepted by the Socialist International and the democratic world.'

'The Socialist International strongly urges its member parties, particularly those in Government, to study the full implications of the Junta's attitude within the context of the United Nations Charter and to denounce the action of the Chilean Military Junta at the next General Assembly.'

Statement on Malagasy Republic

The Bureau unanimously adopted the following statement on the Malagasy Republic:

'The Bureau of the Socialist International, meeting in Dublin on 12 - 13 July, 1975, calls upon the Government of the Malagasy Republic, now that martial law has been lifted, to permit the political parties to function freely and normally and to ensure that full human rights and democratic freedoms are restored to the Malagasy people.'

'The Bureau affirms its full support for the Malagasy Socialist Party.'

Statement on Portugal

The Bureau unanimously adopted the following statement on Portugal:

'The resignation of the Socialist Party from the Government of Portugal expresses the profound political crisis in that country. The present developments threaten the evolution of democracy there. The reason for the resignation is the violation of the agreement signed in April 1975 regarding the democratic process.'

'We reaffirm our solidarity with the Socialist Party of Portugal and our full support for the democratic revolution. Only through democratic socialism can Portugal avoid the three dangers of a right wing coup, a Communist dictatorship or a military dictatorship.'

'The Socialist International appeals to all member parties and especially parties in Government to support the Socialist Party of Portugal and to give financial assistance to the Portuguese Government to help solve their grave economic crisis, and further, to contribute to development schemes and to try to improve the trade position of Portugal. We consider it absolutely necessary for Socialist Governments to provide this kind of assistance in order to help Portugal remain on the path of democracy.'

'The situation in Portugal has implications for the whole of Europe. A deterioration of conditions for democratic political life in Portugal is thus an impediment towards détente and dialogue in Europe.'

Telegram to Mrs Gandhi

It was unanimously agreed by the Bureau that the following telegram, on behalf of the Bureau, should be sent to Mrs Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India:

'The Bureau of the Socialist International meeting today in Dublin, motivated by friendship for the people

of India, deeply deplores the abrogation of civil rights in your country, and earnestly appeals for the release of political prisoners, especially Jayaprakash Narayan, who carries the respect of socialists and men of peace throughout the world.'

Delegation to India

The Bureau also decided to send two representatives to India to meet the founder of the Indian socialist movement, Jayaprakash Narayan, who has been detained by the Indian Government and who is in poor health.

Vietnam Committee

The Bureau decided to convene an ad hoc Committee on Vietnam to consider urgently requests by the Vietnamese Socialist Party for political and material support for the Vietnamese people and political and financial support for the Vietnamese Socialist Party in its endeavour to cooperate with other patriotic forces in Vietnam.

The Cyprus Situation

The Bureau authorised the General Secretary of the Socialist International to express the concern of the Socialist International at the human aspects of the recent expulsion of Greek Cypriots from the Turkish-occupied part of the island.

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES TO INDIA

The Socialist International on 15 July made a formal request to the Indian Government for Socialist International representatives to visit India to meet Jayaprakash Narayan, the detained socialist leader.

The request was made by the General Secretary, Hans Janitschek, to the Indian High Commission in London.

However, on 17 July the General Secretary received a message from the Indian High Commissioner in London who said that the visit of Socialist International representatives to India would be an objectionable interference in the internal affairs of the Indian Government and therefore the request to the Indian government by the International had been turned down.

On 18 July the General Secretary