

underfoot in your country. Measures that have been adopted in your country add up to the following:

- complete press censorship
- the suspension of all basic human rights as laid down in the Indian Constitution
- the suspension of the basic human rights of those in detention
- a ban on practically all political parties and groups unfavourably disposed towards your government.

Finally, we have received countless reports bearing witness to the fact that people are being imprisoned in your country on the basis of their political convictions: your own Minister of Information stated on 23 August 1975 that 10,000 persons had been imprisoned between July and August 1975. It is to be feared that the total number of political detainees may well exceed this number. Reliable sources have estimated a figure between 20,000 and 54,000 whilst resistance forces in India itself put the number at 200,000.

The Executive of the Dutch Labour Party regards all this as a deplorable state of affairs, completely at variance with the traditions of Mahatma Gandhi whose name is as greatly revered in The Netherlands as elsewhere. It is also at variance with the precepts of your party and country. The gravity of these matters is obvious from the way your government has, for instance, imprisoned the aged and ailing J. P. Narayan who has often been designated the spiritual heir to Mahatma Gandhi's ideas and thoughts. In view of all this, we request you to:

- end the state of siege
- release all political prisoners
- end press censorship
- revert to respecting basic human rights.

Attached, you will find a list of 84 members of the Indian Socialist Party and other parties who are known to be imprisoned and whose fate is uncertain. We appeal most urgently that they and other political prisoners be set free. We shall be following the fate of those we know with special attention. For your information, a

copy of this letter has been sent to the Dutch government and to our sister-parties in the Socialist International and those governments in which they participate.

Harry van den Bergh,
International Secretary of the
Dutch Labour Party
5 November 1975

GG PARIKH

The General Secretary of the Socialist International protested on 26 November against the arrest of Dr G. G. Parikh, publisher of *Janata*, the weekly publication of the Indian Socialist Party, in a cable to the Indian Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi. Janitschek described the arrest of Parikh as 'another blow against the freedom of the press in general and the Indian Socialists in particular'.

The closing order of *Janata* is dated 1 November on which day orders were also issued by the India authorities prohibiting the Editor, Printer and Publishers of the publication from using the Mouj Printing Bureau, 'for the making or publishing of any document coming from the Indian Socialist Party'.

Dr G. G. Parikh, member of the Executive Committee of the Indian Socialist Party, was arrested on 23 October following the publication of an editorial in which he said: 'under the cover of the emergency, the Government has thought it fit to expand its limits to such an extent that almost every section of the population, whether it was connected with any political party or not was brought under its mischief'.

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BUREAU MEETS IN BRUSSELS: FOR DEMOCRACY IN SPAIN AND INDIA

The Bureau of the Socialist International held a meeting in Brussels on 29-30 November to discuss the situation in Spain, Portugal and India. The Bureau also discussed repression in the Dominican Republic as well as the United Nations Resolution on Zionism.

The Bureau, meeting under the chairmanship of Robert Pontillon, National Secretary in charge of International Affairs of the French Socialist Party, adopted the following statements:

Spain

'The Bureau of the Socialist International welcomes the report presented by our Spanish comrades on the current situation in Spain and reaffirms its full support for the PSOE.

'The Bureau deplores the fact that countries with socialists in government were represented at the funeral of General Franco and the crowning of King Juan Carlos.

'The Bureau calls on all governments to put pressure on the Spanish régime to restore full democratic rights to the people of Spain. We also call on the Spanish régime to immediately free all political prisoners, grant freedom of speech and association and freedom for all political parties and trade unions. Until a genuinely democratic government is established, the political isolation of Spain should be maintained.'

Portugal

'The Bureau of the Socialist International, having heard the report by Jaime Gama on the situation in Portugal, notes with great satisfaction that the Portuguese Socialist Party continues to act in complete conformity with the spirit of freedom, justice and social progress which led to the downfall of the authoritarian régime.

'The Bureau notes that the Portuguese Socialist Party strives vigorously to ensure that the fundamental inter-

ests of the Portuguese people prevail and that it will do everything to establish socialism by democratic means.

'Deeply concerned at the serious difficulties which Portugal is facing, the Bureau of the Socialist International requests all socialist parties to show their active solidarity with the Portuguese Socialists. It repeats its appeal to the European democracies to provide swift and effective aid for Portugal.'

India

'The Bureau of the Socialist International having received a report from George Fernandes, Chairman of the Indian Socialist Party, and further clarification from his emissary; noting with concern that, contrary to the assertions of the Indian Government, the health of Jaya Prakash Narayan, who has recently been released from detention on parole for thirty days, has deteriorated greatly during his detention, to the point that there are now serious fears for his life:

'Noting further that:

- 1) tens of thousands of political workers, trade unionists, members of parliament and of State legislatures, journalists, students and intellectuals have been arrested and are still in prison, and that many new arrests are still taking place daily;
- 2) the great majority of the political prisoners are held in sub-human conditions and are denied the right of appeal to any court of law;
- 3) although opposition parties are not legally banned, they are effectively prevented from functioning;
- 4) the news media are not only subjected to rigorous censorship but are also compelled by the Government to publish certain reports and statements, the contents of which are not always factual;
- 5) a rubber-stamp Parliament, all of whose vocal opposition members have been imprisoned, has amended the Constitution and the law in order to bring in numerous repressive measures which deprive people of their fundamental rights;
- 6) the workers have been denied their freedom of association and right to organise and to strike, and

attempts are being made to render the trade union movement subservient to the Government's will;

'*Deplores* the above-mentioned violations of civil liberties and fundamental rights;

'*Calls upon* the Government of India to end the State of Emergency, lift press censorship, release all political and trade union prisoners held without trial and restore all democratic rights to the people of India;

'*Expresses* its solidarity with the Socialist Party and other organisations fighting for democracy and socialism in India; and

'*Calls upon* all member parties to extend all support and assistance to the Socialist Party of India.'

Dominican Republic

'The Bureau of the Socialist International condemns the action taken by President Balaguer of the Dominican Republic who has decreed that certain leading members of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, including its General Secretary, José Francisco Peña Gomez, are prohibited from speaking on radio or television in the Dominican Republic, that the radio programme 'Tribuna Democrática', in which the Dominican Revolutionary Party was able to express its opinions, should be closed, and that the radio and television stations in the Dominican Republic should not broadcast information concerning the Dominican Revolutionary Party. The Bureau protests in strongest terms at this further violation of human rights and civil liberties in the Dominican Republic.'

UN Resolution on Zionism

'The Bureau of the Socialist International deplores and condemns the incomprehensible and absurd resolution of the United Nations which identifies Zionism with racism.

'This unprecedented resolution is a political and ideological attack not on Zionism only, but on Israel and the Jews. It denies the right of the existence of the State of Israel which has been created with the help of the United Nations in 1948.

'In doing this the majority of the UN Assembly has done grave harm to the credibility of the United Nations and has impeded the efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.'

Omission

The name of the author of 'On the Swedish Road' (November/December issue, Socialist Affairs) Ernst Winkler, was unfortunately omitted at the beginning of the text although it was included in the Contributors column.

JEW'S RESPOND

The Jewish Labor Bund, affiliated to the Socialist International, issued the following Statement in response to the UN Resolution on Zionism adopted on 10 November:

'The Jewish Labor Bund — an ideological and political opponent of Zionism since both movements came into organisational existence in 1897 — declares:

1. The contention that defines Zionism as "a form of facism and racist discrimination" is false and completely contrary to the truth.
2. Zionism is nationalistic, but so are the 72 governments (among them "International - Communistic" and radical ones) who have instructed their delegations to place upon Zionism the mark of racism. Many of the 72 countries have themselves been guilty of racist practices and are still committing racist offenses.
3. Reactionary and anti-Jewish elements can use this UN resolution for anti-Semitic and anti-Jewish purposes, which makes it even more harmful.
4. Almost none of the governments who voted for the resolution is democratically elected and many of them are dictatorships that oppress their own people and have shameful records of discrimination against their own minorities.
5. Into many of the justified Jewish protests against the resolution, there have been introduced the false notes which equate Zionism with the Jewish people. Zionism — a Jewish political movement — and the Jewish people are not one and the same.