Left to right: François Mitterrand, Willy Brandt
The Bureau of the Socialist International met in Paris on September 28-29, 1978, at the invitation of the French Socialist Party. The meeting was attended by 70 delegates representing 31 affiliated organisations from 26 countries.

Summary of Proceedings

The Bureau unanimously decided to recommend to the Congress of the Socialist International that the Republican People's Party of Turkey should be admitted to the Socialist International as a full member.

There were two main themes of the meeting: ‘Europe and its relations with the world’ which was introduced by François Mitterrand; and ‘Multinational Corporations’. Oscar Debunne presented to the Bureau the report of the Socialist International Study Group on Multinational Corporations. The report was approved without amendment.

Vilem Bernard and Zdenek Mlynar reported on the situation in Czechoslovakia. The Socialist International’s two Italian member parties, PSI and PSDI, agreed to act as joint hosts to a Conference on Czechoslovakia at which matters raised during the current meeting would be further discussed. Otto Kersten informed on the efforts by Vladimir Klebanov and others to form an independent trade union movement in the USSR. José Francisco Peña Gomez and Salvador Jorge Blanco reported on the elections held in the Dominican Republic on May 16, 1978, and on the subsequent developments.

The Bureau adopted statements on the Middle East, Tunisia, Western Sahara and Nicaragua, which are published below. Michael Manley was elected Chairman and José Francisco Peña Gomez Vice-Chairman of the Socialist International Committee on Latin America and the Caribbean. Lionel Jospin reported on the Socialist International mission which had visited Tunisia on June 15-17, 1978. It was composed of Lionel Jospin, Alain Chenal (French Socialist Party) and of Aldo Ajello (PSI, Italy). It was decided that the Socialist International should send Claude Germon of the French Socialist Party as observer to Tunisia.
Statements

Middle East. "The Bureau of the Socialist International states its satisfaction with the joint statement of Willy Brandt and Bruno Kreisky made at the meeting with President Anwar Sadat of the Egyptian Arab Republic and Shimon Peres, chairman of the Israel Labour Party in Vienna on July 9, 1978. The Bureau considers the declaration an important step in the resumption of the peace process in the Middle East. The Bureau welcomes the steps taken by President Carter and the results of the meeting between him and the governments of Egypt and Israel.

"It is now of the utmost importance to take further steps along the same track, towards a solution which requires a just solution of the Palestinian problem in all its aspects.

The Bureau urges all the parties involved to demonstrate their will for peace in the area. The process now started should include the participation of Syria, Jordan and the representatives of the Palestinian people, according to the provisions and principles of United Nations resolutions 242 and 338."

Tunisia. "The Bureau of the Socialist International, meeting in Paris on September 28, 1978, the very day on which the trial of Habib Achour and other trade union members is being resumed in Tunis, heard the report of the Socialist International Mission sent to Tunisia in June and adopted the following proposals:

"(1) Sending an observer of the Socialist International to the trial of the U.G.T.T. leaders.

(2) Asking that the respect of human rights be strictly guaranteed in Tunisia in particular during the present trial.

(3) The Socialist International to approach the Tunisian authorities to launch a process for a political opening in the spirit of democratisation."

Western Sahara. "The Bureau of the Socialist International is happy to learn that since its meeting in Madrid steps have been taken by different organisations to come closer to a solution of the West Sahara problem. The Bureau of the Socialist International underlines the West Sahara resolution it has adopted in Madrid and asks all parties to the conflict to find a quick solution by way of negotiations."

Nicaragua. "During the last forty years the people of Nicaragua have been oppressed by the Somozas’ dictatorship established by imperialist intervention in that country despite the struggle of Cesar Augusto Sandino. Anastasio Somoza’s tyranny has increased its repression since the murder of the opposition leader Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, seeking to sustain him in power and to survive through political manoeuvres which range from a supposed political amnesty to an apparent dialogue with some sectors of the opposition in an attempt to divide them or label them “Communist”.

"Nevertheless the repudiation of the regime is unanimous among the Nicaraguan people. This makes urgent a Socialist International meeting to demonstrate solidarity with the Nicaraguan people and to agree upon concrete measures to support their struggle. Therefore, the Socialist International Bureau unanimously:

(1) Condemns the Somoza regime and its criminal actions against the Nicaraguan people.

(2) Deplores the fact that the American Organization of States, far from implementing its constitutive charter’s provisions and with the support of a majority of military regimes which opposed a so-called inter­ventionism, did not pass a resolution that would have contributed to the respect of human rights and the re-establishment of democracy in Nicaragua.

(3) Calls upon all world democratic forces to repudiate the Somoza dictatorship and to promote and encourage concrete measures, such as the adoption of all kinds of sanc­tions, in order to help the cause of freedom and democracy for the Nicaraguan people.

(4) Agrees to convene an urgent meeting of the Socialist International, in a Latin American country, in order to establish specific actions of solidarity to support the struggle of the Nicaraguan people."
The Fourteenth Congress of the Socialist International will be held in Vancouver on November 3-5, 1978, at the invitation of the International's Canadian member party, the New Democratic Party. The last Congress of the Socialist International was held in Geneva in November 1976.

'Peace and Development' will be the general theme of the Congress. Under this umbrella the following sub-themes will be discussed:

- World Economy (including North-South Relations and Multinational Corporations)
- Disarmament
- Southern Africa
- Human Rights (including Terrorism)

The Congress will also elect the President, Vice-Presidents and General Secretary of Socialist International for the coming inter-Congress period.

It is also the function of the Congress to admit new member organizations or to change the membership status of existing member organizations. The Bureau of the Socialist International has recommended that the Congress should admit three parties to membership of the Socialist International. These are the Barbados Labour Party, the National Revolutionary Movement of El Salvador and the Republican People's Party of Turkey. It has also been recommended to the Congress that the membership status of the US Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee should be that of full member party.

Observers from a considerable number of non-member organizations will attend the Congress. Among these are:

- International Confederation of Tree Trade Unions; Amnesty International; National Liberation Front, Algeria; MPLA, Angola; Federación de Partidos Socialistas, Argentina; Partido Radical Intransigente, Argentina; Unión Cívica Radical, Argentina; Barbados Labour Party, Barbados; Movimiento Izquierda Revolucionaria, Bolivia; Movimiento Nacionalista Revolucionario de Izquierda, Bolivia; Partido Socialista, Bolivia; Botswana Democratic Party, Botswana; Movimiento Democrático Brasileiro, Brazil; Partido Trabalhista, Brazil; Christian Left Organisation, Chile; MAPU Party, Chile; MAPU Workers' and Peasants' Party, Chile; Partido Socialista, Chile; Izquierda Democrática, Ecuador; National Democratic Party, Egypt; Movimiento Nacional Revolucionario, El Salvador; Unión Revolucionaria de Guinea Ecuatorial, Equatorial Guinea; Eritrean People's Liberation Front, Eritrea; Eritrean Liberation Front, Eritrea; People's Progressive Party, Gambia; Frente Unido de la Revolución, Guatemala; Partido Revolucionario Auténtico, Guatemala; PAIGC, Guinea-Bissau; Partido Revolucionario Hondureño, Honduras; National Front of Iran, Iran; Progressive Socialist Party, Lebanon; Partido Revolucionario Institucional, Mexico; Istiqlal, Morocco; Union Socialist des Forces Populaires, Morocco; FRELIMO, Mozambique; South-West Africa People's Organisation, Namibia; Frente Sandinista, Nicaragua; Partido Revolucionario Democrático, Panama; APRA, Peru; Partido Independentista, Puerto Rico; Somali Socialist Democratic, Panama; African National Congress, South Africa; CCM, Tanzania; Parti Socialiste Destourien, Tunisia; Mouvement d'Unité Populaire, Tunisia; Republican People's Party, Turkey; Union Démocratique, Upper Volta; Union Progressive, Upper Volta; Partido Socialista, Uruguay; Socialist Party, USA; Polisario Front, Western Sahara; United National Independence Party, Zambia; Patriotic Front, Zimbabwe.
Participants

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