

SOCIALIST DIARY

Bureau Meeting

An extraordinary meeting of the Bureau of the Socialist International was held in London on 6 January attended by representatives of member parties of the Socialist International from Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Israel, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. The International Council of Social Democratic Women was also represented and Charalambos Protopapas, Chairman of the Greek Democratic Socialist Union, attended as a guest. Ian Mikardo MP, member of the National Executive Committee of the British Labour Party and Victor Larock, member of the Executive Committee of the Belgian Socialist Party, chaired the meeting in the absence, due to illness, of Bruno Pittermann, Chairman of the Socialist International.

Mission to the Middle East

The Bureau decided to send a fact-finding mission to the Middle East, expected to take place between mid-February and mid March 1974 and to be led by Chancellor Bruno Kreisky of Austria, Chairman of the Austrian Socialist Party. The mission will include representatives of member parties of the Socialist International in the following countries: Netherlands (representing also the Belgian and Luxembourg parties), Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Sweden (representing also the Danish, Finnish and Norwegian parties).

Statement on Greece

The Bureau adopted the following statement on Greece:

'The Bureau of the Socialist International strongly condemns the refusal of the Greek military junta to accept the fact-finding mission of the Socialist International expelled from Greece on 27 December 1973.

'Under its new military rulers Greece has experienced an intensification of the oppression practised by the late and unlamented Papadopoulos regime—concentration camps are once more filled with Greek democrats, censorship has

intensified and basic human rights are denied.

'The refusal of the regime to permit the entry of freely-elected representatives of European democratic socialism is a clear indication of the nature of the regime and of the need of the Socialist International and its member parties to continue to give all possible aid to Greek democrats and to work for the end of military rule and the restoration of democracy in Greece.

'The Bureau calls on all parties to raise this matter with their governments and the international organisations where Greece is represented.'

Greek Committee

The Greek Committee of the Socialist International met in London on 5 January prior to the Bureau meeting and attended by representatives of member parties of the Socialist International from Austria, Chile, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Norway and Sweden. The International Council of Social Democratic Women was also represented. Charalambos Protopapas, Chairman of the Greek Democratic Socialist Union, George Mylonas, political representative of the Greek resistance organisation 'Democratic Defence' and Spyros Mercouris, member of the Central Committee of 'Democratic Defence', attended as guests. Antonio Cariglia, Parliamentary Leader of the Italian Social Democratic Party and leader of the four-man mission to Greece of the Socialist International which was refused entry on 27 December, gave a report to the Committee on the mission and recommended future action to be taken by the Socialist International on Greece.

The Socialist International mission to Greece, led by Cariglia, included Reluter Beek MP, International Secretary of the Dutch Labour Party (who acted as Rapporteur of the mission), Alex Kitson, member of the National Executive Committee of the British Labour Party and Executive Officer of the Transport and General Workers Union and Christian Laurissergues MP, of the French Socialist Party.

Trials in Spain

On 20 December the trial opened in Madrid of ten Spanish citizens accused by the regime of belonging to the clandestine Comisiones Obreras (Workers Commissions); subsequently the accused were given prison sentences ranging from twelve to twenty years. In connection with this trial, the Chairman and General Secretary of the Socialist International sent the following cable on 23 December to Torcuato Fernandez Miranda, the Acting Spanish Prime Minister:

'On the occasion of the current Madrid trial of ten Spanish workers, the Socialist International reiterates its former protests against persecution by the Franco regime of democrats working for the observance of basic human rights and for social progress in Spain.'

The Last 'AZ'

After seventy-six years of publication, the Swiss daily *Zürcher AZ* is closing down. Under the name of *Volksrecht*, it came into being in March 1898 as a militant journal of the working class of Zürich and of the surrounding area. In the years that followed it fought hard—often in the most difficult and unfavourable times—for what it saw as the 'Volksrecht'—the rights of the masses—and it sought always to relate this fight to the concrete examples of everyday life. This organ of the Zürich labour movement changed its name four years ago to 'Zürcher AZ', yet it retained to the end, both as subtitle and as its guiding motif, the name 'Volksrecht'.

Council of Europe

German Social Democrat Mr Georg Kahn-Ackermann is supported by the Socialist Group of the Council of Europe's Consultative Assembly as candidate for the post of Secretary General of the Council of Europe, to be filled by election in May 1974. Kahn-Ackermann, member of the Bundestag, is a long-standing member of the Consultative Assembly.