

## Nordic Labour Leaders United

*The following statement of The Cooperation Committee of Nordic Social Democratic Parties and Trade Union Confederations was adopted at its meeting in Obbaes, Finland, on 5 May 1974.*

The Nordic Cooperation Committee of the Trade Union Confederations and social democratic parties discussed the situation of the democratic labour movement after an introduction by Olof Palme. We note that the social democratic ideas still represent the strongest political force in Western Europe. They have played an important part in the development of the Nordic welfare societies and have been the most important source of inspiration for the work for equality and democracy in our countries. The labour parties in Western Europe have together about fifty million voters and they are in government in eleven to sixteen countries.

The Nordic trade union movement and social democratic parties consider the democratic system as a condition for their policy of reform which has as its primary aim extended democracy. Both capitalism and communism imply concentration of power, bureaucratism and reduced influence for the individual. The Nordic social democratic parties

consider as their main end the transfer of power from the few to the many, equality between human beings and peace and detente between nations. A dynamic reform policy is in our part of the world the only possibility for the realisation of the social democratic ideas. The Nordic trade union movement supports these aims fully.

The Nordic Cooperation Committee welcomes with satisfaction that the trade union organisations in the Nordic countries and Western Europe have entered into close organised co-operation through the European Trade Union Confederation and the Nordic Trade Union Council. We find it necessary that the social democratic parties, in close contact with the trade union movement, enter increased co-operation. The Nordic Cooperation Committee instructs the secretariats of the respective parties to take concrete steps to build closer co-operation between the social democratic parties in the North and Western Europe.

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### THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

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## Bureau Meeting in Rome

The third Bureau meeting of the Socialist International this year was held in Rome on 8 June at the invitation of the Italian Social Democratic Party in order that member parties could commemorate the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Socialist Giacomo Matteotti in 1924. The following member parties of the Socialist International took part in the meeting: the Socialist parties of Austria, Belgium, France, Italy and Portugal; the Social Democratic parties of Germany, Italy and Sweden and the Labour parties of Britain, Israel and Malta as well as the Radical Party of Chile. The International Council of Social Democratic Women was also represented as was the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU). The meeting was presided over by Bruno Pittermann of Austria, Chairman of the Socialist International.

### Joint Action Against the Multinationals

The Bureau discussed co-operation with the ICFTU on the subject of multinational companies and decided to send a high-level delegation to the Working Party meeting of the ICFTU which was held in Geneva from 13–15 June. Victor Larock, a former Belgian Foreign Minister, was elected to represent the Socialist International. The following member parties of the International were also represented at the Working Party: the Swedish Social Democratic Party—Bo Elmgren, head of the Research Department of the party, and Carl Lidbom, member of the Swedish cabinet concerned with multinational companies; the Norwegian Labour Party—Ronald Bye, General Secretary; the People's National Party of Jamaica—Ernest Peart, Minister of Labour; the German Social Democratic Party—Hans Matt-

hoefer, Secretary of State for Research and Technology.

The Bureau will again discuss joint action with the ICFTU at its next meeting to be held in London on 14–15 September 1974.

### Portugal

The Bureau heard a detailed report from Tito de Morais, member of the executive of the Portuguese Socialist Party, on developments in Portugal which led up to the restoration of democracy. The Bureau approved of a programme of support for the Portuguese Socialist Party as recommended by the Portugal Committee of the Socialist International which had met prior to the Bureau

### Extraordinary Bureau Meeting

The Bureau decided to hold an extraordinary meeting in London on 26–27 October 1974 to discuss the future policies of the Socialist International.

### Greek Committee

On Sunday, 9 June, the Greek Committee of the Socialist International, chaired by Bruno Pittermann, met to hear a report on the situation in Greece by Charalambos Protopapas, Chairman of the Greek Social Democratic Union. The Committee was also informed by Relus ter Beek, International Secretary of the Dutch Labour Party, of preparations for an international conference on Greece to take place in Amsterdam in November 1974.

### Chile Committee

The new standing Committee on Chile of the Socialist International held its first meeting in Rome on 7 June at which Judith Hart, member of the National Executive Committee of the British Labour Party and Minister of Development, and André van der Louw, Chairman of the Dutch Labour Party, were elected as Chairmen of the Committee. Jenny Little, Acting International Secretary of the British Labour Party, was elected as Secretary. The Committee heard a report from Carlos Parra, International Secretary of the Radical Party of Chile, on the situation in Chile.

### Message to Unidad Popular

The Bureau sent a message to the Rome Headquarters of the Chilean Unidad Popular expressing their full support and solidarity with the struggle of the Chilean people against fascism and for the restoration of democracy and human rights in Chile.