

Bureau sets themes for Sydney congress

In two lengthy days of deliberation, the Bureau of the Socialist International tackled a crammed agenda in its second meeting this year. The meeting, hosted by the Social Democratic Party of Switzerland and held on 3-4 November in Basle, Switzerland, took place exactly seventy years after the famous Socialist International Peace Congress of 1912, also held in Basle. Bureau members took part in ceremonies commemorating attempts to halt the arms race and the first world war.

Preparations for the congress of the Socialist International, to be held in Sydney on 7-10 April next year, were discussed by the Bureau. This included setting themes for the congress and establishing the biennial meeting's rules and committees.

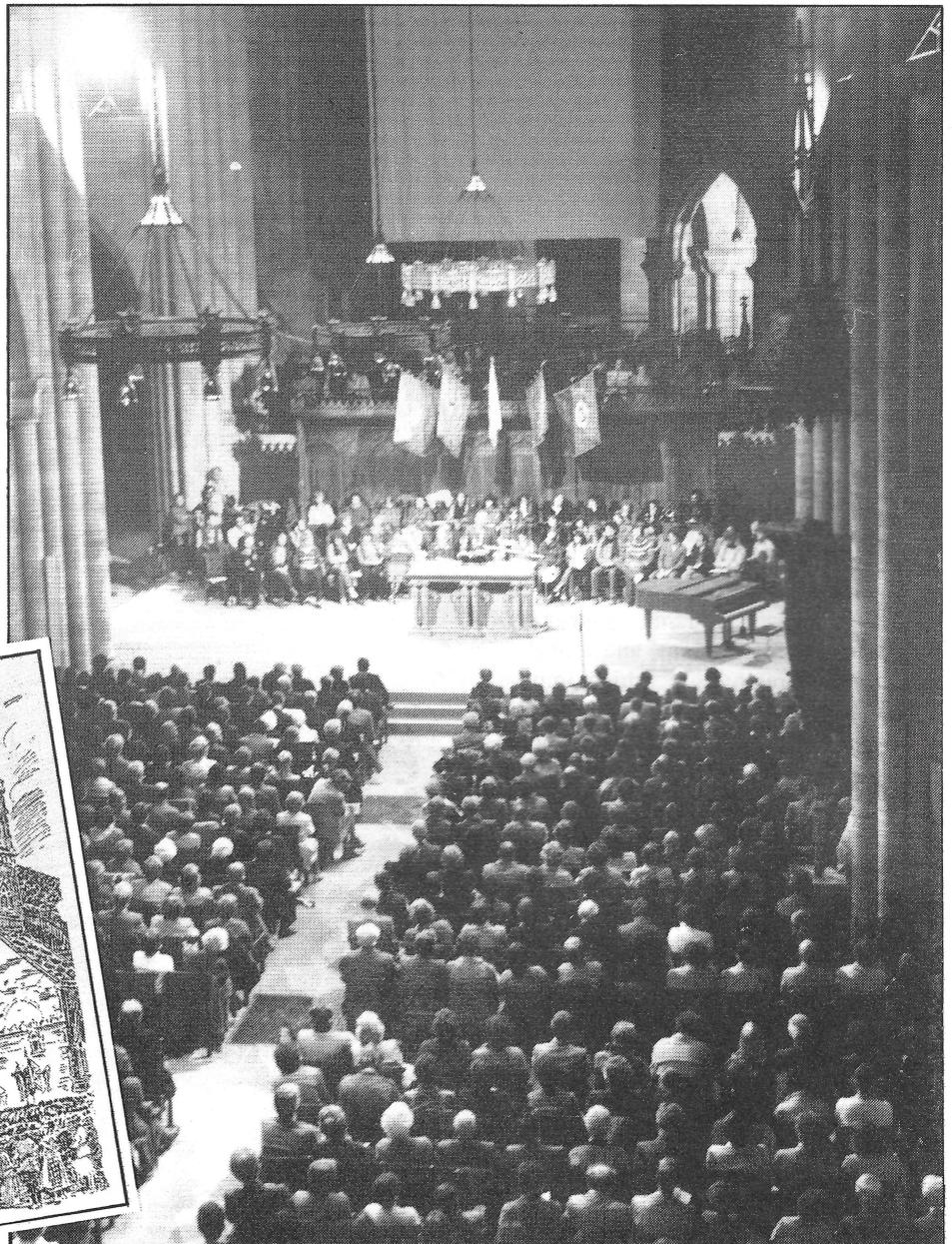
The Bureau set as parallel themes for the Sydney congress:

- economic justice and development;
- security, peace and disarmament;
- the Socialist International in Asia.

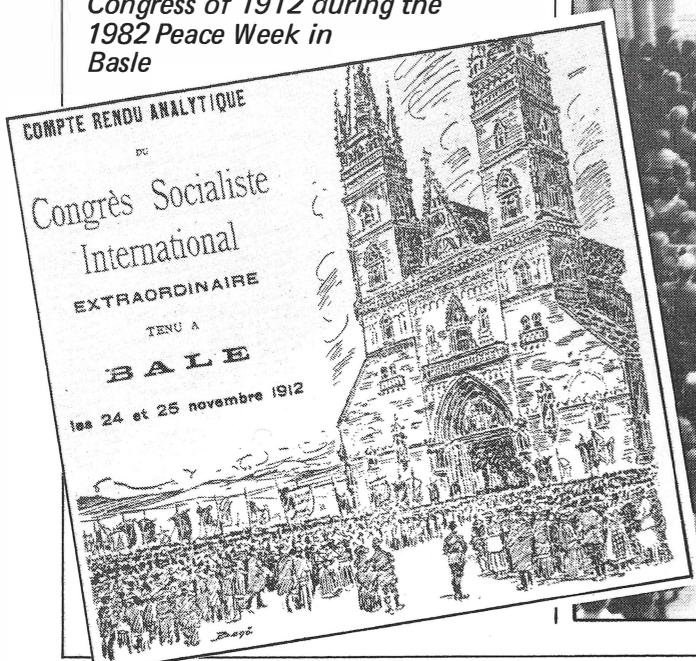
The Bureau considered a series of reports and resolutions concerning the

political situation in different regions, including the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Southern Africa. The governing body of the Socialist International also heard reports on the activities of the Disarmament and Arms Control Advisory Council, the Cancun Follow-Up Working Group, and the Vienna Economic Conference.

The Bureau debated the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the complex questions flowing from it and the initiatives which have been taken in its wake. The chairman of the Socialist International Working Group on the Middle East, Mario Soares, of the Socialist Party of Portugal, reported on the work of the group to the Bureau. He recalled the extensive activity since the invasion in June and the November meeting. The group has conducted two missions to the region and participated in the search for peace in discussion with many of the leaders in the region. Mario Soares spoke for the Bureau in his unreserved condemnation of the Palestinian massacres in September and the need to build a new momentum for peace in the



Seventy years of peace efforts: commemoration of the Peace Congress of 1912 during the 1982 Peace Week in Basle



wake of the summer's tragic events. The group was asked to continue its work and to follow developments in the months leading to the Sydney congress.

A second focus of discussion was the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly the escalating conflicts and tensions in Central America. The Bureau heard reports from member parties and guests from El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua, in addition to detailed reports by former Venezuelan president Carlos Andres Perez and former Jamaican prime minister Michael Manley. The resolution adopted on the subject is published opposite.

The president and several member parties welcomed the victories in Spain and Sweden in recent weeks, and hailed the inauguration of the new president of Bolivia, Hernan Siles Zuazo, and vice-president, Jaime Paz Zamora.

The Bureau gave its approval to the project for a conference on Southern Africa. The conference, on liberation and economic development in the region, will take place in Arusha, Tanzania, in June 1983. In January a preparatory conference will be held in Harare, Zimbabwe, to draft a conference statement for the June meeting as well as finalise its programme. The conference will bring together member parties of the Socialist International and representatives of the front-line states and the liberation movements.

The Bureau recommended the acceptance of two new consultative member parties to the Socialist International — the Progressive Labour Party of St Lucia in the Caribbean, and the Working People's Alliance of Guyana. These and other recommended new members will be considered by the congress itself.

The meeting was preceded by several committee and preparatory sessions. It was attended by nearly 120 delegates, guests and observers from thirty-nine countries.

The emotional celebrations of the 1912 peace congress included a ceremony held in the cathedral of Basle, where the peace efforts of early socialists such as Keir Hardie, Jean Jaures, August Bebel and Rosa Luxemburg were evoked in speeches and song.

The Bureau next meets prior to the Sydney congress, when it will consider the drafts prepared by the congress resolutions committee and make the final preparations for the first congress of the Socialist International to be held in the southern hemisphere.

Resolution on Latin America

The Bureau of the Socialist International after having analysed the situation prevailing in Latin America and the Caribbean agreed:

Central America

1. To condemn the recent abductions by the security forces of the government of El Salvador of Mauricio Domenech, Jorge Herrera and David Elias Guadron (whose whereabouts are still unknown) of the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR), as well as of other members of the Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR). The Socialist International demands their immediate and unconditional release.

To denounce this act of state-sanctioned terrorism which occurred just as it was proposed that a dialogue take place. This is a direct attack on this process. The Socialist International firmly believes that a political solution between the FDR/FMLN and the government is the only feasible way to bring about peace and a lasting settlement in El Salvador.

To fully support Guillermo Manuel Ungo's initiative for a dialogue and to reiterate its demand to the US administration that it stop any further military aid, as this aid is only escalating and regionalising the conflict and is creating a permanent threat to peace and stability of the region.

To reiterate its full solidarity with its member party, the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR).

2. To condemn the militarisation of Central America and the plans for military aggression against Nicaragua and the staging of military manoeuvres in the region which aggravate tensions in the area.

3. To welcome the decision of the Patriotic Front of the Revolution in Nicaragua to request of the Junta of the Government the elaboration of an electoral law, a law for political parties, a law on foreign investments, a law regulating the means of communication and the reform of the state-of-emergency law which will allow political parties to function. In this sense, we ratify our support for the original project of the Sandinistas for political pluralism, a mixed economy and non-alignment.

4. To accept the invitation forwarded by Nicaragua for a fact-finding mission by the Socialist International. To that effect, the following members have been designated: Ed Broadbent, Carlos Andres Perez, Michael Manley, Daniel Oduber, Mario Soares, Anselmo Sule, a representative of the Socialist Party of France, a representative of the Social Democratic Party of Germany, a repre-



Jean Ziegler, Christoph Berger

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representative of the Swedish Social Democratic Party, and the general secretary, Bernt Carlsson. This same mission is to travel to Costa Rica with the objective of promoting, together with the National Liberation Party, steps leading to a permanent peace in the area.

5. To condemn and denounce the policy of systematic extermination of the Indian population by the military regime in Guatemala which has taken the form of genocide. Equally, we condemn the murders sanctioned by the state of political leaders.

6. To convene a conference aimed at non-intervention, stability and peace in Central America.

South America

1. To publicise the recent discovery of clandestine cemeteries in Argentina, which makes it even more urgent to press for the democratisation of the country. Furthermore, to express its full support with the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, with the movements in defence of human rights and with the democratic forces, in particular, with the Multipartidaria, for their courageous struggle in favour of democracy and liberty in their country.

2. To welcome the process of democratisation – known as the 'apertura politica' – in Brazil and to hope that the will of the people is fully respected at the forthcoming elections.

3. To express its satisfaction with the political developments which have taken place in Colombia and to express that this process will permit the strengthening of democracy and national conciliation in that country.

4. To denounce the economic model imposed by the military dictatorship in Chile and to point out the resulting consequences: misery and hunger for the people as a whole.

To support and promote the democratic forces in Chile and to encourage the process of unification in order to put an end to the dictatorship and to support, in particular, the fight for the rights of the Chilean people to live in



Willy Brandt



Carlos Gallardo Flores

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS Basle, 3-4 November 1982

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