

to the repeal of the Land Apportionment Act.

5. The Government of Rhodesia claimed that they had already demonstrated that the majority of the people of Rhodesia desired independence on the basis of the present Constitution. This had been shown by their consultation of tribal opinion and the referendum of the electorate.

The Government do not consider that these proposals provide any positive advancement for Africans in the political and social fields, any fully effective safeguards against retrogressive amendment of the Constitution, or adequate means of consultation with African opinion in Rhodesia on the Rhodesian Government's proposals for independence.

In particular, the Government cannot accept that representations of the chiefs can be regarded as adequately representing Africans throughout Rhodesia as a whole.

The Government of Rhodesia held an indaba of chiefs and headmen in October of last year, to which they invited the British Government to send observers.

The previous Administration took the view that the procedure proposed would not provide conclusive evidence of the wishes of the people, and that it would not therefore be appropriate for them to nominate observers. This was confirmed by the Government immediately after taking office last October.

It must be repeated that it has been the aim of successive British Governments to bring remaining British territories to independence on the basis of democratic government and the principle of universal adult suffrage.

In the past in every case, with the exception of the Union of South Africa in 1910, majority rule has been established before the grant of independence.

Moreover, in all cases where there has been any doubt of the views of the population as a whole, the people have been consulted either in a general election or by means of a referendum of their wishes for independence on the terms proposed.

In the case of Rhodesia, the only territory except South Africa to request independence without majority rule, and the only territory where the opposition has not been included in a Constitutional conference, it is doubly important to have the views of the Rhodesian people as a whole that they both desire independence and desire it on the terms proposed by their Government.

It is therefore doubly important that the mechanism whereby the feelings of the Rhodesian people is to be

ascertained must be fully democratic.

In these circumstances no basis at present exists on which the British Government would feel justified in granting independence to Rhodesia.

In view of public statements made by Rhodesian Ministers, the Prime Minister thought it right again to remind Mr. Smith of the grave consequences of unilateral action.

There should be no delusions in Rhodesia about the ability or determination of the British Government to deal with the utmost firmness with any act of rebellion, or about the effects of the mass international condemnation to which Rhodesia would expose herself, having cut herself off from the Crown and from Britain.

Rhodesia would find herself practically friendless in the face of the almost solid hostility of the world.

It is now for the Government and people of Rhodesia to take serious stock of the position in the interests of the future of their country.

It remains the wish of the Government to see Rhodesia achieve independence as soon as possible, through peaceful discussion, on a basis which is fair and just to all.

They stand firmly by the principle of unimpeded progress to majority rule and the need to secure a settlement which is acceptable to the people of the country as a whole. They will continue to strive for effective negotiation towards independence on that basis.

It is the sincere hope of the Government that the Rhodesian Government will not decide in favour of a course which will be fraught with such serious consequences for all, but most of all for Rhodesians themselves.

The Prime Minister outlined alternative courses which would provide for the steady advancement of democracy in their country, leading to early independence on the basis of cooperation between the races and designed to ensure the future happiness and peace of all the peoples in the country.

## Socialist International Bureau meeting

A regular meeting of the Bureau of the Socialist International was held on October 4 in Transport House, London. The meeting was presided over by the Vice-Chancellor of Austria and Chairman of the Socialist International, Bruno Pittermann. It was attended by:—Karl Czernetz (Austria); Victor Larock (Belgium); George Bain (Canada); Robert Pontillon and Pierre Herbaut (France); Hans-Eberhard Dingels (Germany); Walter Padley, Eirene White, Len Williams and Gwyn Morgan (Great Britain); Eliahu Speiser and S. Levenberg (Israel); Antonio Cariglia (Italy); Seiichi Katsumata, Fusao Yamaguchi and Sakagami (Japan Socialist Party); Eki Sone (Japan Democratic Socialist Party); Pauli Burman (Finland); Pieter Dankert (Netherlands); Anders Thunborg (Sweden); Pamela Peachey (International Council of Social Democratic Women); Albert Carthy and Robert Rauscher (Socialist International).

The Bureau made final arrangements for the Party Leaders' Conference to be held in Paris on October 24-25. The Secretary of the Socialist International, Albert Carthy, reported on his recent visit to the Middle East, Asia, Australia and New Zealand [see last issue]. The Bureau gave preliminary consideration to a number of proposals aimed at strengthening relations between Socialist parties in the area covered by the Secretary's visit. It was decided that a

top-level colloquium should be held in Stockholm to discuss the problems of Socialism in the new countries. The colloquium would immediately precede the Congress of the Socialist International to be held in Stockholm in May. The Bureau drew up a draft programme of work for the Stockholm Congress.

The Bureau gave full support to the statement of the British Labour Party Conference calling for the ending of hostilities by both sides in Vietnam and the opening of negotiations. Two members of the British Labour Government, Walter Padley, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and Eirene White, Under-Secretary of State for Colonial Affairs, reported on their Government's attitude to the situation in Rhodesia and Aden.

The Bureau welcomed the applications for membership of the Socialist International from the Australian Labor Party and the Revolutionary Febrerista Party of Paraguay. These applications will be formally considered by the Stockholm Congress in May. The Bureau sent a message wishing the Dominican Revolutionary Party, led by ex-President Juan Bosch, success in its task of building up the Dominican Republic on democratic lines.

The Bureau issued the following statement after examining the communiqués issued by delegations of the Japan Socialist Party on recent visits to Moscow, Peking and Jakarta:

"The Bureau of the Socialist International and the Japan Socialist Party have studied carefully the effects of statements to which delegations from the Party to other countries have been signatory, and the character of certain references in Party publications.

"The Bureau of the Socialist International has taken note of the conditions obtaining in Japan—the implications of her relationships to China, the Soviet Union and the United States, her historical traditions and her political situation.

"It is recognised that the Socialist International is guided by the wish to contribute by its solidarity to the united forces of Socialism in Japan, and by the wish that they may once again be enabled to assume governmental responsibility in their great country.

"It is recognised that the Japan Socialist Party expresses gratification at the extending bounds of the Socialist International, which are evident from the steady increase in the number of affiliated parties. It is further recognised that it is the desire of the Japan Socialist Party, in common with other fraternal parties, to contribute towards this widening of membership, and in the establishment of closer links between the parties of democratic socialism in Asia.

"The Bureau of the Socialist International expresses gratification at the intention of the Japan Socialist Party, guided by this forward look, to remove barriers to understanding between fraternal parties, and to the strengthening of bonds between them, as well as to the widening of the influence of democratic Socialism in all countries, particularly the new countries. The presence of an important delegation at the present Bureau meeting is evidence of this.

"It is recalled that the 1951 Frankfurt Declaration of the Socialist International, in Chapter 1, says:

7. Socialists express their solidarity with all peoples suffering under dictatorship, whether Fascist or Communist, in their efforts to win freedom.

8. Every dictatorship, wherever it may be, is a danger to the freedom of all nations and thereby to the peace of the world."

"It is recognised that, having been accepted by all member parties, the Declaration is regarded by them as binding.

"It follows from this Declaration that it is not permissible for parties which are members of the Socialist International, any more than it is permissible for individual members of fraternal Socialist parties, to identify

themselves with the policies, objectives and organisations of Communism and other forms of dictatorship.

"The Bureau of the Socialist International accepts with pleasure, as a necessary condition for effective co-operation, the assurances given by the Japan Socialist Party that it will be guided, in common with other parties,

## British Labour Party Annual Conference

The first full Conference of the British Labour Party since it attained governmental power a year ago was held in Blackpool from September 27 to October 1. The Conference provided a platform for a detailed exposition and examination of the Government's policies over the past year, and for the projection of future plans.

The major speech on the first day of the Conference was by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, Richard Crossman, who said that agreement had been reached in principle between the Government and building societies to cooperate in a national housing plan. Mr. Crossman hinted that the Queen's Speech would include legislation to reduce the burden of high interest rates on loans to local authorities which build houses to let. He indicated that basic housing subsidies would be replaced by a selective subsidy designed to give most aid to the local authorities with the heaviest programmes and to encourage local authorities to expand their programmes. The housing plan envisaged the building of 500,000 houses a year of which half would be built by local authorities and half by the private sector. In 1964, 135,000 houses were built by local authorities and 213,000 by the private sector.

The highlight of the second day of the Conference was the speech introducing the Parliamentary Report by the Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, who was given a 70-second standing ovation. Mr. Wilson rejected any idea of a formal pact with the Liberal Party. He said that he hoped the Liberals would be able to support the Government's measures "in the national interest", but "if they cannot we shall have to go on without them". If a situation arose which made effective government impossible, then there would be an election. Reviewing the Government's work in the last session, Mr. Wilson said that 65 bills had been carried—14 more than the average—including "the most fundamental reform of our system of taxation which Parliament has seen for over half

by the principle enunciated above.

"It is recognised that the future liaison of the fraternal parties in Asia and in the Socialist International as a whole will call for vigilance for the success of the cause of Socialism in Asia."

The next meeting of the Bureau will be held on December 9.

a century". On the Government's immigration policy he said: "We have a duty to act here, and failure to fulfil that duty might lead in a very short time to a social explosion of a kind we have seen abroad . . . I repudiate the libel that the Government's policy is based either on colour or on racial prejudice."

Referring to the Government's proposed legislative programme, the Prime Minister said that in the next session of Parliament there would be a steady flow of new measures as phase two—marked by the publication of the National Economic Plan [see last issue]—opened up. Britain was within measurable distance of closing her balance of payments gap, sterling was strong, employment was strong. The foundations had been laid for the new Britain, the demolition work done. Soon there would be a great production drive and plans for a great technological revolution. By the end of the coming session the Government would have carried out almost all its election pledges from last October.

The third day of the Conference was dominated by the debate on foreign affairs and immigration policy. A statement on foreign policy [which is published on page 223] was overwhelmingly carried by the Conference. A resolution which called on the Government to dissociate itself from American policies and military operations in Vietnam was defeated by 4,065,000 votes to 2,284,000. An emergency resolution demanding retraction of the Government's White Paper on Commonwealth immigration was defeated by 4,736,000 votes to 1,581,000.

The debate on foreign policy was opened by the Foreign Secretary, Michael Stewart. He placed great emphasis on the Government's committed policy towards the U.N. and spoke forcibly for the admission of China. The debate was wound up by the Prime Minister who said that no country had done more to bring peace in Vietnam than Britain. He recounted the efforts to get Peking and Hanoi to talk, but also emphasised the pressure