Bureau Meeting in London

The Bureau of the Socialist International, meeting in London on 5 March, took political decisions relating to the Cyprus and Northern Ireland situations, and also decided the agenda of the 12th post-war Congress of the International scheduled to take place in Vienna at the end of June.

A series of Socialist International meetings took place in London on 3-6 March, the most important being an ordinary session of the Bureau on 5 March. At the Bureau meeting discussion centred principally on proposals for changes in the statute of the International and on the agenda and timetable of the forthcoming 12th Congress due to be held in Vienna on 26-29 June. The other meetings held over the weekend were: the Portugal proposals for changes in the statute of the Bureau on 5 March. At the Bureau meeting discussion centred principally on proposals for changes in the statute of the International and on the agenda and timetable of the forthcoming 12th Congress due to be held in Vienna on 26-29 June. The other meetings held over the weekend were: the Portugal

The London Bureau discussed at considerable length the agenda of the 12th post-war Congress of the Socialist International due to be held in Vienna at the end of June, and finally decided that it should be as follows:

Monday 26 June am: opening of Congress, Chairman's address, business session;
Monday 26 June pm: commissions on Third World and Environment;
Tuesday 27 June am: debate on 'Equality of Women in Politics' (9-11 am); debate on 'The International Situation';
Tuesday 27 June pm: debate on 'The International Situation' (cont.);
Wednesday 28 June am: debate on 'A Socialist Programme for Europe';
Wednesday 28 June pm: debate on 'Socialist Strategy for the Third World';
Thursday 29 June am: debate on 'Industrial Growth and Environment';

Final decisions on the major introductory speakers will be taken at the next meeting of the Bureau, on the
basis of proposals from member parties. The Bureau also deferred to a later meeting its final recommendations on changes in the statute of the International.

The Bureau was attended by representatives of member parties of the International in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Israel, Italy (two parties) and the Netherlands. The International Union of Socialist Youth and the EEC Socialist Bureau were also represented.

Specialist committees
The Portugal Committee of the International held its first meeting on 3 March and heard a comprehensive report on the situation inside Portugal from Mario Soares, the exiled socialist leader. Representatives of the Portuguese Socialist Action (ASP) attended, and the Bureau subsequently agreed that the ASP should be a member of the committee as a party.

The preparatory session of the Monetary Experts Group was attended by Hanes Androsch (Austrian Finance Minister), Henri Fayat (Belgian Trade Minister) and Harold Lever (British Shadow Cabinet member), who worked on the report and recommendations to be presented to a full meeting of the Group to be held in Brussels on 17 March.

The European Security Study Group continued its examination of matters related to the convening of a European security conference, the aim being to present a draft resolution on the subject to the Vienna Congress. There was general agreement that the outcome of the vote in the German Parliament on the Eastern Treaties would have a great influence on this whole question.

The former Greek minister George Mylonas attended the Greek Committee meeting, which reassessed its opposition to all arms deliveries to the Athens regime. The Committee also noted with grave concern the Romanian Government's invitation to the junta's leader, George Papadopoulos, to visit Bucharest.

The major item on the agenda of the International's Study Group on Socialist Strategy in the Third World was a report on the Union Progressiste de Senegal (UPS) given by Moustapha Niassa, who is President Senghor's Chef de Cabinet. This report and the UPS will be covered in greater detail in the next issue of SOCIALIST AFFAIRS. The Study Group also received a paper on TANU of Tanzania from Ian Piper of the British Labour Party's International Department (see pp. 57-9).

SOCIALISTS AND EUROPEAN UNITY—8

Why French Socialists are Enthusiastic

Francis Vals

French Socialists have always been convinced that the national framework is insufficient for developing a coherent concept of the socialist future. Were they to adopt any other attitude, socialists would be condemning themselves to inactivity in the face of economic and industrial concentrations and the marked growth and development of international societies. It is true that in the early fifties the proposed plan for a European political community foandered at the same time as the project for a European defence community, resulting in a split in socialist opinion. But the reasons are bound up with the fact that it was a clear mistake to confuse the policy of European construction with the policy of integration within the Atlantic bloc in the eyes of the left-wing and of public opinion.

Wilson on EEC Vote

On 17 February the British House of Commons carried the second reading of the European Communities Bill by 309 votes to 301, a majority of eight. In a statement on this result, the Leader of the British Labour Party, Harold Wilson, said: 'Last night's vote in the House of Commons on the European Communities Bill has made it clear that the Prime Minister has no shred of authority for pursuing his European policy. Before the last general election he made a firm declaration that it would not be in the interests of Europe for enlargement of the Community to take place except with the full-hearted consent of Parliament and people.

The full-hearted consent of the British people he manifestly does not possess. Last night's vote decisively proved that he does not possess the full-hearted consent of Parliament either. His majority was totally inadequate for a measure of this constitutional and historical importance.'

Mr Wilson said that the House of Commons now faced the prospect of months of bitter debate, the outcome of which was totally unforeseeable. In this period, he went on, British industry would be facing 'total uncertainty and insecurity'. In addition, he said, Britain's trading relations with many commercial partners, particularly those in EFTA, the Republic of Ireland, and the Commonwealth, could suffer.

Mr Wilson concluded that Mr Heath had two options open to him: 'One is to accept the fact that he has not secured the full-hearted consent of people and Parliament which he demanded. The second, if he is determined to pursue entry into Europe on the terms negotiated by his Government and in the form which he has presented them to Parliament, he should now immediately submit this measure, together with the whole record and policies of his Government to the judgement of the people in a general election and seek a mandate for his European and other policies.'