

SOCIALIST AFFAIRS

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THE INTERNATIONAL

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 Committee and a preparatory session of the International's Monetary Experts Group (both on 3 March); the Greek Committee and the European Security Study Group (both on 4 March); and the Study Group on Socialist Strategy in the Third World (6 March).

The two main political items on the agenda of the Bureau meeting were Northern Ireland and Cyprus. The Bureau had before it applications for membership of the International from the two Northern Ireland labour parties—the Social Democratic and Labour Party and the Northern Ireland Labour Party. The Vice-Chairman of the Irish Labour Party, Niall Greene, attended the Bureau for this item and supported both applications. On the proposal of the General Secretary of the British Labour Party, Sir Harry Nicholas, the Bureau decided to establish a small committee to look into the implications of these applications and to report back to the Bureau.

The latest developments in Cyprus were discussed by the Bureau, and on the proposal of the Chairman of the International the following statement was adopted unanimously:

The Socialist International notes that the Greek Government is trying to cover up the failure of its policy by organizing foreign political adventures in Cyprus and is demanding that President Archbishop Makarios should reshuffle his Government to include men who enjoy the confidence of the Greek Government.

The Socialist International has repeatedly warned that the Present Greek Government threatens peace in the eastern Mediterranean. The International appeals to all democratic parties and governments strongly to oppose the Greek

colonels' attempts to instigate a putsch in Cyprus and to avoid the creation of a new danger spot in the Mediterranean.

The Bureau also considered again the proposal from the Dutch Labour Party (PvdA) that the parties of the International should each organize a campaign on May Day to collect money to be donated to the liberation movements of southern Africa. The Bureau had previously endorsed this proposal and requested member parties to submit details of their plans in this respect to the London meeting. The General Secretary of the International, Hans Janitschek, reported that the British Labour Party, the Nordic parties and the Dutch Labour Party itself had notified the Secretariat of plans for May Day campaigns. It was the general feeling of the Bureau that even a modest beginning to this kind of international action would be worthwhile, in that it could grow in scope in future years.

Vienna Congress

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.