

SI COUNCIL MEETING IN CAIRO

The Council of the Socialist International gathered in Cairo for its first meeting in an Arab country on 22-23 May, as the guests of the governing National Democratic Party which was elected to full membership of the International at the Congress held last year in Stockholm



Cheryl Hatch

**Brandt:
one world
for all**

The main themes of the meeting were Perspectives on the Mediterranean and the Middle East and Developments in Central and Eastern Europe. The venue in the Egyptian capital was seen as a particular symbol of the SI's commitment to the Middle East and, in the words of SI President Willy Brandt, to 'durable peace and social democracy.'

In his opening remarks Brandt also highlighted the new realities in Central and Eastern Europe and commented, 'We feel close to those who seek and work for independent and true democracy. And we also feel a

certain co-responsibility for the fate of *perestroika* and for the future of Russia and the Soviet Union'.

Referring to the economic gap between the affluent North and the poor South, Brandt said there was no alternative to the pursuit of the vision of one world for all.

Speaking at the Council inauguration ceremony President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt warned against an 'iron curtain' coming down between North and South. 'It is no secret', he commented, 'that our world now experiences an explosive situation because of the gap between industrial and developing countries.'

On Middle East questions, the Egyptian leader warned that the influx of Soviet Jews to the territories occupied by Israel 'threatens to blow up the march towards peace and put the whole region on the verge of a bloody new confrontation.'

President Mubarak called on the SI to pay particular attention to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to the drive to end apartheid in South Africa.

The Middle East and the Mediterranean

The SI Council held a major discussion on the Middle East and the Mediterranean and went on to adopt a resolution on the Middle East presented by the International's Middle East Committee, which met in Cairo on the day preceding the Council (see box page 44).

Shimon Peres, the leader of the Israel Labour Party, in a powerful intervention told the Council that peace was at the centre of the Israeli political debate. Bettino Craxi, the leader of the Italian Socialist Party, said that it was difficult to deny the desire of the Palestine Liberation Organisation for peace and negotiations. He added that hope had to be put back into the dialogue between the parties.

For his part Alfonso Guerra, deputy leader of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party and deputy prime minister, declared that the Israeli government of Yitzhak Shamir

'seemed to be betting on the closing of every door to the hope of a dialogue with the Palestinians.'

Pierre Mauroy, first secretary of the French Socialist Party, thought that 'everything must be done so that there takes place between the Israeli government and the PLO a dialogue founded on mutual recognition which must lead to co-existence of the two peoples and the two States in peace, co-operation and security'.

The full text of the resolution adopted on the Middle East is printed below.

Eastern Europe

The second theme of the Council meeting was given heightened interest by the presence of a number of representatives from Eastern Europe. The SI secretary general started the analysis with a survey of developments concerning the SI in the area.

In the debate, speaking for the Swedish Social Democratic Party, Pierre Schori said, 'Democracy has triumphed in the former 'Eastern Europe'. Democracy, not capitalism, is the winner. Communism was defeated, politically, socially and culturally. Communism, not democratic socialism was the loser... In the case of the Baltic republics it is not a question of if, or maybe, it is rather when and how these nations will regain their independence.'

Antonio Cariglia, general secretary of the Italian Social Democratic Party, declared, 'Forty years of totalitarian use of power "in the name of the people" have demonstrated that if socialism is not accompanied by democracy it turns into an instrument of oppression against the people.'

José María Benegas of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party stressed that the SI must be alert to the possibilities in Eastern Europe, 'seeking to widen contacts with all progressive forces in the area and trying to contribute in the measure of our



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possibilities through solidarity with those who may one day govern in those societies'.

Asia and the Pacific

Asia and the Pacific also featured on the agenda.

SI vice president Eiichi Nagasue of the Japan Democratic Socialist Party made a strong plea for continued contacts with China. 'China is trying hard by saying "Let us work together". It is my strong belief that the Socialist International should work to avoid the isolation of China and I make this appeal to my fellow comrades.'

The Council heard a report from a representative of the Nepali Congress Party, elected to consultative membership of the International at the Stockholm Congress, and now heading a coalition government following the recent democratic breakthrough in that country.

Hayat Ahmed Khan of the Pakistan People's Party, a full member party of the International, drew participants' attention to the situation in Kashmir, which

he described as an 'Intifada' in which thousands had already been killed. He expressed the support of his government for the United Nations resolution on Kashmir, which called for the people of Kashmir to vote in a plebiscite on their future, under UN auspices.

The Council was also addressed by George Fernandes, minister in the Indian government with special responsibility for the Kashmir question, who was a guest at the meeting.

Southern Africa

There was also discussion of the current situation in Southern Africa.

The Council was addressed by Zolile Magugu of the African National Congress who said that, 'Intensified sanctions and the increased isolation of the Pretoria government can contribute positively to change in Southern Africa.' It was announced that the SI Southern Africa Committee would meet in June in the Hague, under the chairmanship of Dutch Deputy Prime Minister Wim Kok.

Mubarak: a welcome to the Arab world

Latin America

The Council heard the new foreign minister of Chile, Enrique Silva Cimma of the Radical Party, PR, who reported on the installation of the new democratic government in Chile on 11 March, thanking the SI for its sustained support for the Chilean people during the Pinochet dictatorship.

Leonel Brizola, leader of the Democratic Labour Party, PDT, reviewed Brazilian political developments since the presidential elections.

On Central America, Guillermo Ungo, leader of the National Revolutionary Movement, MNR, El Salvador, and Mario Solórzano, general secretary of the Democratic Socialist Party, PSD, Guatemala, reported on the ongoing peace process.

Membership Decisions

Acting on the mandate of the Stockholm Congress, the Council decided to revitalise the full membership of the Czech Social Democratic Party and of the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party in the International.

Jiri Horak, Chairman of the Czech Social Democratic Party said, 'While it is true that the communist totalitarian regime has discredited the ideal of socialism in our part of the world, I am confident that we will once again rise to the occasion and make democratic socialism a respectable and

even a major force in my country and hopefully in the whole of East and Central Europe.'

Bulgarian Social Democratic Party Chair Peter Dertliev reported, 'Numbers of new and young members have coalesced around the core of old veterans. It was an avalanche of enthusiastic people coming from all strata, occupations and professions who wished to join the party ranks. Today our party is one of the strongest parties in our country.'

It was agreed by the Council that the Social Democratic Party of the German Democratic Republic, represented by a delegation headed by GDR foreign minister Markus Meckel, would have the status of full SI member party.

The Panhellenic Socialist Movement, PASOK, Greece, was also admitted to full membership which would be for the next SI Congress to ratify. Among those attending the Council was PASOK leader Andreas Papandreou. In his speech he echoed some of the sentiments expressed earlier in the meeting when he said, 'It is essential that, right now, within the new political and economic conditions, we set up the framework for a new Mediterranean co-operation'.

Future Activities

It was agreed at the Council that the third SI Conference on Disarmament would be

held in the Finnish city of Tampere in early September, an event which would be preceded by a mission of the Socialist International Disarmament Advisory Council to Moscow following the recent one to Washington.

The SI Study Group on Africa, chaired by Jorge Sampaio, Portuguese Socialist Party, and Djibo Ka, Socialist Party of Senegal, met informally in Cairo. The Council approved the decision to hold a meeting in Lisbon during the summer which would focus on environmental and economic issues.

The Mediterranean Study Group, now under the chairmanship of Bettino Craxi, also met informally in Cairo and decided to send a mission to the Maghreb in September, whilst planning other activities for late 1990 and next year.

It was announced that the SI Committee on the Environment, chaired by Swedish Minister for Environment Birgitta Dahl, was preparing to hold a special meeting in Sweden in the near future.

Following discussions in the Council, it was agreed that an SI mission would travel to the Baltic states shortly.

Finally, it was agreed that the next meeting of the SI Council would be held in New York in October 1990.

SI MIDDLE EAST COMMITTEE

The SI Middle East Committee convened in Cairo on the day before the Council under the chairmanship of Hans-Jürgen Wischniewski. The Committee meeting was also attended by representatives of the PLO and of the governments of the US and the USSR

US representative Ryan Crocker drew attention to the points of coincidence between the Middle East peace proposals of President Mubarak and of US Secretary of State James Baker.

Vladimir Zenchev, of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the USSR, said, 'As we see it, there are grounds for reasonable optimism that a historical compromise between the Arabs and the Israelis can be found.'

The Committee appointed a working group chaired by Gerald Kaufman of the British Labour Party to consider a draft resolution which was subsequently put to the Council.

REPORT OF THE SI SECRETARY GENERAL TO THE COUNCIL IN CAIRO

Dear comrades,

I am pleased to report that since our last Council meeting in Geneva, in November 1989, the Socialist International has been continuously active in different regions of the world, making its contribution in various areas of current concern.

At a time of rapid and far-reaching change, I think it can be said that our organisation has, through its many activities during the recent period, been dynamically involved in helping to shape new international realities.

This Council meeting in Cairo, the first to be held in this part of Africa and the Middle East, at the invitation of our new member party, the National Democratic Party, is yet another important point of reference for our International and its worldwide commitment.

Since our meeting in Geneva, where we discussed the dramatic developments in Central and Eastern Europe, the pace of change has continued to accelerate. Our International has been particularly active in this area, following the evolving situation through bilateral contacts, organising missions and arranging a permanent exchange of views and information.

An important aspect of these developments has been the re-emergence and consolidation of democratic socialist parties and movements in the region to which I had an opportunity to refer yesterday. We and many of our member parties have attended their party congresses, observed elections and held meetings with leaders and members of these re-established or new political formations. Some of us have accompanied them in their political campaigns. I had myself, for instance, early in March, the privilege of travelling with our president to attend a number of events in the German Democratic Republic during the election campaign.

After the elections in the GDR and in Hungary, which we followed in close detail, our attention also turned to Bulgaria and Romania. A mission of the Socialist International

visited Bulgaria from 29 to 31 March. Representatives of seven member parties and organisations participated. The mission, headed by Heinz Fischer of the Austrian Socialist Party, held meetings with the leadership of the Social Democratic Party of Bulgaria, with leaders and members of the Union of Democratic Forces, with the Bulgarian government and with other of the country's political groupings. The mission also attended the Conference of the Social Democratic Party on 31 March in Sofia. Preparations are now being made for an SI delegation to observe the Bulgarian elections on June 10.

Another mission travelled to Romania 9 and 10 April, led by Peter Jankowitsch of the Austrian Socialist Party and including representatives of seven other member parties. Their programme included meetings with leaders of the Romanian Social Democratic Party, of the Peasants' and National Liberal parties, and other groups such as the Social Dialogue, as well as with government representatives. In the case of Romania our International also organised an observer delegation to the elections held three days ago. The delegation, headed by Santiago Pérez of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, also had talks with representatives of political parties, trade unions and others.

On 26 March, the SI Human Rights Committee held a meeting in Prague where the theme was 'The State of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in Eastern and Central Europe'. As well as the Committee members, the meeting was attended by guests from the Czechoslovak Social Democratic Party, the Social Democratic Association of the USSR, the Social Democratic Union of Slovenia and the International Helsinki Federation on Human Rights, among others. Antonin Baudisch, deputy prime minister of the Czechoslovak Federative Republic, was also present.

A new area of activity was opened when the Soviet leadership invited the Socialist International to send economic experts from its parties in



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Secretary
general
Luis Ayala

Europe to a jointly organised seminar on 8 -10 February in Moscow on the topic of 'Co-existence of various forms of property and market'.

As part of the exchange of information and of coordination with regard to developments in Central and Eastern Europe, the secretariat has been in close contact with a number of international secretaries for informal talks and useful discussions.

There have been several congresses of our member parties and associated organisations in Europe in the last months and I was happy to have been able to participate as a guest in a number of them. It was also a particular pleasure to attend, in the company of Bettino Craxi, the celebration of the unification of the San Marino Socialist Party on the 24 March. The joint secretaries-general from the newly unified party are with us today.

During the recent Greek election campaign I went to Athens at the invitation of PASOK. There I had the op-

portunity to discuss with the party leadership its application for membership of the Socialist International.

It was a heartening experience to head an SI delegation of twenty member parties to Chile to observe the elections held on 14 December 1989. The members of the delegation observed the voting process in different areas of my homeland and witnessed an orderly election, which resulted in a resounding victory for the Coalition for Democracy. Together with many leaders of SI member parties, I also attended the inauguration on, 11 March 1990, of the new Chilean government, headed by Patricio Aylwin. It includes SI vice president and Radical Party leader Enrique Silva Cimma as foreign minister.

In mid-January, an SI mission visited Nicaragua to observe the election campaign and a delegation also witnessed the voting process of 25 February. A statement issued by the delegation congratulated all political forces in the country on the holding of free and fair elections and expressed our confidence that the new government would continue the progress, development and commitment to social justice which had characterised Nicaragua since the revolution of 1979.

On 17 and 18 January, the SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean met in Quito. Our comrade, the president of Ecuador, Rodrigo Borja, opened the meeting. Discussions focussed on the problem of drug trafficking, external debt and democracy in Latin America. Resolutions were also adopted on the situation in Haiti, Panama and Puerto Rico.

This was a productive meeting, but it was overshadowed by the assassination in Guatemala of our dear comrade Héctor Ouelí, as he was on his way to join us. Immediately following the meeting, a number of participants and I travelled to El Salvador and Guatemala together with Guillermo Ungo to express our concern and outrage to the authorities. In the absence of any satisfactory outcome of the investigations

the SI has charged a leading U.S. human rights expert with the examination of these on our behalf.

A delegation of the Socialist International, including representatives of ten parties observed the general elections held in the Dominican Republic on 16 May. They watched the voting process and met representatives of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, PRD, an SI member, whose leader José Francisco Peña Gómez was a presidential candidate.

Also in February, the second SICFTU joint conference on 'Peace and Democracy in Central America' took place in Guatemala City. With this second joint event, successful co-operation between our two international organisations was further consolidated and we shall be looking at the opportunities for joint activities in the future, both in Central America and elsewhere. We are now in the process of establishing a joint Central America working group.

At the other end of this continent - Southern Africa has been at the forefront of world attention. The successful struggle of the people of Namibia led to a long awaited independence. The Swedish foreign minister Sten Andersson represented the Socialist International on the day Namibia became a free nation.

The Southern Africa Committee will soon meet in the Netherlands at the invitation of its chairman, deputy Prime Minister Wim Kok, to draw up detailed plans for the next stage of our contribution to the struggle in South Africa.

There is one struggle for democracy in Asia which must not be forgotten. The International has been in the last months in close contact with our friends from the Nepali Congress Party supporting their successful efforts for democracy in the kingdom.

On 8 and 9 March, an important and concrete step towards peace and disarmament in South America was taken when the Socialist International went to Colombia to receive the arms handed over by the M-19 at the request of this guerrilla movement and the government of Colombia and to

supervise the destruction of these weapons. An international commission appointed by the Socialist International, consisting of Lieutenant-General Ermei Kanninen (retired) of Finland; Dr Frank Barnaby of Great Britain - former director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, SIPRI; Heinrich Buchbinder, from the Social Democratic Party of Switzerland; and General Ernesto Uzcátegui (retired) of Venezuela, accompanied by military aides, received the arms from the guerrilla movement. In this way, following an agreement with the Colombian government, the M-19 incorporated itself into civilian life. Tragically, the M-19 leader and presidential candidate Carlos Pizarro subsequently became the third Colombian presidential candidate to be assassinated during the current electoral campaign.

Nonetheless this important initiative of the M-19 and the Colombian government as well as the SI involvement must be seen as an important example of a successful peace effort.

The SI's ongoing commitment to peace was once again evident when the Disarmament Advisory Council, SIDAC, carried out a successful mission to Washington on 14-15 May. The ten-party delegation led by SIDAC chair Kalevi Sorsa, of Finland, had valuable discussions with US representatives at a particularly crucial period in the disarmament process.

The activities of the past six months, which I have summarised in this report, have served to underline two important political facts. They are, firstly, the continuing and growing vitality of democratic socialism, and secondly, the interest in our ideals which exists in those regions where, for one reason or another, social democrats have not yet fully established themselves.

I have no doubt that our International will continue to foster that vitality and to encourage that interest.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST

All over the world, the opportunity for achieving peace, détente, disarmament and cooperation has become greater. Unfortunately, however, this does not apply to the Middle East. Apart, so far, from the peace agreement between Israel and Egypt, all efforts to bring about a just peace between Israel and her Arab neighbours have failed.

The Intifada has now been continuing for two and a half years. The number of victims is great and is constantly increasing. The Socialist International considers the situation to be extremely dangerous.

Efforts to bring about direct negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians in Cairo have so far failed, despite constructive assistance from Egypt and the USA. The principal obstruction has been the Likud position in Israel.

The danger of radicalisation among groups on both sides of the conflict is real and it is increasing.

For the sake of peace the Socialist International calls for the following:

- 1) The Israeli people and the Palestinian people must come together for direct negotiations. These should be conducted with the assistance, where appropriate, of the United Nations, the USA, the Soviet Union, the European Community, and other concerned countries, and with substantial participation by Egypt.
- 2) The Israeli government must respect human, political, civil, and social rights in the Occupied Territories in accordance with internationally recognised standards.

The destruction of houses, expulsions and mass imprisonment, settler violence and brutality, must stop. Settlements in the Occupied Territories contravene UN resolutions and the Geneva Conventions. They are illegal. They change the demographic balance. They are an obstacle to peace and must not be established. Schools and universities must be kept open. The ban on contacts between Israelis and the PLO must be lifted.

- 3) All the parties to the conflict are requested to give up any form of terror. Shooting of civilians, whether Palestinian or Israeli, must stop immediately.

4) The PLO Charter should agree to the secure existence of the State of Israel as part of the process of achieving national self-determination for Palestinians and Jews.

5) An international conference should be convened, under the auspices of the five permanent members of the Security Council and with the participation of

the concerned parties in the region including the Palestinian people, to achieve a full settlement of all disputes involving Israel and her neighbours.

6) The EC, EFTA, the USA, Canada, Japan, and the Arab oil producing countries are requested to work on a well prepared and large scale programme to promote economic development and cooperation between the countries of the Middle East. This programme should come into action the day the negotiations achieve their aim.

7) It is essential to work towards an agreement covering all states in the region, which prohibits the production, possession and use of NBC weapons. The supply of such weapons to countries in the region, or of production sites for such weapons, or of parts of production sites for such weapons must be prohibited.

The Socialist International will not falter in its efforts to assist peace in the Middle East. In doing so, it is guided by the following principles:

- A political solution on the basis of UN Resolutions 242 and 338 which excludes the use of force;
- the secure existence of the State of Israel; and
- the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, the outcome being whatever constitutional form they choose, not excluding a state or other possible arrangements.

We shall continue to intensify even further our contacts with all people of goodwill in the region. In doing so, we shall make use of the fact that our organisation has both Israeli parties and parties from Arab countries working in it. We shall not allow anybody to obstruct us in fostering contacts which, in the interest of peace, are indispensable.

RESOLUTION ON LEBANON

In Lebanon there is still no peace. Civil war continues. A reform of the Lebanese Constitution is indispensable. All states are called upon to observe the territorial integrity of a united, free and democratic Lebanon and give their support to the Taif agreement. All foreign military troops must leave Lebanon in accordance with UN Resolutions. Until that can be achieved, the institutions and troops of the United Nations in Lebanon should play an especially important role. The position of the United Nations in the Lebanon must be strengthened.

RESOLUTION ON EAST TIMOR

East Timor remains as an international unsolved problem. The occupation of East Timor has been condemned not only by the United Nations General Assembly Security Council but by many other international organisations.

Human Rights are daily violated: arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, forced resettlement, torture, summary executions, the absence of the right of association and of freedom of expression.

The final Declaration of the Dublin EC Foreign Ministers meeting last February recalls again the 'disquieting reports of human rights violations' in East Timor.

The Socialist International condemns the continuing violation of human rights and the destruction of the cultural identity of the people of East Timor.

The Socialist International supports the right of self-determination of the people of East Timor.

DECLARATION ON THE ASSASSINATIONS OF HECTOR OQUELI AND HILDA FLORES

The Council of the Socialist International, meeting in Cairo, strongly condemns the assassinations of Héctor Oquelí, Deputy Secretary General of the National Revolutionary Movement, MNR, of El Salvador and Secretary of the Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, and of Hilda Flores, a member of the Democratic Socialist Party of Guatemala, PSD, which took place in Guatemala on 12 January of this year.

It also condemns the mild response until now of the government of Guatemala, as shown by the lack of results in the investigation and punishment of these crimes, more than four months after the event; and in view of recent statements by the President of Guatemala, which implicate groups of the Salvadorean far right in these violent deeds, it demands that the Guatemalan and Salvadorean governments act at once, with seriousness and responsibility, in the investigation and punishment of those responsible.

**Alfonso
Guerra (left)
and Pierre
Mauroy in
Cairo**

RESOLUTION ON SOUTHERN AFRICA

1990 will be a year of remarkable change in southern Africa. The independence of Namibia and the release of Nelson Mandela are important signs of this change. The Socialist International welcomes these positive developments.

The independence of Namibia was the combined result of the relentless struggle of the Namibian people and its liberation movement, SWAPO, and the efforts of the United Nations. The independence process under the guidance of the UN has set a precedent of historic importance. The UN has proven its ability to act in difficult circumstances. The Socialist International calls upon the international community to use this valuable experience in other areas of conflict.

Now that Namibia is independent under a democratically elected government and under a constitution that guarantees human rights, this country needs the support and the cooperation of the richer countries in bringing about a peaceful economic transformation.

The Socialist International fully supports the position taken by the UN Security Council in its resolution 432 (1978) to reintegrate Walvis Bay in the state territory of Namibia.

The winds of change have also touched upon South Africa. The release of Nelson Mandela and the partial measures of the South African government with respect to the release of political prisoners and the state of emergency mark an important turnabout in the struggle against apartheid though the basis of apartheid is still unshaken. The release of Mandela is a success not only for the black population but for all those outside South Africa who have fought against the inhumanity of apartheid. The talks between the ANC and the South African government may be the beginning of a process that leads to the dismantling of apartheid and to free and fair elections.

However there are still many problems to be solved before real negotiations can begin. The state of emergency should be lifted and all political prisoners released.

The Socialist International calls upon the South African government to take these steps and - more important - to finally state its goals with respect to the forthcoming negotiations.

The Socialist International calls for the implementation of the UN General Assembly Declaration on South Africa of 14 December 1989, which is based on the Harare declaration of the Organisation of African Unity and which gives conditions and guidelines for the process of negotiations, and a programme of action for the international community.

Only by accepting a democratic, united and non-racial South Africa, equal rights and the principle of one person - one vote, can the South African government



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convince the world that it is working towards the end of apartheid and not towards its reform.

In this connection the Socialist International will carefully note the voices of the black population.

As long as this commitment is lacking, pressure on South Africa must be continued. To stop sanctions now would mean the risk of interrupting the process towards total abolition of apartheid.

The Socialist International fully appreciates the important role of the ANC and other democratic organisations and calls upon its member parties to support these organisations in building new political structures towards a new South Africa.

The Socialist International also calls upon its member parties to propose to their national government to negotiate new cultural treaties based on the principle of full racial equality.

The Socialist International reiterates that lasting peace and stability in southern Africa can only be achieved when the apartheid regime in South Africa is eliminated and South Africa becomes a united, democratic and non-racial country. Stability in the region also depends on continued support for the Front Line States, especially Angola and Mozambique.

RESOLUTION ON AFGHANISTAN

Only a political solution is capable of bringing peace to Afghanistan. The Afghan people must decide on their own path through free elections. We welcome the fact that the government in Kabul has also announced the first steps in the right direction. We welcome the offer of the former King of Afghanistan to assist in the search for peace.

We ask our political friends in Pakistan to help in the search for a political solution.

RESOLUTION ON KASHMIR

In Kashmir, the tension between India and Pakistan is increasing and the risk of war between the two countries is growing.

The Socialist International is concerned at the growing tension between India and Pakistan and calls on both countries to avoid any further escalation of tension and to redeploy their armed forces to peace-time locations.

The Socialist International urges the governments of India and Pakistan to open a dialogue to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the applicable United Nations Resolutions and the spirit of the Simla Agreement.

The Socialist International requests the governments of India and Pakistan to allow it to play a conciliatory role to promote this dialogue.

RESOLUTION ON ERITREA

The Socialist International expresses deep concern for the situation in the Horn of Africa.

Although discussions have started between the Ethiopian government and representatives of the Eritrean people - who have been fighting for the last 30 years for their right to self-determination - this negotiation is not making any progress. In the meantime a bloody and destructive war is going on with the danger of new terrible famines.

Therefore the Socialist International asks that the peace process should be strongly resumed. To this end, it is necessary to give a more significant role to the international community, also remembering the UN Resolution on Eritrea of 1952 that recognised to the Eritrean people the right to choose its own government, a right which was afterwards completely violated by the Ethiopian government.