

SI COUNCIL IN CAPE TOWN

The Council of the Socialist International convened in Cape Town on 10 and 11 July 1995 - its first ever meeting in South Africa. The main theme on the agenda was 'Democracy, Development and Peace in Africa: Building democracy - Securing economic development - Advancing social justice. The meeting was attended by President Nelson Mandela.

The SI Council meeting in Cape Town was organised in cooperation with the African National Congress and, in opening the proceedings, the first words of the SI president, Pierre Mauroy, were a tribute to the ANC, to all those, including many now dead, who had struggled against apartheid, and especially to Nelson Mandela, leader of the ANC and president of South Africa.

'Thanks to you', he told President Mandela, 'a new era has begun in South Africa. You have shown that when the struggle for human rights and equality is accompanied by political will and personal courage, it can conquer obstacles which seem insurmountable. You have

taught the world a great lesson, and given back hope to a whole people, dignity to a whole community.' The SI president added: 'In the name of the Socialist International, I assure you of our admiration for your personal struggle, our support for your political action and our pride in your presence at this meeting'.

President Mandela gave a moving address to the SI Council. 'We in South Africa', he said, 'have been very fortunate in that our struggle, as difficult as it was, enjoyed the support of democrats throughout the world... In prison, those thick walls could not prevent the penetration of ideas which challenged the cruel system of racial oppression under which

we were living. And the Socialist International was in the forefront of that struggle... This conference gives us the opportunity of thanking the Socialist International for all you have done... Our victory is your victory.

'We hope', he added, 'that your respective parties and governments will remain committed to the fight to deliver visible services to our people, to rebuild our country and to bring strength and hope to everyone who has been denied these privileges'.

Extending his remarks to the main theme of the Council's discussions, Democracy, Development and Peace in Africa, President Mandela said, 'That is a very appropriate

theme for an important conference of this nature. Africa is on the way to democratisation under extremely difficult conditions, all of which are generally speaking the legacy of a colonial era. Because you cannot have democracy when people are poor, hungry, ignorant, afflicted by diseases and all the other evils of poverty and illiteracy. Democracy in any country will really be deepened and expanded when the living conditions of the masses of the people have been addressed'.

Thabo Mbeki, deputy president of the ANC and South Africa's executive deputy president, welcoming the SI delegates to his country, evoked the great and ancient cultural heritage of Africa, contrasting this with today's conflicts and with the misery of many ordinary Africans. All of us, he said, knew the facts and statistics of economic crisis, conflict, disease and poverty. But perhaps the neutrality of statistics could blind us to the daily lives of millions of ordinary people in Africa. Instead of a retreat into jargon and pessimism, he urged the Europeans present to think of the desperate hardship which had once been the reality also for working people in their own continent and which had given birth to the labour and socialist movements, and to connect that history with today's reality in Africa.

He too expressed gratitude for the international solidarity which had sustained the movement against apartheid and thanked the Socialist International for its particular role.

He spoke of the process now under way in South Africa, with the establishment of democratic institutions, the negotiation of a new constitution and the work

to develop an economy which must, he said, 'help us end the unemployment, the hunger and homelessness, the poverty and the human degradation that remains the lot of millions of our people.' That process of transformation, he added, 'also demands that we address in a vigorous manner the racial and gender imbalances which we have inherited from the apartheid past. Quite clearly, democracy and development are interconnected parts of one whole and are themselves also both dependent upon and are a necessary condition for peace and stability in the country'.

'I know the difficulties and resistance you have met', Pierre Mauroy responded, 'the regrettable delays, the remaining inequalities, the security you are still seeking, the undoubted disappointments. All this is inevitable. The essential thing is that the will is firm and the direction right. And when I see the guaranteed political pluralism, the abolition of the death penalty, the renewed growth, the programmes set in motion for the least advantaged, I am sure the will is strong and the direction is right. I wish the South African people good luck'.

He went on to stress that the Socialist International could not accept the resignation and pessimism often heard these days from both politicians and financiers when discussing Africa. Ours, he said, was not a false optimism, we were all too well aware of the prevailing economic crisis, of the diversion of international aid from the 'south' to the 'east', of the dire social effects of neo-liberal economic policies, of the many continuing conflicts - all of which conspired to thwart the great movements towards multi-party democracy in Africa. All the more reason, however, to

continue our work and to reaffirm our own values and aims for this continent. He spoke of international efforts for peace, of the democratic advances in many African countries and of the struggle for development, which must go hand in hand with democratisation and with enlightened policies of international cooperation such as those advocated at this year's UN Social Summit. He pledged that the International would continue to strengthen and broaden its work in the face of the many challenges which could only be faced through international cooperation.

'Nelson Mandela is a symbol of Africa', Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, prime minister of Mali and leader of ADEMA-PSJ, told the SI Council, 'through his courage, his determination to end apartheid, to ensure freedom and human dignity for all. For my generation, Nelson Mandela will always be the spokesman of Africa. Let us hope that this and future generations will follow his example, so we can face the challenges of the twenty-first century'. It was very hard, he said, for African peoples to find themselves, after decades of struggle for independence and since independence, still facing economic sacrifices for the sake of structural adjustment. Elected governments like his own had to ensure that economic adjustment did not preclude social progress, or conflict with the consolidation of multi-party democracy. Such sacrifices could only be demanded in the context of the widest possible participation in democracy; his government had therefore decentralised authority and established popular fora for dialogue.

The Socialist International's

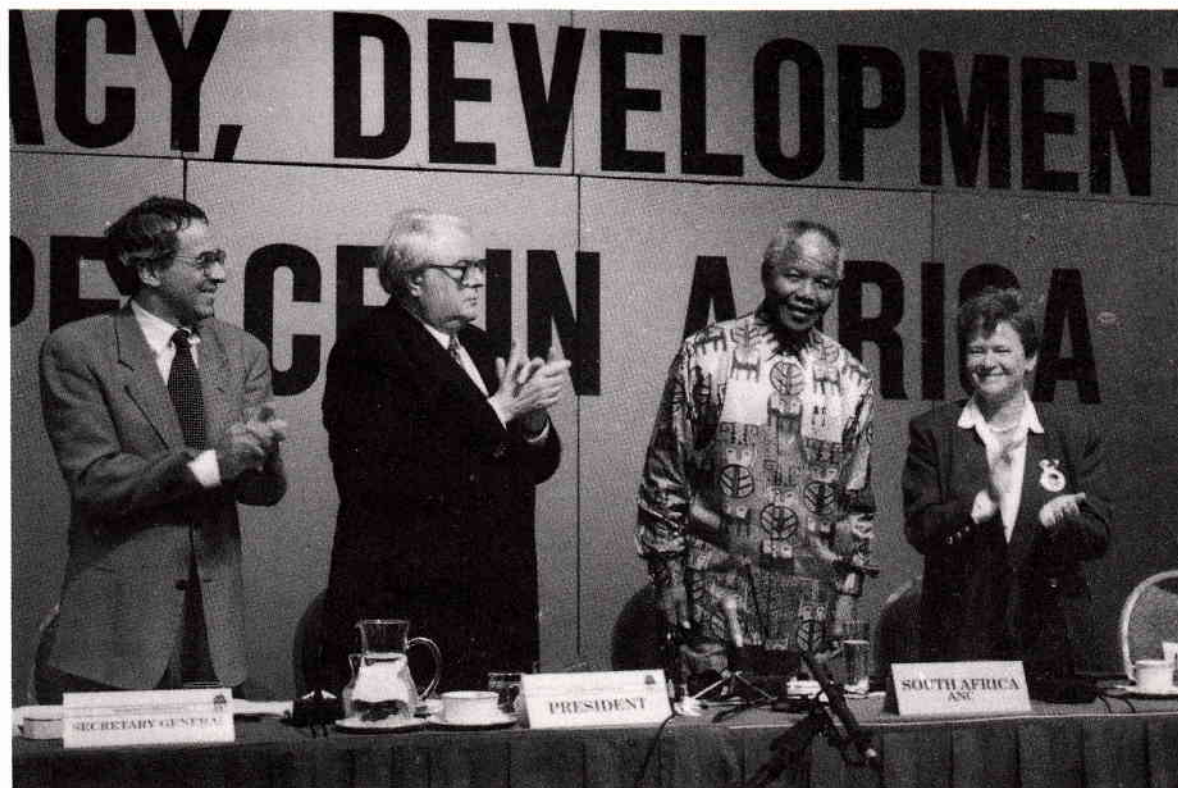
first vice-president, Gro Harlem Brundtland, prime minister of Norway, also began her intervention with a tribute to all who had struggled for freedom and democracy in South Africa. In spite of great difficulties, she saw a future of great promise for the country. In the townships, she said, 'I met people beset with community purpose, people of great dignity, people who are the harbingers of hope. Their vision will come true one day... This South Africa can become a great beacon of hope for Africa, which ironically, as democracy is spreading, faces the threat of marginalisation'. She urged renewed commitment from the international community to cooperate with African development, whilst also urging African governments to prioritise investment in the education and welfare of future generations, and especially to

ensure that the health and education of girls were not neglected. She called for the development of effective public sectors: 'Market forces are strong tools for development, but left alone they do not respond to community needs... Needs for sustainable development, education, health and social security can only be articulated and met by people themselves and their elected governments'.

'How can we not be hopeful when we are sitting together in South Africa?', António Guterres, leader of the Socialist Party of Portugal, PS, and an SI vice-president, asked the Council. 'Mandela today is a world reference for democracy and for that extremely difficult thing, the capacity to forgive - without which we will never be able to build a new future in many countries'. There was also cause for hope, he said, in the end to

conflict in Mozambique and in Angola, and in certain reversals of the economic decline experienced in the 1980s. He spoke too, however, of despair at civil wars, genocide, poverty, disease, environmental disasters, and dictatorships violating human rights, and compared international indifference to the genocide in Rwanda with the huge attention focused on the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, and the small international resources devoted to seeking peace in Angola with the greater efforts of the international community in, for example, Cambodia.

Above all, the current terms of international financial relations gave African countries no chance of economic development: 'Adjustment programmes disregard the real situations. They do not help development. Expenditure needs



not reducing but diverting to the basic requirements of people and of development'. He called for nothing less than a fundamental change in thinking.

Widely varying experiences in Africa's struggle for democracy, development and peace were reflected in the ensuing contributions to the main debate. Some speakers, like Feliciano Gundana, general secretary of Mozambique's Frelimo Party, represented parties now in democratically elected government and working, despite great difficulties, to carry out progressive policies. While others, like Plácido Micó, general secretary of the Convergence for Social Democracy, CPDS, of Equatorial Guinea, had seen their countries, as he said, 'left behind by the train of recent democratisation on the African continent' and were struggling for democracy in the face of continuing persecution.

Pedro Pires, president of the African Independence Party, PAICV, of Cape Verde and a former prime minister of that country, outlined the extensive proposals for conflict management and peacemaking which had been discussed by the SI Africa Committee at its recent meeting in Cape Verde.

The SI Council went on to adopt as its own the resolutions agreed by that committee meeting. These set out the Socialist International's views on the conditions for democratisation in Africa, and on social and economic development, as well as on the prevailing situations in Angola, Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda, Western Sahara, Somalia and Zaire. Resolutions were also adopted on Nigeria and Algeria. (See page 38 for full text of Council resolutions).

The Council's debate reflected much concern on the part of political leaders from Africa and elsewhere at today's situation in the African continent, and included many concrete proposals for improving future policies, both domestically and internationally.

The responsibility which the Socialist International could assume in continuing to strongly advocate democracy and peace and in building the instruments for economic and social progress in Africa were emphasised by many. South Africa's minister for foreign affairs, Alfred Nzo, spoke of his country's wish now to consolidate its position in the international community. 'We seek', he said, 'to be a force for good on a troubled planet, and we believe our participation in the Socialist International is an especially important way of expressing this desire'.

Regional reports

On the second day of its meeting in Cape Town, the Council received reports on the work of a number of SI Committees, as well as a report from Secretary General Luis Ayala on all the recent work of the International (printed in full, page 35).

The chair of the SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, José Francisco Peña Gómez, SI vice-president and leader of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, PRD, Dominican Republic, gave a report on the committee's meeting in January 1995, which was held in Haiti as an affirmation of the International's support for President Aristide, who attended the meeting, together with members of his government. Peña Gómez welcomed the holding in June of the first round of parliamentary

and municipal elections in Haiti and expressed the hope that the organisational difficulties noted would be corrected in the forthcoming second round.

The outcome of significant meetings in March of the SI Middle East Committee, SIMEC, in Tel Aviv, Gaza and Amman were reported to the Council by Israel Gat, of the Israel Labour Party, who is one of the committee's vice-chairs, and by Ilan Halevi of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. The committee also met in Brussels on 3 and 4 July (this meeting is reported in full on page 26). The Council adopted a statement (page 42) which welcomed the continuing positive developments in the Middle East peace process, but stressed that there was still a long way to go and that the SI and its Middle East Committee would continue its work to assist the process in every way possible. Following a report by the SIMEC Working Group on the Kurdish Question, presented by the chair of the Group Conny Fredriksson a resolution on this issue was also adopted (page 42).

Peter Jankowitsch, Social Democratic Party of Austria, SPOe, chair of the SI Committee on Human Rights, SICOHR, presented a report on that committee's work and in particular on the Conference on Human Rights and Democracy held recently in Ottawa and attended by delegations of our International and of the Liberal International and the International Democrat Union. Among the issues deeply concerning the committee was the death and injury inflicted on civilians in many countries by landmines - indiscriminate weapons which respect no ceasefire - and a resolution of the Council called for an international ban on their manufacture and use.

A report on the work of the SI Committee for Central and Eastern Europe, SICEE, was presented by the committee's co-chair, Piero Fassino, Democratic Party of the Left, PDS, Italy. The recent meeting of the committee in Prague, which focused on the continuing conflict in the former Yugoslavia and on the situation in Russia, the conflict in Chechnya and the forthcoming Russian elections, is reported elsewhere in this issue. Fassino introduced a draft resolution on the former Yugoslavia, which was adopted by the Council (page 43).

The chair of the SI Mediterranean Committee, Raimon Obiols, Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, PSOE, stressed in his remarks to the Council that the Mediterranean region is at a historic crossroads - the near future will see it become either a bridge for inter-regional cooperation or a dividing line between northern prosperity and southern poverty. The committee held a recent meeting in Naples (reported elsewhere in full) where it focused on the serious situation in Algeria, amongst other issues. The resolution on Algeria agreed by the committee was adopted by the Council (page 40).

In his report on the International's activities over the last months, the SI secretary general made special mention, in the absence of the committee's chair, of the work of the SI Asia-Pacific Committee. At its meeting in February in Manila, the committee elected SI vice-president Makoto Tanabe, former leader of the Social Democratic Party of Japan, SDPJ, as its chair. Maryan Street, president of the New Zealand Labour Party, and Senator Kamal Azfar of the Pakistan People's Party, PPP, were elected vice-chairs.

During its meeting in Cape Town, good news from Asia reached the SI Council: the release from house arrest of Burma's democracy leader and Nobel Peace Laureate, Aung San Suu Kyi. The day after her release, she spoke of the great changes which had happened in South Africa during her detention and called for similar progress towards democracy through dialogue in her own country - words of special resonance for the SI Council delegates gathered for the first time in a democratic South Africa. The Council warmly welcomed her release in a resolution which also deplored the recent refusal of visas for an SI delegation to visit Burma and reiterated its concern at the continuing abuses in that country (see page 41).

A further resolution adopted in Cape Town expressed deep disquiet at the decision of the French government to resume nuclear testing in the South Pacific. Pierre Mauroy, in his speech, condemned this decision and associated the International with the concern expressed in many countries of the region. This concern was reiterated at the Council meeting by delegates from Australia and New Zealand.

Decisions of the Council

After a report from Philippe Busquin, SI vice-president and leader of the Socialist Party, PS, Belgium, on the first Socialist International conference of mayors - a large and successful gathering held in Bologna in January - the Council endorsed a proposal to establish a new committee to continue the International's work in the important field of municipal politics which will be presented to the next Congress.

The Council elected António Guterres, leader of the Portuguese Socialist Party and an SI vice-president, as chair of the SI Committee on Economic Policy, Environment and Development, SICEDE.

There were also a number of decisions on membership of the International. The chair of the SI Finance and Administration Committee, SIFAC, Gunnar Stenarv of the Swedish Social Democratic Party, SAP, reported that SIFAC had agreed to ask the Council to recommend to the next SI Congress that it grant consultative status in the Socialist International to the African Party for Solidarity and Justice, ADEMA-PSJ, of Mali, and observer status to the Botswana National Front, BNF; the National Congress for Democratic Initiative, CNID, of Mali; and the Frelimo Party of Mozambique, as well as upgrading from consultative to full membership the African Independence Party of Cape Verde, PAICV, and the Ivory Coast Popular Front, FPI. The Council so decided.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO THE COUNCIL IN CAPE TOWN

I
It is of course a particular pleasure for me to make this report to the SI Council at its first ever meeting in South Africa. I must begin by thanking all our friends and comrades in the African National Congress for their whole-hearted assistance in organising this meeting in Cape Town, and by once again paying tribute to all they have achieved in peacefully defeating apartheid and embarking on the road of democratic, non-racial government.

In March 1994, we held a meeting of our International in South Africa for the first time, when our SI Africa Committee convened in Johannesburg. A few months later, I returned with a large delegation of the International to observe the general elections, which turned out, in the wake of so much suffering and violence, to be extraordinarily peaceful, orderly and successful. And I have been fortunate, in the past months, to observe the birth of democratic South Africa at first hand during a number of visits to this country.

Now we are holding our first Council meeting in South Africa - an event we could only imagine throughout all the long years when we worked in every way we could to support those struggling against apartheid. We are all, I know, proud and happy to be here and to show our solidarity with President Mandela's government, with the ANC and with all South Africans working for a democratic and prosperous future.

II
This Council meeting serves also to underline our commitment to the struggle of political forces all over Africa for the shared aims and values represented by our International. Today the Socialist International has a substantial and growing presence in Africa. We have contacts and exchanges with numerous parties all over the continent. Delegates of many of those parties are with us at our Council in Cape Town. Others cannot be with us in person on this occasion, but continue to be in close contact. The consolidation of such contacts and of our policy platform for this continent has continued apace since the meeting of the SI Africa Committee in Johannesburg in March 1994, with further meetings in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, last November, where our hosts were the Ivory Coast Popular Front, FPI, and most recently in May in Praia, Cape

Verde, where the host was our member party, the African Independence Party of Cape Verde, PAICV.

Parties embracing ideas and values of democratic socialism are playing an important role all over this continent, both in government and in opposition: some in circumstances of political and social progress, others in situations of oppression and hardship or conflict. They are leading governments, as in Senegal or Tunisia, Mali or Mozambique; they are minority partners in coalition governments, as in Malawi and Benin; they are leading parties of the opposition, as in Ivory Coast, where the leader of our member party, Laurent Gbagbo, is candidate for the presidency later this year, and in the Central African Republic, Burkina Faso, Mauritius and Botswana; they are struggling to maintain political activity in the face of continuing tyranny, as in Equatorial Guinea; they are courageously surviving bloodshed and disaster, as in Rwanda. In fact, from the Mediterranean to the Cape of Good Hope, from Morocco to Togo, Zaire and Gabon, people today are organised behind the idea of democratic socialism in 40 of 51 countries of Africa. Within this framework, relations are also being strengthened with many of our friends of long standing, such as those in Namibia or Angola, Kenya or Zambia.

When our Africa Committee met in Cape Verde in May, we continued to work on shared policy approaches which are now well developed. We had before us detailed background papers on crucial areas of debate: the conditions for democracy, economic development, conflict and peace-making. These discussions of the last two years have laid the basis for the debates of our Council in Cape Town and ensure our ability to bring to the whole of the Socialist International at this Council meeting the voice and the priorities of African parties. I am certain that our presence in Africa will continue to grow and that our Africa Committee will continue to meet frequently for fruitful work and exchanges.

III
This year the United Nations is celebrating its 50th anniversary. The Socialist International's commitment to a strengthened UN and to supporting the Organisation in all its work for peace, development and international cooper-

ation is a central platform of our activities and this working relationship has developed very positively in the last few years. In line with this, as I reported to the last Council meeting in Budapest, I submitted to the United Nations last year an application for the upgrading of the SI's consultative status at the UN, supported by a comprehensive dossier on our activities in furtherance of the UN's aims. Our application was considered by the UN Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations at its meeting in New York from 12 to 23 June. I addressed the Committee on our application and I am pleased to report that it was subsequently approved unanimously. Since 1973, the Socialist International has had Category II status. This is now to be upgraded to Category I, the highest status available to a Non-Governmental Organisation. The Committee's decision will be reported to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) during its current session in Geneva. With this new status, we look forward to making an even more active contribution to the work of the United Nations.

One very important United Nations event in which our International took an active role was the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna. A policy document prepared by the SI Committee on Human Rights was presented to Conference participants, and we also held a Round Table during the World Conference together with the other political Internationals and presented a common statement. As international organisations of democratic political parties, albeit of differing ideological orientation, we stressed our common commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms and to the democratic process as the guarantor of such rights and freedoms. This cooperation with the other Internationals was further pursued when the Socialist International, the Liberal International and the International Democrat Union took part together in a Conference on Human Rights and Democracy held in Ottawa this past April under the auspices of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development. The SI delegation was led by the Chair of the Committee on Human Rights, Peter Jankowitsch of the Social Democratic Party of Austria, SPÖ, and included men and women with special expertise in human rights issues,

drawn from all continents.

We follow with equal interest and concern all the major gatherings of the United Nations, such as the recent Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Our president, Pierre Mauroy, spoke for us all when he called for renewal of the Treaty, and the Conference's approval of indefinite renewal was welcomed. That this positive decision was so soon followed by the announcement of the new president of France of the resumption of nuclear testing in the Pacific was a grave disappointment, condemned by our president and many of our member parties, particularly those in the Asia-Pacific region. This grave concern will no doubt be reflected in our discussions at the Council meeting in Cape Town.

IV

These same priorities of democracy, development, peace, human rights and social justice are at the heart of all the activities of our International. The chairs of our various Committees will give detailed reports to the Council in Cape Town on their activities since we last met in Budapest. All the Socialist International's Committees that focus on specific regions have held large and successful meetings. Overall, in the period since our last Council in December, the Socialist International has organised activities on every continent.

At the meeting of our Asia-Pacific Committee in Manila in February, hosted by the Philippines Democratic Socialist Party, PDSP, our Vice-President, Makoto Tanabe, former leader of the Social Democratic Party of Japan, SDPJ, was elected Chair of the Committee. We also elected two vice-chairs, Maryan Street, president of the New Zealand Labour Party, and Senator Kamal Azfar of the Pakistan People's Party, PPP. The declaration adopted by that meeting acknowledged the steady advancement of democracy in Asia and the Pacific, but noted with grave concern that, while in many countries of the region there were longstanding and deeply rooted democratic institutions and practices, in others democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms were still absent and women, in particular, remained marginalised and subordinated. Our declaration also condemned the continuing violation of human and political rights in Bhutan, Burma, East Timor and Tibet.

Leading representatives of the National League for Democracy of Burma, who have been regular guests at our recent meetings, attended the SI

committee meeting in Manila. We have followed political developments in Burma with deep concern and the committee agreed on the sending of a high-level Socialist International mission to Rangoon. Regrettably, the members of our delegation were subsequently denied visas to enter Burma. The SI delegation was scheduled to be in Rangoon from 20 to 22 June. Its members were to be Committee Chair Makoto Tanabe; Pauline Green, SI vice-president and leader of the Group of the Party of European Socialists in the European Parliament; Thorbjørn Jagland, leader of the Norwegian Labour Party, DNA; Michael Beahan, Australian Labor Party, ALP, president of the Senate of Australia, and myself. On 16 June the authorities in Rangoon communicated their refusal to issue entry visas for our visit. We have strongly protested against this decision of the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council, SLORC, and reiterated our grave concern about the situation in Burma, where, five years after the elections of 27 May 1990, the SLORC refuses still to hand power to the National League for Democracy, NLD, which won more than 82 per cent of parliamentary seats. The NLD leader and Nobel Peace Laureate, Aung San Suu Kyi, recently spent her 50th birthday in detention, where she has been for almost six years. We maintain our resolve to send our delegation to Burma.

In Manila we also agreed to send an SI mission to Fiji, the details of which are now being finalised. This visit will be in line with the International's longstanding concern about the continuing constitutional and political abuses in Fiji, where the Fiji Labour Party was removed from government by a military coup in 1987, and will underline our solidarity with the Labour Party in its work for democratic reforms.

The Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince, was the venue for the meeting in January of the SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, SICLAC, chaired by SI Vice-President José Francisco Peña Gómez, leader of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, PRD, Dominican Republic. We met in Haiti as an affirmation of support for President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, following his restoration to office last October, and for all democratic forces in Haiti, including our own two parties there, PANPRA and KONAKOM, who jointly hosted the SI committee meeting. On this momentous occasion we met in formal session at the presidential palace, where President Aristide addressed us. The prime minister, Smarck Michel, and other members of the government also took part in our

meeting. SI President Pierre Mauroy, who attended the meeting in Haiti, summed up the feelings of all the SI delegates when he told President Aristide: 'We are with you, we are at your side... the whole world must help Haiti today'.

Now Haiti is holding parliamentary elections, not without difficulties after so much violence and upheaval. We wish them a successful, democratic and peaceful outcome. We have been in close contact with President Aristide and with our parties in Haiti, and a delegation of the Socialist International will be in Haiti to observe the voting process when the second round of the elections are held.

Another meeting of particular significance was held in March by the SI Middle East Committee, SIMEC, under the chairmanship of Hans-Jürgen Wischniewski, Social Democratic Party of Germany, SPD. We met on consecutive days in Tel Aviv, where our hosts were the Israel Labour Party and MAPAM; in Gaza City, at the invitation of the PLO; and in Amman, where our meeting was hosted by HRH the Crown Prince of Jordan. The meeting attracted the participation of the region's leading political figures, including Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of Israel, the Chairman of the Palestinian Authority, Yasser Arafat, and Crown Prince El-Hassan, who all took part in the exchange of latest information on the peace process in the region. The meeting confirmed the continuing need for a forum such as that offered by our committee and our three days of discussion underlined strongly the importance of continuing political and practical support from the whole international community for the peace process. It was with this in mind that our committee met again in Brussels just a few days ago and focused, with the participation of guests from the World Bank and the European Commission, on the question of international economic and political support for the peace process.

The Working Group on the Kurdish Question established last year by SIMEC and chaired by Conny Fredriksson of the Swedish Social Democratic Party, SAP, has also continued its work throughout the past months and, after a programme of discussions and visits, will make proposals for action by the Socialist International in support of the concerns of the Kurdish people, including peace, democracy and human rights.

The expanding presence of social democratic parties in Central and Eastern Europe was clear when our Council met last December in Budapest,

and this impression was reinforced when the SI Committee for Central and Eastern Europe, SICEE, met last month in Prague. The committee is jointly chaired by Jiri Horák of the Czech Social Democratic Party, CSSD, which was our host in Prague, and by Piero Fassino, Democratic Party of the Left, PDS, Italy. Significantly, more than 50 parties, including SI members in the region and elsewhere and many other parties invited as guests, were represented in Prague. Our committee noted the increasing influence of parties of social democratic orientation on the pace and content of the ongoing transformation in former communist countries, and addressed the question of links between Central and Eastern Europe and the European Union.

The committee was also much preoccupied with the continuing conflict in the former Yugoslavia, and several parties from Bosnia, Croatia and Montenegro took part in our meeting in Prague. Another area of particular concern was the situation in Russia, with the conflict in Chechnya and the parliamentary and presidential elections scheduled for later this year. Representatives from five Russian parties and organisations of social democratic orientation attended the SI committee meeting, and invited the committee to hold its next meeting in Moscow - an initiative which we much welcome.

Also in June, the SI Committee for the Mediterranean, which is chaired by Raimon Obiols of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, PSOE, held an important meeting in Naples, hosted by the Italian Democratic Party of the Left, PDS. The committee discussed the upcoming Euro-Mediterranean Conference, exchanged information on the situation in various countries of the region, and addressed the continuing violence and lack of democracy in Algeria. Extensive discussions took place in Naples, with the participation of the leaders of our Algerian member party, the Socialist Forces Front, and the committee reiterated the International's position, expressing deep concern for the suffering of the Algerian people and extending every support for initiatives to seek a political, not a military, solution, based on genuine dialogue and the restoration of peace and democracy.

V

The Council meeting in Cape Town will hear from some of those who took part in another important recent initiative, the holding in January of our first Socialist International Conference of Mayors in Bologna. This was a project

close to the heart of our president, who is mayor of one of France's largest cities, Lille - a position to which he has just been re-elected.

The participation in Bologna of more than 250 mayors and other members of municipal governments from around the world indicates a great interest in the pooling, within our International, of social democratic approaches to local democracy, and the Council will be asked to approve a number of proposals for continuing this work on a structured basis.

VI

It is pleasing to report that in the first six months of 1995 a number of SI member parties registered election successes. In Finland, the Social Democratic Party is now leading a coalition government, with SDP Leader Paavo Lipponen as prime minister, following the party's election success in March. The Socialists are reaffirmed as partners in coalition government in Belgium, where elections were held in May. Meanwhile, the leader of our member party in Uruguay, the Party for People's Government, PGP, Hugo Batalla, took office on 1 March as Vice-President of his country, having been elected last November. And in the Eastern Caribbean, the St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party won a majority of seats in the 3 July elections.

Others of our parties have notably strengthened their position, whilst not yet acceding to national government. In Britain, the Labour Party moves ever closer to power as the Conservative government stumbles from crisis to crisis. In the recent local elections, Labour made large gains, while the ruling party registered its lowest ever vote. In France, the Socialist Party candidate Lionel Jospin confounded all predictions when he won the first round of presidential elections and lost the second round in May only narrowly. In Argentina, the Left coalition, including our member party the Popular Socialist Party, PSP, came second in presidential and parliamentary elections in May.

Of course, the influence of our member parties is also evident in other ways. For example, in Italy, after the crisis and forced resignation of the right-wing government led by Silvio Berlusconi, a new administration, supported by the parties of the Left, is now in office and preparing for elections, in which the Left will unite behind a new candidate.

In the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland, we note with pride that our parties continue to play a decisive role in the process towards a permanent end to conflict in that island.

VII

As always, I have had the opportunity to represent the International at a number of meetings and conferences. I was recently invited to attend the Leaders' Conference of the Party of European Socialists, in Valbonne, France, where, under the chairmanship of the new PES Leader, Rudolf Scharping, the discussion focused on policy proposals for the European Union and preparation for the 1996 Intergovernmental Conference. I also had the pleasure of attending the Congress of the Philippines Democratic Socialist Party in February and the special conference of the British Labour Party in April, where the party adopted a new statement of aims and values.

VIII

All the many activities and statements of the Socialist International are fully reflected in our quarterly journal *Socialist Affairs*, a new issue of which is available at the Council meeting in Cape Town, and in our monthly SI Newsletter. As always, these are circulated to all our member parties and to many other contacts throughout the world. We hope thus to continually spread awareness of the scope, the work and the concerns of our International.

As members know, the SI's budget is financed solely by membership fees. The number and size of our activities is constantly increasing, and I can report with some satisfaction that this is carried out within a constant budget. However, the prompt payment of membership fees and the clearing of arrears is a matter of extreme urgency if we are to fulfil our plans and commitments for the coming months.

IX

During the first half of 1995, several thousand individuals from all around the world have taken part in the meetings and activities of the Socialist International. I have touched briefly on all of these and others will give fuller reports to the Council on specific areas of our work. The picture is an active and positive one. The interest and enthusiasm for our activities is considerable. In the second half of this year, our programme is set to be just as productive.

Meetings such as that of our Council in South Africa are among the most memorable events of our programme. To meet in a democratic South Africa is a great honour and gives us inspiration and encouragement in all our work.

RESOLUTIONS

AFRICA

Angola

The Socialist International welcomes the recent positive development in the implementation of the peace accords signed in Lusaka on 20 November 1994.

This positive turn of events raises the hope that peace in Angola is about to be consolidated. The SI congratulates the signatories of the Lusaka peace accords for their effective commitment to the implementation of these accords.

A new phase of consolidation of the peace process and of national reconciliation is now starting. The SI appeals urgently to the international community to increase its financial and humanitarian aid to the process of minesweeping, to the re-settlement of displaced persons, and to the rebuilding of the economic infrastructure of the country, a fundamental condition for the successful integration of all Angolans into the civil life of the country and for national reconciliation in Angola.

The SI also appeals to the international community, especially to the United Nations, to observers and to other states in the region for a real commitment to the follow-up to the peace process in order to allow lasting peace in Angola.

Burundi

The Socialist International is very concerned by the deterioration of the situation in Burundi where hope and trust between the communities are dangerously lacking.

The SI invites all the political parties to respect the commitments made in September 1994 at the signing of the Convention of Government and to launch a broad national debate in order to find the basis for a lasting stability in the country.

The SI supports all initiatives towards the organisation of an International Peace Conference in Burundi.

Equatorial Guinea

The Council of the Socialist International:

Recalling the resolution adopted at the SI Council meeting in Budapest regarding the situation in Equatorial Guinea,

- condemns the methods used for the census for the next municipal elections which show the will of Obiang's régime to eliminate the influence of opposition parties, particularly those of the Joint Opposition Platform, POC, and

- appeals to the sponsors of funds to be vigilant that the conditions for the organisation of free and transparent elections are respected.

Kenya

The Council of the Socialist International, noting with concern the grave political situation in Kenya resulting from the government's intransigence by blocking the democratisation process which has led to serious and rapid deterioration of the political climate:

1. Condemns the continued arrests, harassment and intimidation of opposition leaders and supporters.
2. Abhors the government's constant violation of the freedom of the press and arbitrary arrest, torture and detention of journalists.
3. Condemns the government for its obstinacy in refusing to facilitate constitutional reform and its systematic violations of citizen's fundamental rights and freedoms.
4. Offers its encouragement and support to the democratic political forces fighting for change.

Nigeria

The Socialist International condemns the continued suppression of democracy and human rights in Nigeria.

We deplore the persecution of the Ogoni people and salute their efforts to protect their traditions and the environment of Nigeria.

We call for the immediate release of Chief Abiola and all other political prisoners, the restoration of democracy and an end to all political trials.

Rwanda

The Socialist International remembers with emotion that 16 months ago a genocide was perpetrated in Rwanda which cost the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

It again asks the international community to do all in its power to help the Kigali government to rebuild the country, to reconcile the population and to establish a real rule of law respecting democratic freedoms and human rights.

It recalls that the continuing impunity of those responsible for the genocide not only constitutes an insult to human dignity but also incites the recurrence of such crimes, in Rwanda or in neighbouring countries.

Outraged by the massacre at Kibeho

Camp and alerted by reprisals which are tending to become systematic in other regions of the country, the SI, having taken note of the report of the International Commission of Enquiry which calls into question the action of APR soldiers, expects the Kigali government to react firmly in order to re-establish a climate of confidence indispensable for the return of Hutu refugees to the country under good conditions.

Western Sahara

The Socialist International expresses its deep concern about the delay in implementing the peace process in Western Sahara.

The SI reaffirms its support for the right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination and to independence in accordance with resolutions of all the international bodies.

The SI declares its agreement with the United Nations and the OAU on the organisation of a free, fair and transparent referendum on self-determination in accordance with the terms of the peace plan as accepted by the two parties, and appeals to the authorities of MINURSO to ensure the participation of observers and of the international press during the different stages of identification of voters and during the referendum.

The SI resolves to send a delegation to gather information on the situation in Western Sahara and to observe the current process.

The SI appeals to the two parties to the conflict to start direct negotiations in order to resolve all outstanding problems with a view to creating the necessary conditions for the organisation of a referendum on self-determination.

Somalia

Despite the dramatic crisis created in Somalia after Siad Barre's departure, the international community has not been able to contribute to the creation of the right conditions for peace in the country.

Unfortunately, the UNOSOM operation has failed. More than ever, war and chaos continue to rage in Somalia.

The SI is convinced that the international community can and must make renewed efforts to find a solution to this dramatic crisis.

A solution should be found through the re-launch of initiatives such as the UN's, originally led by Mr. Sahnoun (Representative of the UN General

Secretariat for Somalia). This initiative was based on the participation of the Somali civilian population – such as women's organisations, doctors, teachers – who would rebuild the country without being part of any particular faction.

Underlining the positive development of peace, stability and reconstruction taking place in countries close to the region of the Horn of Africa, such as Ethiopia and Eritrea, the SI considers that the promotion of peace could also be achieved at regional level.

Zaire

Following the considerable advances recorded in southern Africa, the main potential destabilising factor in Africa is certainly Zaire.

The constant deterioration of the socio-economic situation and the political freeze could lead the country towards explosion and chaos which would have catastrophic repercussions for the region as a whole.

The Socialist International appeals urgently to the international community to give the greatest attention to that country.

The Conditions for Democratisation

Political and trade-union pluralism, a free and independent press, the promotion of women, young people and children, the defence of human rights, particularly the rights of association, expression and demonstrations, are the aims and objectives with which African democratic forces have identified themselves.

Since 1990, there have been more and more pluralistic elections, but in many cases, this pluralism was of a rather formal character. However, these last few years have been marked by significant democratic advances in certain countries.

But the resistance of the former powers (in Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Togo, Zaire, Kenya and Equatorial Guinea in particular), the lack of democratic culture in certain new leaders, the extent of the financial and economic crisis, the temptation for the financial sponsors to abandon Africa in favour of other parts of the world, have jeopardised the democratic momentum.

This situation means that Socialist International member parties and forces close to them should be committed to resolute action so that a democratic political opening with an acceptance of alternation of power, becomes the rule on the African continent.

The Council of the Socialist

International recalls its commitment to:

1. As regards elections:

1.1 The establishment of independent national electoral commissions, to supervise the census and organising the electoral process. These commissions must guarantee the equal treatment of parties and, in particular, access to the media.

1.2 The presence of international observers, from the beginning of the electoral process, working in liaison with national observers and the independent national electoral commission.

2. As regards respect for pluralism:

2.1 That the role of parliaments be effectively recognised in accordance with the constitutions adopted.

2.3 That the opposition have access to public media in non-electoral and in electoral periods, and that a structure of independent communication be established, guaranteeing the fair treatment of parties in power and in opposition.

The Socialist International will do all it can to strengthen the socialist and social-democratic parties on the African continent through a systematic programme of training to entrench a democratic culture, the promotion of exchanges of experience and actions of solidarity, particularly in a perspective of regional integration.

Social and Economic Development in Africa

The Council of the Socialist International, having examined the economic and social situation in Africa characterised by:

a) a slight economic growth in the past five years, some improvement compared to the disastrous developments in the 80s, which has not been enough to compensate for a high demographic growth;

b) increasing poverty which places 45 per cent of sub-Saharan Africa below the poverty line;

c) deep political and economic changes at world level which may lead to an increased marginalisation of Africa;

d) a transition towards liberalisation of the economy under the impetus of Structural Adjustment Programmes which are too short-term and which do not take sufficient account of the social dimension of development;

e) a transition towards political liberalisation which brings hope but also runs the risk of exhausting itself if it is not accompanied by necessary development and the genuine improvement of the population's living conditions;

f) a crippling debt whose servicing represents, on average, 35 per cent of export income;

g) a reduction of financial transfers to

Africa, including Public Aid for Development, which is well below the 0.7 per cent of GNP target,

noted that the economic policies carried out in Africa did not yield the expected results and considered that the following points represent key elements which must be borne in mind in order to achieve economic and social development in Africa:

1. Economic growth: the road to economic independence

1.1 The necessary conditions for economic development are as follows:

a) sound economic policies; b) human resource development; c) an appropriate infrastructure; d) sufficient financial resources; e) a high standard of government on the part of African countries and donors; f) regional integration; g) favourable world economic conditions.

2. Trade: participating in an open world economy

2.1 Commercial contexts must change in order to promote a profitable participation of the region in world trade. It is vital for markets to be open to African products.

2.2 A new commercial context could also allow African countries to export more sophisticated products with more added value. Existing provisions contained in the Lomé Convention, for example, must be re-examined in this light.

2.3 Africa must invest increasingly in economic diversification.

2.4 The implementation of more liberal farm policies will contribute to the development of trade and allow regional markets to function better.

3. Debt reduction: need for better financial resources

3.1 The bilateral debts of the poorest countries and countries of average earnings which implement significant adjustment programmes must be cancelled.

3.2 Public and private debts must be reduced and rescheduled in order to bring debt servicing to an acceptable level, such as 15 per cent of income.

3.3 Financial resources earmarked for Africa must be increased yearly by at least 4 per cent.

4. The fight against poverty: the main priority

4.1 The need for social justice and fair development, so dear to the SI, means that the reduction of poverty must constitute the first priority.

4.2 The strategies used to combat poverty must be integrated in plans, programmes and development projects. They must take account of the various dimensions of this phenomenon and therefore action is required on several fronts such as: (i) development of

human resources, with particular attention to adult literacy classes, to primary and vocational learning; (ii) improved access of poor people to basic services; (iii) increased efforts to liberate and mobilise the energies of poor people; (iv) fair distribution of growth.

5. Agriculture: the main pillar of Africa's economy

5.1 Africa's development depends on the strengthening of the agricultural sector. The conditions necessary for subsistence must improve. Food imports must be replaced by local production. The export sector must be developed. This expansion will benefit from more realistic exchange rates.

5.2 As far as foodstuffs are concerned, independence and safety must be the objectives. Africa must commit itself to improving farm policies, productivity and distribution mechanisms and to creating reliable marketing and credit systems together with appropriate storage facilities. Subsidies must serve to promote, among other things, better land use through more participative research.

6. The environment: a more sustainable development

6.1 Environmental protection must form an integral part of development programmes. Adjustment plans must take greater account of environmental issues. There is a direct link between poverty and environmental damage.

6.2 Industrialised and developing countries share the responsibility of implementing the recommendations of UNCED. In this respect, donor countries must be aware of the debt that they owe poor countries.

7. Compatibility of structural development programmes with development policies

7.1 Adjustment programmes will have to be tailored specifically to beneficiary countries and take full account of the social dimension. Although short-term stability is not in itself enough to promote development, it is nevertheless a pre-condition. African governments are therefore advised to take the necessary measures to improve their country's economy. In addition, there must be fundamental changes in the conditions and restrictions which accompany adjustment programmes under the aegis of the IMF and the World Bank.

7.2 Future programmes must be based mainly on the fundamental needs of the people in the region and on the need for long-term development. Efforts must be made to safeguard existing social systems and to improve the income of the population as a whole. Structural adjustments must be compat-

ible with development.

7.3 In the medium or short term, it is essential to increase investments in key areas such as rural development, education, vocational training, infrastructure and public services and thus to help bring about economic and social stability in African countries, so that they may gradually develop their human resources.

8. Human resources: the real fight against poverty

8.1 Investment in human resources constitutes a priority. The fight against illiteracy must be given new impetus. Education must become top of the agenda. More efforts must be made in the fields of the education of girls and vocational training.

8.2 Speedy progress must be made towards achieving the objectives which focus on human resources from now to the year 2000 in areas such as life expectancy, the involvement of women in development, infant and maternal mortality rates, health, nutrition, water and sanitation systems, basic education and housing.

8.3 The development of human potential and the reduction of poverty require a policy regarding population. Plans and development programmes must take population changes into account. In this respect African countries are advised to take heed of the conclusions and the recommendations of the Cairo Conference on population.

8.4 The international community must set a financial objective regarding human development programmes: 20 per cent of development aid must serve to meet this objective. Donor countries must reconsider their reluctance to finance the operating costs associated with human development and education in particular.

9. Promoting the private sector

9.1 The private sector should have greater priority because of its inherent flexibility and dynamism.

9.2 Governments must strive to create the conditions in which economic activity can flourish together with facilitating private investment. Not only should they encourage productive private African initiatives, but they should also acknowledge, more than they have done before, the importance of indigenous development processes.

10. Regional integration: use of Africa's assets

10.1 Using existing regional organisations as a starting point, African countries should be able to improve commerce, transport, communications and agriculture. Given the minimal exchanges which exist between African countries, it is clear that, without con-

crete results in these three areas, integration and cooperation will not become a reality in Africa.

10.2 The establishment of an African agricultural market with lower trade barriers and uniform prices would be a major success. It could spread to other economic sectors thus creating genuine economic areas.

10.3 Improvement of regional integration in Africa requires this integration to be specific and centred on clear objectives; it should be pragmatic and progressive, and form part of genuine policy discussions, while being as free as possible from national interference.

11. International cooperation

11.1 As far as European development policy is concerned, it is important to ensure that political and economic measures are also compatible with the objectives of development policies at European level. This compatibility can only be achieved through a coherent European Union policy, particularly in relation to economic, commercial, financial and farm policies, aiming to eliminate customs barriers and to encourage fair prices for raw materials and farm produce.

11.2 In addition, European cooperation with African countries regarding development policy issues should cover areas such as the eradication of poverty, progress in education and vocational training, the environment, rural development and democratisation.

11.3 The sheer scale of the challenges which Africa is faced with must lead the countries of the European Union to honour their commitments within the framework of the renegotiated Lomé IV, in particular as far as fixing the amount of the 8th EDF is concerned.

11.4 Apart from increasing the volume of aid, it is vital to make changes to the methods of aid distribution to ensure that African countries can really meet the needs of long-term development.

ALGERIA

The Council of the Socialist International:

notes that Algeria is going through a dramatic crisis and shares the concerns of the international community as to the suffering of the Algerian people, hostages to violence wishing for peace to be restored;

expresses solidarity with all the women and the men who fight against violence;

strongly denounces massive human rights violations and expresses concern about the risk of civil war;

stresses that the Algerian crisis cannot, under any circumstances, be settled by military means. The solution is a politi-

cal one. Within this framework, the signature of the platform for a 'national contract' and the announcement of the presidential election are the facts which urgently highlight the need for an agreement between the authorities in power and all democratic forces, together with those moderate Islamist sectors which condemn all forms of terrorism and which recognise the principle of pluralism and the democratic changeover of political power;

calls on all Algerian parties to reject violence as a means of political struggle or as a way of staying in power, and to act unequivocally towards the immediate cessation of all acts of violence and terrorism;

calls on all authorities in power to take actions of real political initiative capable of setting in motion a genuine dialogue to encourage the return of Algeria to peace and democracy;

also stresses that for elections to take place there is a need for a social and political consensus which to date is not in place;

stresses that an open electoral process raises vital questions: agreement of a timetable for all elections, monitoring by international observers, and at the same time guarantees for a democratic transition, a safe environment, a free and pluralist system and guaranteed free access to information;

calls on the European Community to speak with one voice and give every financial and economic assistance to help create a genuinely open political and economic climate.

The Socialist International will provide all the assistance and support needed to contribute to a successful process of dialogue, peace and democracy in Algeria.

BURMA

Recalling the resolution on Burma of the Council of the Socialist International adopted in Tokyo on 11 May 1994, and the resolution of the SI Asia-Pacific Committee adopted in Manila on 11 February 1995, the Council of the Socialist International:

is appalled by the decision of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) in Burma to deny entry to a high-level Socialist International fact-finding mission;

notes with serious concern that SLORC has not complied with the issues raised by the Socialist International, specifically:

1. SLORC has not so far declared that it will enter into dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi, and other democratic and ethnic nationalist leaders to find a peaceful solution to the political situation in Burma;

2. SLORC has not so far announced that it will transfer power to the elected representatives of the National League for Democracy (NLD) that won more than 82 per cent of the parliamentary seats in the 27 May 1990 general elections;

3. SLORC is continuing with the National Convention to draft a constitution that will reserve a leading role for the armed forces in the future political life of Burma, which clearly contradicts the expressed will of the Burmese people;

4. full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including ethnic and religious rights have not been restored and

5. the use of torture, arbitrary arrests, summary and arbitrary executions, forced labour, portage, relocation and conscription, and the abuse of women by SLORC is continuing;

strongly condemns SLORC's military offensive against and capture of Manerplaw, the headquarters of the Karen National Union and the Burmese democracy movement. These actions contradict SLORC's own claim at the United Nations that it is pursuing national reconciliation through peaceful means;

strongly condemns the continued systematic use of torture, summary and arbitrary executions, forced labour in development projects, forced portage by villagers for the military, forced conscription into the armed forces, forced displacement of the population and the rape of women, as a tool of repression, in particular against ethnic and religious minorities;

condemns the use of religion and ethnicity by SLORC to create divisions within the religious and ethnic communities of Burma;

condemns the renewed restrictions placed on the exercise of fundamental freedom including the freedoms of expression, association, assembly and the use of arbitrary arrests and detention to suppress political dissent;

calls on SLORC to immediately cease its military offensives against ethnic armies and instead to solve political problems and to respect the territorial integrity of neighbouring countries;

appeals to the governments of Thailand, Laos, China, India and Bangladesh to continue to grant refuge to those fleeing the conflict in Burma and to allow humanitarian agencies access to those displaced by the fighting;

calls on the United Nations secretary general to urgently implement the December 1994 General Assembly resolution to find a political solution to the situation in Burma;

calls on member parties who are in government, to fully support the efforts of the UN secretary general and actively seek to implement this resolution;

appeals to the governments of ASEAN and neighbouring nations to support the UN secretary general's efforts to promote national reconciliation in Burma by not supplying arms to SLORC, and promoting trade and investments;

appeals to the international community, specifically Japan, UN agencies and international financial institutions such as the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank to refrain from renewing ODA assistance, development and assistance programmes and loans until SLORC responds positively to the UN secretary general and Aung San Suu Kyi is released unconditionally;

calls on foreign companies operating in Burma, especially TOTAL of France, UNOCAL and TEXACO from the United States and PREMIER of Britain, to withdraw or suspend their operations in Burma in support of the UN secretary general's efforts and until they can be assured that their investments will not indirectly enable SLORC to continue perpetrating atrocities on the people of Burma, specifically in ethnic areas;

calls on hotel operators, tour agents and the general public to support the UN secretary general's national reconciliation initiatives by protesting against the use of slave labour for tourist attractions in Burma and boycotting SLORC's 'Visit Myanmar Year - 1996'.

The Socialist International has received the preliminary reports of the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, which it welcomes wholeheartedly, provided that she is free without conditions.

CYPRUS

The Socialist International welcomes the recent European Union-Cyprus agreement. This agreement for integration of Cyprus to the EU makes more compelling the need for a settlement of the conflict thus allowing the population of the entire island to benefit from the EU membership.

The Socialist International views with apprehension the present situation in Cyprus.

After 20 years of Turkish occupation of 37 per cent of the island, there is no progress in the United Nations' attempts to solve the conflict, as a result of no positive signs from the Turkish side to reach an acceptable solution.

The SI calls on the United Nations to continue the efforts to reach an agreement based on justice and respect of international law.

The SI calls on the government of Cyprus and the Turkish community in

Cyprus to show goodwill and start a process of confidence-building between them.

The SI is committed to assist the peace process in Cyprus.

THE DEMOCRATISATION PROCESS AND THE KURDISH PROBLEM IN TURKEY

Referring to the report of the SI Working Group on the Kurdish issue, the conclusions of which were unanimously adopted by the SI Middle East Committee,

taking into account the findings of the numerous missions to Turkey of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and several national parliaments and NGO groups and the resolutions adopted by these bodies,

concerned about the stagnation of the democratisation process and the continuing degradation of the human rights situation in Turkey as stated by Amnesty International, the Turkish Human Rights Association (IHD), the OSCE and the Western European Union (WEU),

alarmed by recent statements by the Turkish deputy chief of staff and the fact that Prime Minister Tansu Çiller announced that she had to suspend the deliberations of the Turkish Parliament on constitutional reform,

condemning the new operations by Turkish troops in the Kurdish UN protection zone in the neighbouring state of Iraq, causing again several civilian victims and the destruction of Kurdish villages,

worried about the civil war-like situation in South-East Turkey and convinced that there is no solution by military means of the Kurdish problem,

recognising the clear international dimension of the Kurdish problem, the solution of which is of utmost importance for the stability of Turkey and the other countries concerned,

supporting the territorial integrity of the Turkish state and the neighbouring countries, rejecting any kind of separatism,

rejecting all kinds of tyranny, including terrorism exerted by popular organisations such as the PKK, as well as by the state security forces,

the Socialist International, at its Council meeting in Cape Town, on 10-11 July 1995:

firmly supports all national and international demands for rapid progress in the democratisation process in Turkey, in particular far-reaching constitutional reforms and substantial improvements

in the human rights situation,

hopes for the conclusion of a customs union between the European Union and Turkey within the framework posed by the European Parliament,

demands the release of all political prisoners including the DEP parliamentarians,

appeals to the Turkish authorities to open a constructive dialogue with the country's Kurdish citizens and their representatives who renounce violence, and

reaffirms its conviction that a stable and democratic Turkey is of utmost importance for the future development of the region and of Europe, believing that the more democratic Turkey becomes the more it can become part of democratic European institutions.

AN INTERNATIONAL BAN ON LANDMINES

The Socialist International:

aware that landmines are an abhorrent and indiscriminate weapon; that they cannot be aimed; that they can be triggered by adults, children, or animals; that they recognise no cease-fire and may go on maiming and killing decades after hostilities cease; and that those most likely to encounter landmines are the rural poor who live far from adequate medical facilities;

emphasising that landmines are devastating at all levels of society - individual, family, community and nation - and that countries must respond not only to the immediate medical and rehabilitative needs of landmine victims but also to the severe long-term effects of landmines on post-war economic reconstruction and social reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons;

further emphasising that landmines commonly kill or inflict ravaging wounds usually resulting in traumatic or surgical amputation; that the mines drive dirt and bacteria deep into the tissue, causing rapid spread of infection; and that those who survive the initial blast require antibiotics, large amounts of blood, extended hospital stays, long-term physical therapy, and costly prosthetic device;

Calls for:

1. An international ban on the use, production, stockpiling, and sale, transfer, or export of anti-personnel mines.
2. The establishment of an international fund, administered by the United Nations, to promote and finance mine victim assistance programmes and landmine awareness, clearance, and eradication programmes worldwide.
3. Countries responsible for the produc-

tion and dissemination of anti-personnel mines to contribute to the international fund.

THE MIDDLE EAST

On behalf of the Socialist International Middle East Committee, SIMEC, we wish to report that during the last half year since the Council meeting in Budapest, there have been significant developments in the Middle East which is on its way to a full and comprehensive peace.

The Palestinian National Authority in spite of all the difficulties has established its administrative authority in the area and its population and is on its way to achieving an accord with Israel on the second stage of the interim agreement, including redeployment and elections. The SI calls on the international community and especially the European Union to assist the Palestinian National Authority and to invest in the formation of an economic, social and political structure in the Palestinian autonomy, and to help create an atmosphere of hope. It also issues a call to all the SI parties to help the Palestinian people with assistance in their process of democracy-building.

We wish to mention with satisfaction the meeting of Chiefs of Staff of Israel and Syria and the agreement to continue the talks on a more detailed level in order to find common ground for peace between the two countries.

There is also an urgent need to initiate negotiations between Israel and Lebanon for the sake of peace and in order to end the existing violence on the border which endangers the peace process.

The Peace Agreement between Israel and Jordan was signed just before our last Council meeting and has since moved towards cooperation and the development of a closer relationship.

We condemn both the attempt to assassinate President Mubarak and the forces which stand behind this act. These are the same forces which use terrorism against Israelis, Palestinians, Jews, Arabs, and others in an attempt to block any chance to achieve peace.

The Middle East has started regional economic cooperation and in this regard we wish to mention the Casablanca conference and the future Amman conference. In this context we appreciate the pivotal role of Europe in its Mediterranean policy of assistance and the example it sets in practising regional cooperation.

But beyond all these achievements we have not yet reached full peace either on the Israeli-Palestinian track, where permanent status negotiations have not

yet started, or in the Middle East as a whole, and there is still a long way to go.

The Socialist International will continue, as in the past, to work to assist the peace process in the region to achieve full and comprehensive peace.

NUCLEAR TESTING IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

The Council meeting of the Socialist International,

acknowledging that in August 1995 it will be fifty years since atomic bombs were dropped in Japan - a timely reminder of the dangers of militarism and the destructive horror of nuclear war;

and further that there has been substantial recent progress in nuclear arms reduction;

noting that the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review and Extension Conference in April/May this year decided to extend the Treaty indefinitely and unconditionally;

and further that negotiations are currently under way in Geneva with the aim of achieving a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty;

applauding the decision of former French President Mitterrand to suspend nuclear testing in April 1992 thereby initiating an informal moratorium on testing then implemented by the United States, Russia and Britain, and applauding also French willingness to participate in a comprehensive test ban treaty;

regretting that this moratorium will no longer be observed by the current French government;

concluding that the decision is an unnecessary blow to the NPT and sends the wrong signals to possibly nuclear-capable countries not party to the NPT; and

reflecting the concerns of European Socialist leaders as strongly expressed at their recent meeting in Cannes/Valbonne that President Chirac urgently reconsider his decision to resume a programme of nuclear testing; The Council of the SI therefore:

expresses deep concern at the decision of the French government to resume nuclear testing in the South Pacific;

calls on the government of France to revoke its decision thereby showing proper consideration for the concerns of Pacific Island States and for the strengthening of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty;

supports the protests of its member parties and will play a coordinating role in developing future action aimed at stopping the resumption of testing;

asks all other nuclear states to maintain the present moratorium, and China

to implement it urgently so that the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty can be signed as soon as possible.

THE CONFLICT IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

The Council of the Socialist International, meeting on 10-11 July 1995 in Cape Town,

reaffirming the resolution adopted in Prague on 9-10 June 1995 by the Socialist International Committee for Central and Eastern Europe, SICEE,

appeals to all the sides involved to abandon definitively the illusion of a military solution, and instead truly try to reach a political solution based on fair negotiations which can guarantee the rights of all ethnic and religious communities;

underlines that this objective is possible only if the international community - and in particular the European Union and the Contact Group - all carry out a common action, with greater determination and cohesion than that shown up to now, overcoming too many divisions which have weakened the actions of the UN and of the international community;

asks the Bosnian Serbs to withdraw from the siege of Sarajevo, and appeals to all the sides to remove all of the intervening obstacles to the activities of the 'blue helmets';

believes that the reduction or evacuation of the 'blue helmets' should be avoided; their presence should on the contrary be reinforced, putting at their disposal all of the necessary tools and resources, and clarifying at the same time their mandate in application of UN Resolution 836;

urges a more rigorous and coherent application of the embargo and the sanctions - often violated at present by the same countries which agreed to impose them - through an increase of security and control measures at the borders of the countries in conflict, and by envisaging compensation for the neighbouring countries which could be damaged by the consequences of the embargo;

asks the Belgrade government to exercise all forms of pressure on the Bosnian Serb leadership to accept the proposals of the Contact Group, to recognise the borders of Croatia, and to recognise explicitly the right of Bosnia to exist as a sovereign state within its current borders, as an indispensable condition in order to carry out accords which will define the constitutional framework and territorial organisation of the Bosnian state;

believes that the United Nations may

consider the suspension of sanctions against the Belgrade government only after these measures are carried out;

asks the sides to work towards a negotiated solution of the set-up of the Krajina regions which, by reconfirming that they belong to Croatia, recognises their right to autonomy on the basis of the proposals by the Z4 Group;

underlines the need to ensure stability and security in the entire region, and for this asks the Greek authorities and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) to rapidly initiate negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations which will reach accords which are reciprocally satisfactory;

underlines, furthermore, that the recognition of the autonomy of Kosovo within the current Yugoslav borders can contribute to avoiding the risks of the expansion of the crisis;

asks that, whatever the territorial and constitutional set-up of each republic, these will require the full recognition, and above all the actual exercise, of equal rights for all ethnic and religious communities;

urges the international community - and in the first place the European Union and its member states - to set up a special programme for assistance to refugees, which would best utilise the activities of NGOs, of volunteer associations and of local agencies, also through the creation of the necessary financial tools and legislative framework;

expresses its solidarity and support for all of the reformist and social democratic political forces in the region which, by refusing to accept the damning thesis of ethnic confrontation, work in the various states of the former Yugoslavia to reassert the road of dialogue and of coexistence;

underlines the value of the decision to send delegations of the Socialist International to Sarajevo, Zagreb and Belgrade to carry out a 'Mission of Dialogue' which will join the actions of the Socialist International to the efforts of those who are fighting to stop the war and to achieve peace, and gives them the mandate to implement the contents of this resolution.

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Australian Labor Party, ALP
Michael Beahan

AUSTRIA

Social Democratic Party of Austria, SPÖ
Irmtraut Karlsson
Karl Schramek
Peter Jankowitsch
Susanne Gaugl

BELGIUM

Socialist Party, PS
Philippe Busquin
Etienne Godin

BRAZIL

Democratic Labour Party, PDT
Leonel Brizola
Vivaldo Barbosa
Luis Enrique Lima
Albino Azeredo

BURKINA FASO

Party for Democracy and Progress, PDP
Joseph Ki-Zerbo

CYPRUS

EDEK Socialist Party of Cyprus
Alecis Orountiotis

DENMARK

Social Democratic Party
Steen Christensen
Lasse Budtz

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Dominican Revolutionary Party, PRD
José Francisco Peña Gómez
Hatuey Decamps
Peggy Cabral

FINLAND

Finnish Social Democratic Party, SDP
Pertti Paasio
Tero Shemeikka
Tuula Haatainen
Ruth Hasan

FRANCE

Socialist Party, PS
Gérard Fuchs
Renée Fregosi
Jean-Pierre Crochet

GERMANY

Social Democratic Party of Germany, SPD
Herta Däubler-Gmelin
Christoph Zöpel
Karsten Voigt
Christa Randzio-Plath
Karin Junker
Wolfgang Weege

GREAT BRITAIN

The Labour Party
Clare Short
George Foulkes
Shaun Spiers
Nick Sigler

GREECE

Panhellenic Socialist Movement, PASOK
Nikos Dimadis

ISRAEL

Israel Labour Party
Israel Gat
Abraham Hatzmari
Daphna Sharfman
Yehuda Paz

ISRAEL

United Workers' Party of Israel, MAPAM
Chanan Eres
Elazar Granot
Monica Pollack

ITALY

Democratic Party of the Left, PDS
Piero Fassino
Mauro Montali
Raffaella Chiodo
Nicola Zingaretti
Marco Bianchini

ITALY

Italian Socialists, SI
Pia Locatelli

LITHUANIA

Lithuanian Social Democratic Party, LSDP
Daiva Jakaite

MAURITIUS

Mauritius Labour Party
Joseph Tsang Mang-Kin
Kailash Purryag
Mahen Kundasamy

MOROCCO

Socialist Union of Popular Forces, USFP
Nouzha Chekrouni

NETHERLANDS

Labour Party, PvdA
Jan Marinus Wiersma

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand Labour Party
Sonja Davies

NORWAY

Norwegian Labour Party, DNA
Gro Harlem Brundtland
Dag Terje Andersen
Frode Forfang
Rigmor Aasrud Jahren
Lene Løken
Mårten Wetland

PORTUGAL

Socialist Party, PS
António Guterres
Rui Nozes

PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rican Independence Party, PIP
Rubén Berrios

SENEGAL

Socialist Party of Senegal
Jacques Baudin
Aminata Mbengue Ndtayi
Babacar Sini

SPAIN

Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, PSOE
Raimon Obiols
Rafael Estrella
Elena Flores
Ricard Torrell

SWEDEN

Swedish Social Democratic Party, SAP
Margareta Winberg
Conny Fredriksson
Monica Andersson
Gunnar Stenarv
Ulla Pettersson
Ingegerd Sahlström

TUNISIA

Constitutional Democratic Assembly, RCD
Chedli Neffati
Saïd Naceur Ramdhane
Mohsen Snoussi
Abdelmejid Lajili
Hatem Atallah

TURKEY

Social Democratic Populist Party, SHP
Turkan Akyol

USA

Democratic Socialists of America, DSA
Skip Roberts

VENEZUELA

Democratic Action, AD
Timoteo Zambrano

Office of SI President

Michel Thauvin
Axel Queval
Vera Matthias
Gilles Finchelstein

CONSULTATIVE PARTIES

ALGERIA

Socialist Forces Front, FFS
Hocine Ait-Ahmed
Ahmed Djedjai

CAPE VERDE

African Party for the Independence of
Cape Verde, PAICV
Pedro Pires
Mário Paixão Lopes

CHILE

Party for Democracy, PPD
Victor Manuel Rebolledo
Jorge Heine

IVORY COAST

Ivory Coast Popular Front, FPI
Aboudramane Sangaré

PAKISTAN

Pakistan People's Party, PPP
Shafqat Mahmood

URUGUAY

Party for People's Government, PGP
Antonio Gallicchio

OBSERVER PARTIES

HUNGARY

Hungarian Social Democratic Party,
MSzDP
Ilona György

HUNGARY

Hungarian Socialist Party, MSzP
Vilmos Szabó
Zita Gurmai

NICARAGUA

Sandinista National Liberation Front, FSLN
José Pasos
Margarita Zapata

SLOVENIA

Social Democratic Party of Slovenia, SDSS
Marcel Koprol

FRATERNAL ORGANISATIONS

**International Union of Socialist
Youth, IUSY**

Alfred Gusenbauer
Roger Hällhag
Alfredo Lazzarotti

Socialist International Women, SIW

Marlene Haas
Ilonka Van Rijn
Indira Sidaya

ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS

**Group of the Party of European
Socialists, European Parliament**

Luigi Colajanni
Nadia Van Hamme

Party of European Socialists, PES

Jean-François Vallin

**World Labour Zionist Movement,
WLZM**

Jonathan Silke

**GUESTS - INTERNATIONAL
ORGANISATIONS/PARTIES**

**Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan,
PDKI**

Ghacem Hosseini
Mostafa-Kamal Davoudi

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, FES

Ernst Kerbusch

Palestine Liberation Organisation, PLO

Hanna Siniora
Tareq Zaki Abu Youssef
Ilan Halevi

POLISARIO

Mohamed Sidati

ANGOLA

Popular Movement for the Liberation of
Angola, MPLA
Paulo Teixeira Jorge
Eduardo Ruas Manuel

ARGENTINA

Radical Civic Union, UCR
Simón Lázara
Luis Alberto Cáceres

BOSNIA

Union of Bosnian Social Democrats, UBSD
Sefudin Tokic

BOTSWANA

Botswanan National Front, BNF
Ethna Keabetswe Dabutha
Sesame Tau
Peter Isafu Woto
Issac Mabiletsa

BURMA

National League for Democracy, NLD
Win Khet
Oung Myint Tun

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Convergencia para la Democracia Social,
CPDS
Plácido Micó
Celestino Bakale

INDIA

Samata Party
George Fernandes

LESOTHO

Lesotho Labour Party
Omar M Mpela
Mamolefi Alice Ranthimo

MALI

**African Party for Solidarity and Justice,
ADEMA/PASJ**

Ibrahim Boubacar Keita
Seydou M Diarrah
Ibrahima Siby
Yacouba Doumbia
Sbane Mahlmoudou
Abdrahamane Touré
Toumani D Diallo

MALI

**National Congress for Democratic
Initiative, CNID**

Mountaga Tall
Ibrahim Berthe

MEXICO

Party of the Democratic Revolution, PRD

Jorge Calderón Salazar

MEXICO

Institutional Revolutionary Party, PRI

Gustavo Carvajal
Sami David David
Rosamaría Villarello
Carlos Flores Vizcarra

MOZAMBIQUE

Frelimo Party

Feliciano Salomão Gundana
Manuel Tomé
Pedro Taimo
Roberto Vasco Cossa
Jose A Levy Marre Ngula

PANAMA

Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD

Leonardo Kam

POLAND

**Social Democracy of the Republic of
Poland, SdRP**

Aleksander Kwasniewski
Tadeusz Iwinski

RUSSIA FEDERATION

Social Democratic Union

Vladimir Mironov

SLOVENIA

**United List of Social Democrats of
Slovenia, ZL**

Janez Kocijancic

USA

National Democratic Institute, NDI

Maura Donlan

ZAIRE

**Union for Democracy and Social Progress,
UDPS**

Omer N'Kamba
Jean-Louis Kalambaie