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ADOLF SCHAERF

Dr. Adolf Schaerf, the President of Austria, and former Vice-Chancellor of Austria and Chairman of the Socialist Party, died on February 28 at the age of 74. The Secretary of the Socialist International sent the following telegram to the Executive of the Austrian Socialist Party:

“ The Socialist International expresses the deep grief of millions of fellow Socialists throughout the world at loss of Adolf Schaerf great Socialist great President and good friend. Extends its deepest sympathy to family and Party.

It pays tribute to his sacrifices in the dark days of Fascism and his great services to Parliamentary Democracy in Austria. His great success as a major architect of the continuity of stable government since 1945 has had effects far beyond his own country. He will be honoured by all the parties for unswerving devotion throughout his life to the ideals of Socialist International. ”

ALBERT CARTHY

Bureau Meeting

The regular meeting of the Bureau of the Socialist International was held on February 23 and 24, 1965, at Transport House, London. The Chairman of the Socialist International, and Vice-Chancellor of Austria, Bruno Pittermann, was detained by Government business from attending the first day's session, and, in the absence of any of the Vice-Chairmen, Victor Larock of Belgium presided, in his capacity as Chairman of the Bureau. Bruno Pittermann presided at the session on February 24. There were also present: Karl Czernetz (Austria), A. L. Williams, George Cunningham and John Clark (Great Britain), Max van der Stoel (Netherlands), George Cadbury and George Bain (Canada), S. Levenberg and Eliahu Speiser (Israel), Eki Sone and Fusao Yamaguchi (Japan), Hans-Eberhard Dingels (Germany), Pierre Herbaut (France), Pauli Burman (Finland), Anders Thunberg (Sweden), Pamela Peachey, Robert Rauscher and Albert Carthy (Socialist International).

The Bureau learned with deep concern that the Chairman of the Japan Socialist Party, Jotaro Kawakami, had suffered a cerebral haemorrhage on January 31, as a result of which he was unconscious for two weeks. Mr. Kawakami has now regained consciousness, but his condition is still extremely serious. The Bureau asked the Party's representative, Fusao Yamaguchi, to convey to the Party its best wishes for Mr. Kawakami's recovery.

The Bureau decided reluctantly, after careful consideration, that no convenient date for a Council Conference of the Socialist International could be found in the latter half of 1965. It agreed to accept the invitation of the Swedish Social Democratic Labour Party to hold the Congress of the Socialist International, which falls in 1966, and the Council Conference which precedes it, in Stockholm in the period May-June, 1966. The Secretary will consult with the Swedish Party and propose precise dates to the Bureau at an early meeting.

Resolutions reproduced overleaf were adopted on the situation in the Middle East, on developments in South-East Asia, and on the Statute of Limitations on the prosecution of former Nazis for crimes against humanity.

The Bureau appointed Robert Rauscher as Assistant Secretary of the Socialist International, and Michael Cockerell as Editor of Socialist International Publications.

The Bureau agreed to invite member parties to support an experts' conference on opinion research in Austria in May 1965.

The Amsterdam Congress of the Socialist International in 1963 laid on the Bureau the task of formulating proposals designed to make the Socialist International a more effective instrument to accomplish its mission. A Working Party, consisting of all the member parties with seats on the Bureau plus the Swedish Party, met in Salzburg in January, with Victor Larock (Belgium) as its Chairman and Karl Czernetz (Austria) as its rapporteur, immediately after the Party Leaders' Conference there. Out of the consideration given at

that meeting, and at another held on the eve of the Bureau, a practical scheme of things was drawn up, with particular attention to the improvement of contacts and communications. It was approved by the Bureau, the French Party (S.F.I.O.) abstaining since the proposals did not incorporate the radical changes which the Party regarded as necessary. These proposals will now be circulated to member parties, and discussed at the next Council Conference.

In this connexion, the Bureau approved a report from its Sub-Committee on Developing Areas, envisaging activities which may help to bridge the gaps between the roads to democratic Socialism in Asia, Africa and Latin America. These are recognised as the areas of great challenge. There is a heartening response to the new possibilities for contact and cooperation with democratic progressive parties of fundamental social change, which have declared their faith in democratic Socialism.

The Bureau noted with satisfaction the programmes of work of the International Council of Social Democratic Women, which are steadily developing in their effectiveness.

Communiqués published jointly by delegations of the Japanese Socialist Party to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China and their hosts were considered. The Bureau decided to seek enlightenment on certain questions from the National Executive of the Party, and to examine the matter further in the light of this information.

Subsequently, a valuable exchange of information on South-East Asia took place in a discussion introduced by the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Japan Democratic Socialist Party, Eki Sone, and the International Secretary of the Japan Socialist Party, Fusao Yamaguchi.

The delegates to the Bureau were guests at a lunch in the House of Commons on February 24, given by the British Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, George Brown, and the Secretary of State for Colonial Affairs, Anthony Greenwood.

The next meeting of the Bureau will be held on May 19-20, in London.

Centenary pamphlet

Copies of the illustrated pamphlet on the centenary of the Socialist International, which contains articles by Lord Attlee, Omer Becu, Lee Kuan Yew, Léopold Senghor, Harold Wilson and many others, are still available price 1s. 6d.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE BUREAU

The situation in South East-Asia

Expressing its grave concern at the situation in South-East Asia, the Bureau supports all real efforts for a genuine peace settlement, in particular the soundings now being undertaken by the British Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, to find a basis for peace in Vietnam.

The situation in the Middle East

The Bureau of the Socialist International expresses its deep concern about the recent developments in the Middle East. It condemns the renewed threats from certain Arab quarters to annihilate Israel and the heavy supply of arms by the Soviet Union to the United Arab Republic. The Bureau reiterates its view that a Middle East disarmament agreement guaranteed by all the major powers can ensure peace in that area. It recognises, however, that if the balance of arms is disturbed, as it is now being disturbed, by deliveries of arms from Soviet Union to the U.A.R., then

the balance must be corrected. The Bureau is concerned at the recent crisis in German-Israel relations and is confident that the German Social Democratic Party will do everything possible to find a satisfactory solution to all outstanding problems.

Statute of Limitations

The Bureau of the Socialist International welcomes the action which is being taken in a number of countries, and by the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe, to prolong or abolish the time-limit on the prosecution of crimes against humanity which were committed during the period of the Nazi régime. The Bureau expresses its appreciation to the German Social Democratic Party for the efforts it has made in order to permit juridical investigation and prosecution after May 8, 1965, in the Federal Republic of Germany hitherto undetected crimes of the Nazi régime.

Interim report on the Labour Government

HAROLD WILSON

We publish extracts from a speech in London on February 20.

Europe. The recent series of speeches about Europe by Conservatives is not in any sense a response either to the economic or to the international challenge of our time. Instead of facing up to the tough and difficult problem of strengthening the economy, of securing that climate of social justice which alone will produce industrial partnership in prices, incomes and the attack on restrictive practices, the Conservatives turn once again to Europe as an escape, hoping that by the blast of competition others will do to us what under them we were incapable and unable to do for ourselves.

We, for our part, have always made our position clear. Entry into the Common Market at the present time is not a real issue. If it were to become one we should be prepared to consider negotiations for entry if, and only if, we can secure the conditions vital to British interests, vital to Commonwealth interests and vital to the pursuit of an independent foreign policy, which we have laid down and on which we are agreed.

But as I said in the House of Commons on Tuesday [February 16], we are prepared to take any measures that are

open to us to end the costly economic division of Europe. Any measures which will help to build a bridge between EFTA and the Commonwealth. And in a series of discussions with our European partners we shall pragmatically and with realism pursue every means of functional cooperation with France, with Germany and with other European countries.

At our great Rally in the Albert Hall last spring, I pledged the Labour Government to do three things. To restore a sense of purpose to the conduct of our economic affairs, to restore a sense of social purpose and social justice in our domestic life, and to create a sense of national purpose in the conduct of world affairs.

Economic Purpose. I have referred to the problems we inherited and the emergency measures we have had to take. But while these measures were being taken we started on our bold programme for getting Britain on the move again, for getting some drive and purpose into industry and for getting this country ahead instead of trailing behind in the new scientific revolution.

13 years taught us that the only Tory