

Meeting of Bureau of Socialist International

A meeting of the Bureau of the Socialist International was held in Transport House, London, on May 12-13. The sessions were presided over by the Acting Chairman of the Socialist International, Harold Wilson (Great Britain), and by S. Levenberg (Israel). There were also present: Karl Czernetz (Austria), Jan Luyten and Victor Larock (Belgium), Pauli Burman (Finland), Robert Pontillon (France), Herbert Wehner and Hans-Eberhard Dingels (Germany), Walter Padley and David Ennals (Great Britain), Max van der Stoep (Netherlands), Antonio Cariglia (Italy), Pamela Peachey (Women's Secretary) and Albert Carthy (Secretary).

The Bureau congratulated the German and Austrian Parties on successes in *Land* elections, and particularly the British Labour Party on its remarkable and sustained successes in the County Council, County Borough, Borough Council and other local elections.

The Bureau welcomed the attendance during a part of one of its sessions of the former President of Costa Rica, Don José Figueres, who is President of the National Liberation Party (P.L.N.). The P.L.N. has applied for membership of the Socialist International with the new observer status authorised by the Amsterdam Congress in September 1963. The Bureau warmly commended the application to the Council Conference of the Socialist International, to be held in Brussels in September 1964. The Bureau had the benefit of Sr. Figueres' views on a wide range of problems particularly concerning Latin America, including the proposed Federation of Popular Parties, closer contacts with the Socialist International, military coups like Brazil, and remnants of dictatorship in Latin America. The Bureau expressed its gratification at this opportunity for closer contacts, and its hopes for a wider and deeper exchange of information and experience.

In this connexion, the forthcoming Convention of Accion Democratica of Venezuela will be considering a recommendation which its National Executive Committee has made to apply for observer status. The Bureau welcomed the report that Accion Democratica had accepted the invitation to participate in the Experts' Conference to be held in Bergneustadt on October 11-15, 1964, their representative being Juan Bautista Martinez.

In connexion with the bomb outrage at Aden Airport on December 10, 1963,

the Bureau expressed its satisfaction at the successful outcome of the defence of Khalifa Abdulla Hasson Khalifa, which led to the abandonment by the prosecution of the charge against him of murder. The Bureau protested against the re-arrest of Khalifa as he left the Court, and his continued detention under the State of Emergency, together with, it is reported, some 200 other political opponents of the Aden Government and the South Arabian Federation. This Federation was created without the consent and, it appears, against the will, of the majority of the population.

The Bureau called for the ending of the State of Emergency and for political freedom in Aden, including freedom for the Opposition. The Bureau stated that there should be early elections to enable the people of Aden to determine whether they wish to remain in the South Arabian Federation. The Bureau expressed concern at the bombing of Harib, and anxiety that hostilities should be brought to an end.

The Bureau recorded its warm thanks to the English barrister, Christopher French, whose brilliant handling of the defence of Khalifa Abdulla Hasson Khalifa had led to the abandonment of the prosecution by the Crown.

The Bureau noted with satisfaction the appreciation of the Union Nationale des Forces Populaires of Morocco (U.N.F.P.) of the efforts which had been made by the Acting Chairman of the Socialist International, Harold Wilson, and by member parties on behalf of those sentenced in the recent political trials in Morocco. The U.N.F.P. expressed the desire for closer contact, a desire which is reciprocated by the Bureau.

The Bureau took the final decisions about arrangements for the Council Conference in Brussels on September 2-4 next. It empowered the Acting Chairman, the Secretary, and Jan Luyten, of the Belgian Party, to finalise details of the Centenary Ceremonial Congress to be held on September 5, and a Mass Demonstration on September 6. The major items of the agenda of the Council Conference will be: examination of the international situation; the work of the United Nations; racial discrimination; and world trade, including the present Geneva Conference. Great interest has been shown in these meetings which, it is hoped, will be representative of all continents.

The problem of the coordination of

the research facilities provided by or in association with member parties was discussed and it was decided to convene a conference in Bergneustadt by courtesy of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in November, to discuss these problems of coordination in detail.

The Bureau passed the following two resolutions:

Peace in the Middle East

The Bureau of the Socialist International expresses deep concern at the disclosures that numerous scientists still holding German Federal citizenship are actively engaged in the manufacture of weapons, and other operations, in Egypt, designed to bring destruction to the State of Israel, thus endangering peace in the Middle East. It welcomes the initiative which the German Social Democratic Party has taken in the Bundestag to seek measures to bring these operations to an end.

Trials in South Africa

The Bureau of the Socialist International condemns the recent imposition of the death sentence and of long terms of imprisonment on persons charged with treason in South Africa. It recalls the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly of October 11, 1963, which condemned South Africa for its repression of opponents of Apartheid. The Bureau expresses concern at the demand of the prosecution in the present treason trial in Rivonia for the death sentence for the accused, including the African leaders, Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu.

It calls upon the South African Government to abandon the trial forthwith and to grant unconditional release to all those whose only offence is their opposition to Apartheid.

The Bureau calls upon Governments which have not given effect to the United Nations' decision that an embargo be placed on the export of arms to South Africa to comply with this decision, in order to bring pressure to bear on the Government of that country to reverse its policy of Apartheid and to induce it to abandon these trials.

Finally, pending consideration of other recommendations of the U.N. Expert Committee, the Bureau urges the South African Government to give immediate and sympathetic consideration to the proposal that it convene a National Convention truly representative of all racial groups as a first step towards finding an equitable solution in South Africa.