

SOCIALIST DIARY

André van der Louw

André van der Louw, former Chairman of the Dutch Party of Labour, was elected Mayor of Rotterdam on 16 November 1974. Ina van der Heuvel, former Vice-Chairman of the Party is now Acting Chairman.

Fred Mulley

Fred Mulley MP, was elected Chairman of the British Labour Party at its Annual Conference held last November. He replaces James Callaghan MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

Mario Soares

Mario Soares, Portugal's Foreign Minister, was re-elected General Secretary of the Portuguese Socialist Party on the last day of the Party's Congress held from 13-15 December 1974. Mario Soares was re-elected by a 63 to 37 per cent vote of the some 900 delegates. His opponent was Manuel Serra, representing the militant current of the Party. (The November-December 1974 issues of the ICSDW Bulletin carries a full report of the Congress.)

Bureau meeting

An ordinary Bureau meeting of the International was held on 13-14 January, presided over by the Chairman of the International, Bruno Pittermann. Representatives of member parties in the following countries participated: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Israel, Italy (both the Socialist and the Social Democratic Parties), Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden. The International Council of Social Democratic Women and the International Union of Socialist Youth were also represented. Representatives from the Portuguese Socialist Party and the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party attended as guests.

Next Congress

The Bureau agreed in principle that the next Congress of the International should now be held in November 1975 and that a joint conference of the

Socialist International and the International Council of Social Democratic Women should be held the day before the congress on the subject 'Socialists on sexes'.

Bureau meeting in Australia

The Bureau discussed an invitation from its Australian member party, the ruling Labour Party, to hold a Bureau meeting in Australia. This invitation was accepted and it was decided that the provisional dates for that meeting should be 9-16 May 1975.

Portugal, Spain and Chile

The Bureau heard a report from the Secretary of the Portugal Committee which had met prior to the Bureau meeting. It also heard a report from the Portuguese Socialist Party's representative at the Bureau who attended as a guest, on the present political situation in Portugal and the run-up to the elections for a constitutional assembly to be held in March 1975.

The Bureau also heard of the Dutch Labour Party's fund-raising campaign in aid of democratic socialism in Portugal. This campaign included, a nationwide house-to-house collection, an all-day radio and television programme on one channel on the progress of democratic socialism in Portugal in which fraternal parties of the International were invited to participate. The campaign culminated in a demonstration of solidarity held on 25 January in Amsterdam.

The Bureau heard a report from the Spain Committee which had met before the Bureau meeting and a report from its Spanish member party's representative who attended as a guest.

The Chile Committee had also met prior to the Bureau meeting and submitted to the Bureau recommendations for action by the Socialist International to further the restoration of democracy and human rights in Chile.

Party Leaders' Conference

The Bureau agreed to accept an invitation from the Chairman of the

German Social Democratic Party, Willy Brandt, to hold the next Party Leaders' Conference of the Socialist International in West Berlin on 22 February 1975. The Conference will be followed by a Bureau meeting of the International also to be held in West Berlin.

European Security Study Group

The Bureau accepted an invitation from the Finnish Social Democratic Party to hold the next meeting of the International's European Study Group in Helsinki from 1-2 March 1975.

Denmark:

Social Democrats Gain

In the second general election held in Denmark on 9 January during the past thirteen months, both the Social Democrats and the Liberals made big gains. The following are the number of seats gained by each party in the 149-seat Folketing (the 1973 results are given in brackets):

	<i>seats</i>
Social Democrats	53 (46)
Radical Liberals	13 (20)
Conservatives	10 (16)
Single Tax Party	0 (5)
Socialist People's Party	9 (11)
Communists	7 (6)
Centre Democrats	4 (14)
Christian People's Party	9 (7)
Liberal Party	42 (22)
Left Socialists	4 (0)
Progress Party	24 (28)

The Socialist Bloc (comprising the Social Democrats, the Socialist People's Party, the Communists and the Left Socialists) now have 73 seats compared to the 63 seats gained at the last election. Despite the fact that the Liberal Party, led by Poul Hartling, Prime Minister of last year's minority Liberal government, won 42 seats as compared with 22 seats at the last election, it will be difficult for them to form a majority because 20 of the seats were at the expense of the non-Socialist parties with which the Liberals were in unofficial coalition.