

## Bureau Meeting

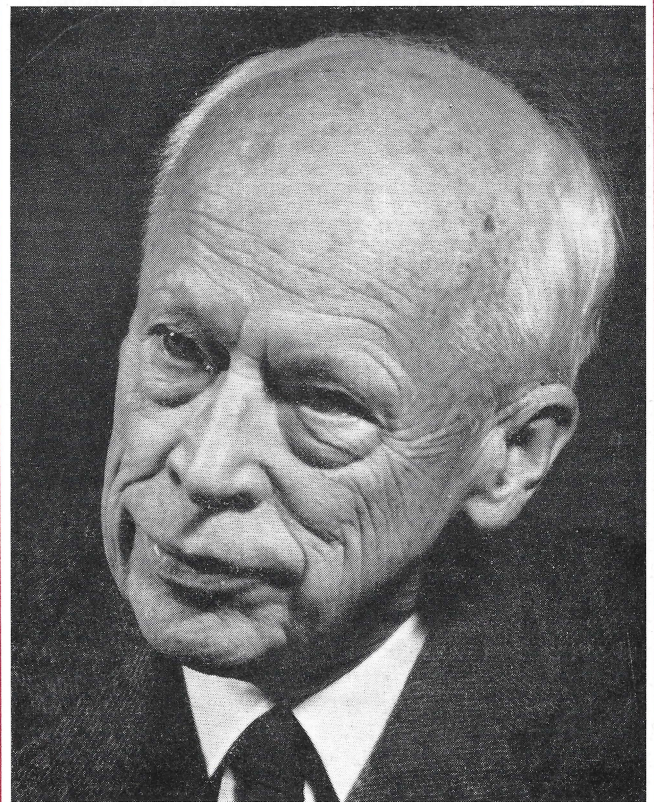
The Bureau of the Socialist International met in Transport House, London, on November 9-10, 1964, under the chairmanship of the Vice-Chancellor of Austria and Chairman of the Socialist International, Bruno Pittermann. There were also present: Karl Czernetz (Austria); Victor Larock and Jan Luyten (Belgium); Anthony Greenwood, Walter Padley, A. L. Williams and John Clark (Britain); George Bain (Canada); Pierre Herbaut (France); Willy Brandt and Hans-Eberhard Dingels (Federal Republic of Germany); Eliahu Speiser and S. Levenberg (Israel); Antonio Cariglia (Italy); Max van der Stoel (Netherlands); Pauli Burman (Finland) representing the Nordic countries; Constance Kay (International Council of Social Democratic Women); and Albert Carthy (Secretary, Socialist International).

The meetings provided the opportunity for consultations inside and outside the sessions. The Bureau also had the opportunity to meet the British Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, the Minister for Economic Affairs, George Brown, and the Minister of State for Defence and Secretary for the Army, Fred Mulley, and the Danish Foreign Minister, Per Haekkerup, at a lunch at which the first-named was the guest of honour. The Chairman of the Socialist International, Bruno Pittermann, extended warm congratulations and good wishes for success in their great tasks ahead. Harold Wilson replied, referring to the problems facing the Labour Government, the determination with which they were tackling their tasks, and the response in the country of which they were already aware. At a dinner given by the Chairman, the members met the Foreign Minister of Sweden, Torsten Nilsson, and the Minister of Trade, Gunnar Lange.

Since the Bureau meetings in September in Brussels, elections had taken place in a number of other countries, including Austria (*Land* and Vienna City elections); Canada (by-election); Denmark and Sweden (general elections); Finland (local elections) and Germany (*Land* elections). After studying the British General Election, the Bureau made a survey of these elections, in a number of which substantial successes had been recorded. The resulting political situation was regarded as favourable but demanding.

The Bureau decided that an early opportunity should be taken to bring together once again leading personalities of Socialist parties—Prime Ministers, Foreign Secretaries, Chairmen of parties. These gatherings provide a most valuable medium for informal and off-the-record exchange of views. The Bureau accepted the invitation of the Chairman, Bruno Pittermann, that the next should be held in Salzburg on January 10, 1965. Provisional arrangements were made for a further such meeting to follow in the late Spring of 1965.

The problems arising in the relations between the countries of E.E.C. and E.F.T.A., and their future development, have been the subject of study for many years now by a committee representative of the parties of the countries concerned. The Committee is called the Contact Committee on European Integration and Economic Cooperation. It was felt that an immediate examination of the present problems connected with the relations of the



## Norman Thomas

*Norman Thomas, the Honorary Chairman of the American Socialist Party and seven times Socialist candidate for the Presidency, celebrated his 80th Birthday on November 20. The Secretary of the Socialist International, Albert Carthy, sent Norman Thomas the following message.*

“You have always been a loyal trooper in the great army of democratic Socialism. You are also one of the small band of people who have profoundly affected, for the good, the thinking and living in your own generation. Society in the U.S.A. has been transformed during your active life. Other men in other parties have claimed the political credit for advances; it is doubtless true that that power was necessary. Your particular contribution was much more basic—to have changed the structure of social thought.

In recent years I have become aware how many of your fellow countrymen not of our political faith have recognised this.

I met you first in those dramatic days when the New Deal, with all its shortcomings, was beginning to take bold and pioneering shape, when all of us held our breath whether the crumbling ruins of 1929 could be rebuilt. And the basic has not yet been begun! I repeat the hope I have already expressed to you that you may long be spared to help us with your advice in the critical years ahead.”

two trade units was desirable. A meeting of the Contact Committee at a high level will be held in Paris at the beginning of December.

In Amsterdam, at the 8th Congress of the Socialist International, a discussion took place on the tasks facing the International and its member parties. Further definition of the views of parties has been collected, and the Bureau instructed the Working Party which it has set up in this connexion to make a close study of this matter, and to submit proposals. The Working Party is to meet in January, 1965. Its Chairman will be Victor Larock, and its Rapporteur Karl Czernetz.

A report was received of a conference of heads of party research departments and directors of research institutions associated with parties, which had taken place in Bergeustadt (Federal Republic of Germany) on November 4-5. The Bureau welcomed the recommendation of the Conference for the establishment of the closest coordination of their activities, and

in particular the widest measure of mutual exchange of information on work which had been undertaken, work which was being undertaken, and projects which were planned for the future. The Bureau expressed its thanks to the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung for the facilities provided and for agreeing to undertake to act as "letter box" for the exchange and as organiser for future meetings. The Bureau approved the proposal that two conferences of experts should be held in 1965, and accepted a recommendation from the Conference that the first, to be held in the Spring, should deal with opinion research and opinion formation.

The Bureau received a communication that the Federal Executive of the Australian Labour Party had decided to pursue the question of appropriate affiliation to the Socialist International. The Bureau admitted the Mauritius Labour Party, the Government Coalition partner, to observer membership.

The Bureau decided to hold its next meeting in London on February 23-24, 1965.

## Canadian Socialist view on recent world events

T. C. DOUGLAS

In recent days three earth-shaking events have taken place on the world scene. Beside them all other national and international happenings have paled into insignificance. It is too early yet to say how they will affect our lives but they have raised questions which must be answered. Whether we want to or not we must now re-examine Canadian policies in the light of a rapidly changing world.

By far the most significant event has been the exploding of a nuclear bomb by mainland China. While it was not completely unexpected, nevertheless it came as a jolt to a world that had developed a feeling of security from the partial test-ban agreement. The possession of the nuclear bomb doesn't pose an immediate threat because China has not yet developed a delivery system—which could take from five to ten years. But it is the first warning that a new member has been added to the Nuclear Club and the threat of world devastation is just around the corner.

This may shake the Western powers out of their complacency and compel them to realise that they cannot continue to ignore a nation which comprises one quarter of the earth's population. China has indicated her support for a total test-ban treaty which makes it all the more imperative that she be seated at the world's council table. The U.S. myth that Chiang Kai-shek speaks for China has been exploded and the sooner we recognise China and bring her into the community of nations, the better it will be for the future survival of mankind.

When I asked External Affairs Minister Martin if Canada were prepared to accord diplomatic recognition

to China in view of this new threat to the peace of the world, he said, "I have nothing to add at this time." Well, we had better make up our minds pretty soon—we've had our first warning.

The second event which took the world by surprise was the removal of Mr. Khrushchev and his replacement as Premier by Alexei Kosygin and as General Secretary of the Communist Party by Leonid Brezhnev. What was the reason for this change? Are the Soviet leaders seeking a closer alliance with Peking? Did they have advance notice of China's acquisition of the nuclear bomb and hasten to unload Khrushchev as a first step toward healing the breach with mainland China?

A chill of fear gripped the world lest the change of Soviet leaders meant an end to the policy of peaceful coexistence followed by Khrushchev. The new Soviet leadership has gone to great pains to assure everyone that there has been no change in their external policy. Messages have been sent to every government stating that the Soviet Union desires the lessening of international tensions, further moves toward disarmament and a strengthening of the United Nations.

We are witnessing a weakening in the two great military alliances that have divided the world for the past sixteen years. The Communist satellites are showing less subservience in their dealings with the Soviet Union and some of the Western nations are taking a much more independent line in their relations with the United States. This is all to the good. As long as the world consisted of two tightly-knit military camps the danger of a major confrontation was

always present. Perhaps we are seeing a break-up of these alliances and a spring thaw that could lead to an end of the cold war.

The third event which may have far-reaching repercussions was the election of a Labour Government in Britain. In spite of their comparative affluence, a growing number of people there are concerned about the need for more effective measures to meet the impact of automation arising out of the scientific revolution. Harold Wilson has been calling for the modernising of industry, more effective use of manpower and the abolition of poverty. Even with his slim majority the new Prime Minister seems determined to give Britain a new sense of purpose and direction.

The Labour victory, along with the sensational gains made by the Social Democrats in West Germany's recent municipal elections, indicate that new forces are at work in Europe. Democratic Socialism is now offering a real alternative to nations that want neither Communism nor reactionary regimes. We are probably witnessing a major shift in the political thinking of our time.

For Canada the election of a Labour government sets at rest our fears that Britain might enter the European Common Market and close her doors to our wheat, lumber and other primary products. Harold Wilson has long been an advocate of increased Commonwealth trade. The Pearson Government has a golden opportunity to reduce its imbalance of trade with the United States by cooperating with Britain in an expanded Commonwealth trading programme. Prime Minister Wilson's visit to Ottawa will be awaited with interest.