



## Bureau hears mission reports

Reports from the three SI missions to Central America, the Philippines and Haiti, which took place in the first six months of this year, were the main items on the agenda of the meeting of the SI Bureau held in Lima on 19 June, the eve of the Congress.

The meeting – historic if only because it would be the last gathering of the *Bureau* – made a number of recommendations to the forthcoming Congress on such matters as applications for membership, nominations for the presidium and the adoption of the new statutes.

The Bureau also discussed arrangements surrounding the proposed mission to Chile (agreed at the previous Bureau meeting in Vienna in October 1985) and heard a report from the Italian Socialist Party (PSI) on a conference of Mediterranean socialist parties on the crisis in the region and terrorism.

The delegates were welcomed by Carlos Roca Cáceres, the chair of the international commission of the host Peruvian Aprista Party (PAP), who thanked them for the solidarity shown by the International in the difficult circumstances faced by the PAP and the Peruvian government at the present time. He reaffirmed

the government's determination to continue its democratic revolution and to face the terrorist threat.

### Mission reports

In accordance with the SI's policy of supporting the efforts for peace in the region, the Vienna Bureau had decided to send a mission to **Central America** and to other countries with the aim of making contact with governments, political parties and other interested organisations in favour of negotiation and dialogue.

Led by Carlos Andrés Pérez (Democratic Action, AD, Venezuela), the mission visited Caracas, San Jose, Managua, Guatemala City, Mexico City and Washington between 3-10 February (see *SI NEWS 1/86*, page 26).

In his report, Pérez reviewed recent developments in the Contadora peace process and internal developments in the region. He referred specifically to the presidential elections in Costa Rica (won by Óscar Arias Sánchez, the candidate of the National Liberation Party, PLN), Guatemala and Honduras in the two months preceding the mission as positive developments. Against that, however, there had been 'very discouraging'

developments in the peace process in the weeks leading up to the Bureau meeting, in particular during and following the meeting of the Contadora Group in Panama on 6 June. He also expressed his deep concern over the Reagan administration's apparent determination to bring about a war-like solution to the problems of the region.

Conny Frederiksson (Swedish Social Democratic Party, SAP) introduced the report on the situation in the **Philippines**. An SI delegation visited the country from 2-11 February to observe the presidential elections held on 7 February and to explore the possibilities for the development of democratic socialist forces in the post-Marcos era (see *SI NEWS 1/86*, page 25).

The election of Cory Aquino had raised hopes for the implementation of major changes, he noted. Many opposition groups were now able to work freely, and a new constitution was being drafted. But, he noted, the basic political structure erected during the Marcos dictatorship still remained in place – until now, for instance, provincial governors and village authorities appointed by Marcos had not yet been replaced.

Carlos Andrés Pérez also presented the report on the

mission to **Haiti**, which took place on 13-14 May (see *SI NEWS 2/86*, page 19). Having met representatives from all shades of the country's political spectrum, the mission had found a number of political parties and groups keen to establish themselves after twenty-nine years of repression under the Duvalier dictatorship.

But, Pérez warned, there was a serious danger of violence and instability if the transition to democracy was thwarted and if massive economic help for the Americas' poorest country was not forthcoming. For this reason the report stressed that (a) the democratic process must be supported and (b) economic aid is indispensable to ensure the success of democracy in Haiti.

The Bureau adopted the three reports unanimously and without amendment.

### From Bureau to Council

Concluding the meeting, Willy Brandt confirmed that the next Bureau meeting would be held in Bonn, Federal Germany, on 16-17 October at the invitation of his party, the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD). The main theme of the meeting – which, since the Congress subsequently adopted a revision of the statutes, will be the first SI Council meeting – would be 'Economy and the Environment'.