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Meeting of the Bureau of the Socialist International

A meeting of the Bureau of the Socialist International was held in Congress House, London, on February 5 and 6, 1964. The session on February 5 was presided over by the Leader of the British Labour Party, Harold Wilson, a Vice-Chairman of the International, and later by the former Minister of Education of Belgium, Victor Larock, and that on February 6 by the International Secretary of the Dutch Labour Party, Max van der Stoel.

Also present were: Karl Czernetz (Austria), Jan Luyten (Belgium), Niels Matthiasen (Denmark), Pauli Burman (Finland), Robert Pontillon (France), Hans-Eberhard Dingels (Germany), David Ennals (Great Britain), Eliahu Speiser and S. Levenberg (Israel), Sture Ericson (International Union of Socialist Youth), Pamela Peachey (Women's Secretary), and Albert Carthy (Secretary).

The meeting was the first held since the death of the Chairman of the Socialist International, the late Erich Ollenhauer. Harold Wilson paid a tribute to the devoted service which Erich

Ollenhauer had given to the cause of Socialism in his own country and to the international Socialist Movement.

The Bureau decided to take steps for the election of a successor to Erich Ollenhauer at the meetings held in Brussels in September, 1964. In the meantime, Harold Wilson agreed to undertake the duties of acting Chairman.

The Bureau endorsed the steps which had been taken to secure protest action by member parties in respect of trials in Spain of members of the Spanish Workers' Socialist Party (P.S.O.E.) and the General Union of Workers (U.G.T.) on charges of seeking to re-establish the Socialist Movement, and the trials in Morocco of representatives of the National Union of Popular Forces (U.N.F.P.) on charges of plotting against the King. These are dealt with elsewhere in this issue. Endorsement was also given to the action taken jointly with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (I.C.F.T.U.) for the defence of Khalifa Abdulla Hasson who was charged with the murder of

BUREAU RESOLUTION ON WORLD TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

The Bureau passed the following resolution on February 6:

The Bureau of the Socialist International appeals to all governments, especially those of the industrialised nations, to do their utmost to make the coming U.N. World Conference on Trade and Development a success. In the last decade, the share of developing countries in world trade has decreased considerably. It is of vital importance for them that this trend should be reversed. To this end, industrial nations must be willing:

(1) Progressively to abolish tariffs and

purchase taxes on tropical products;

(2) To give industrial exports of developing countries far greater access to their markets;

(3) To conclude world wide commodity agreements for a number of primary products in order to stabilise price levels;

(4) To work out a scheme to compensate developing countries for a decrease in export earnings resulting from changes in the terms of trade;

(5) To deal urgently with the problems of financing the expansion of international trade.

At the same time the Bureau of the Socialist International appeals to all democratic countries of Europe to do all in their power to ensure the success of the "Kennedy round" at the forthcoming GATT Conference.

As the success of both these Conferences is of the utmost importance for organising world trade in general, and the future of the developing countries in particular, the Bureau urges member parties to follow carefully both Conferences and, by their initiative and pressures to ensure, that these Conferences achieve their aims.

the Deputy High Commissioner of Aden and an Indian woman who were killed in the bomb outrage which occurred at Aden Airport on December 10 last.

The Bureau noted with satisfaction the release immediately before Christmas, following representations made by Harold Wilson and by the vice-Chancellor of Austria, Bruno Pittermann, of the remaining leading Czechoslovak Social Democrats in prison, Vladimír Goerner, Josef Veverka, Frantisek Coupek, Vaclav Koubek, and Zdenek Kreidl.

A programme of meetings was arranged in connection with the Ceremonial Congress to be held in Brussels on September 5, 1964. On September 2 and 3, the Standing Joint Committee on Developing Areas will meet, and on September 4, the Bureau ; on September 6, there will be held the Mass Demonstration, with international participation. On September 7, 8, and 9, the Council Conference of the Socialist International will be held. The agenda of the Conference will include discussion of the proposals on the reorganisation of the Socialist International, the debate on which was opened at the Eighth Congress held in Amsterdam in September, 1963.

The Bureau considered the forthcoming World Conference on Trade and Development, and adopted the resolution published on the previous page.

In October next, a Conference of Economic Experts will be held in Berneustadt.

The next meeting of the Bureau will be held on May 12-13.

Australian Labour Party sets up Federal Secretariat

At its last meeting, the Bureau of the Socialist International received with pleasure notification from the Australian Labour Party that the Federal Secretariat had been established in Canberra. The Bureau is also pleased to advise member parties and Socialist press of the desire of the Australian Labour Party to be put on the mailing list for publication. Its address is Fifth Floor, Ainslie Building, 39, Ainslie Avenue, Canberra City, Australia.

Furthermore if member parties or Socialist press would be interested to receive articles on the Australian Labour Party, its programme and activities for reproduction in their own publication, they are asked to communicate at once with the General Secretary, Cyril S. Wyndham.

Israel's Water Project

by LEVI ESHKOL

We publish below a statement made in the Knesset on January 20.

Last week, thirteen Arab Heads of State and representatives met in Cairo at the invitation of the Egyptian President in order to discuss ways of sabotaging the State of Israel Water Plan. At the end of the Conference, a statement was issued containing attacks and threats against Israel, and reporting the adoption of decisions in both the military and the technical sphere. Whatever was obscure in the statement was spelt out later by the Secretary-General of the Arab League, who announced the establishment of military, administrative and financial machinery for the execution of what he called "the Arab Plan for the Jordan Waters". This means the diversion of the head waters of the Jordan to prevent its waters flowing into Israeli territory, with the further purpose of increasing the salinity of the water that will remain. The deliberations of the Conference were held *in camera*, but, before the first session was closed to the public, the President of Egypt managed to reveal the gist of several decisions adopted in 1960 and 1961 by the Council of the Arab League, the League's Defence Council and the Supreme Council of the Arab General Staffs. These decisions dealt with military and engineering measures designed to prevent the execution of Israel's Water Plan. The President of Egypt expressly stated that the measures planned in 1960/61 were to have been based on united military operations by the Arab States against Israel. From the Egyptian President's statement, it is clear without a shadow of doubt that, if these military and engineering plans to the detriment of Israel's rights and security were not carried out, it was only because the practical conditions required were lacking.

A few days have passed since the Conference of Arab Heads of State broke up, and it is important that the world should be made aware of the deplorable significance of the decisions it took and the statements it issued. All the States that took part in the Conference are members of the United Nations Organisation. Under the Charter of the United Nations, it is their duty to refrain not only from the use of force, but from any threat of force against any other country. Compliance with these prin-

ciples of the United Nations Charter is humanity's only hope of emerging from the nightmare of war and of building a better world founded on justice, law and peace. In recent times, the world has become more sensitive to the vital need for a relaxation of world and regional tensions in order to avoid the danger of armed violence. The aspiration for peace in our time comes from the hearts of all mankind. It is common to all nations and all continents. And it is in these very days that the Arab Heads of State openly and expressly proclaim that they planned acts of aggression against another state entitled to equal rights in the comity of nations, and announce their intention to revive these plans and carry them into effect. Is it not clear that those who make such proclamations regard the Charter of the United Nations as no more than a worthless scrap of paper? Has it not been demonstrated afresh that the signatures of Egypt and the other Arab countries on the Charter of the United Nations are of no value whatsoever? We find ourselves confronted with a doctrine of international relations to which there is no parallel in our generation. It is contrary to all law and morality. It makes a mockery of the repeated declarations by the Egyptian President and his colleagues of their devotion to peace and world disarmament. It runs contrary to the mainstream of international thought in our days which has, as its central objective, the relaxation of tension and the strengthening of peace.

While it is not yet clear what the practical results of the Cairo Conference will be, it has already brought out into the clear light of day the aggressive and destructive aims that should shock the conscience of every lover of peace. Thirteen Heads of State were moved to assemble and deliberate together. How deplorable it is that the purpose of their meeting was not the social and economic advancement of their tens of millions of people. How horrifying that the only aim that could bring them together under one roof was their lust for aggression against a neighbouring state. The Cairo Conference has laid bare a general posture of their hostility to Israel, but the main subject with which it dealt was our country's