

# Socialist Affairs

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## SI BUREAU MEETING

The Bureau of the Socialist International met in London on March 30 — its first meeting since the Congress of the Socialist International held in Geneva on November 26-28, 1976. It was chaired by the new President of the Socialist International, Willy Brandt. Two Vice-Presidents of the Socialist International were also present: Léopold S. Senghor, President of Senegal, and Irène

Pétrý, Chairman of the International Council of Social Democratic Women. Fifty-five delegates representing 33 member organizations attended the meeting.

Among the subjects discussed by the Bureau were the future work of the Socialist International and the situation in Spain less than two months before the first free elections for more than 40 years. Felipe

Gonzalez, First Secretary of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE), reported on the situation. The Bureau also heard a report on the situation in India by M. S. Hoda, European representative of the Indian Socialist Party, which now, together with its allies in the Janata Front, forms the new Indian Government [see elsewhere in this issue].

As regards the future work of the Socialist International, the Bureau discussed the Party Leaders' Conference to be held in Amsterdam on April 16-17, 1977, at the invitation of the Dutch Labour Party. It was agreed that the principal theme of this conference would be relations between East and West after the Helsinki Declaration of 1975.

The Bureau also discussed a Party Leaders' Conference of the Socialist International which is planned to be held in Japan, on December 17-19, 1977, at the joint invitation of the Japan Socialist Party and the Japan Democratic Socialist Party.

Other initiatives discussed by the Bureau were:

- A Socialist International mission to southern Africa under the leadership of Olof Palme, Chairman of the Swedish Social Democratic Party. This mission will visit the "front-line" states of Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia, and possibly also other countries.

- A conference on Chile to be held in Rotterdam on August 29-31, 1977.

- A Conference on energy policies to be held in France on September 22-23, 1977.

The dates for the next Congress of the Socialist International were fixed for November 3-5, 1978. It will be held in Vancouver, Canada.

Ron Hayward, Jenny Little, Ian Mikardo, Alex Kitson, Benedikt Groendal





The Bureau unanimously adopted statements on Spain and Czechoslovakia (see below) and approved the appointment of Rodney Balcomb (36, Britain) as Assistant General Secretary of the Socialist International.

The next meeting of the Bureau will be held in Rome on June 2-3. It will mainly deal with the problems of Europe and the Mediterranean area.

### Statement on Spain

The Bureau of the Socialist International, after hearing the report of the First Secretary of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) on the situation in Spain:

- Reaffirms its solidarity with the PSOE, and supports its tenacious efforts to achieve a democratic regime for Spain which will guarantee the exercise of individual and collective freedoms.

- Notes with optimism the evolution which has taken place in Spain but observes with concern that the continued existence of autocratic practices of the former regime could have a negative effect as regards the impartial conduct of the forthcoming elections, which we consider to be of vital importance for Spain's process of transformation and a determining factor for that country's future relations with the other countries of Western Europe.

- States its firm resolve to maintain close contacts with its Spanish member organisation, the PSOE, in order to follow step by step the development of the situation at this time of particular importance for the emergence of democracy in Spain.

### Statement on Czechoslovakia

The Bureau of the Socialist International confirms and underlines the declarations made by Willy Brandt, Bettino Craxi, Bruno Kreisky, François Mitterrand and Olof Palme with regard to the controversy about the Charter 77 manifesto in Czechoslovakia.

We are aware of the difficult conditions under which there and in other places people try — accepting severe sacrifices — to achieve their civil and human rights. We express our expectation that those citizens too will benefit from the principles of Helsinki.

José Francisco Peña Gomez,  
Leopold Sedar Senghor



### Bureau Participants

#### Socialist International:

Willy Brandt

Bernt Carlsson

#### International Council of Social

Democratic Women:

Irène Pétry

Vera Matthias

#### International Union of Socialist Youth:

Friedrich Roll

#### Argentina:

Victor Garcia Costa

#### Austria:

Fritz Marsch

Walter Hacker

#### Belgium:

Victor Larock

Karel van Miert

#### Canada:

Robin Sears

#### Chile:

Anibal Palma

Carlos Parra

#### Denmark:

Ejner Hovgaard Christiansen

#### Dominican Republic:

José Francisco Peña Gomez

#### Finland:

Paavo Lipponen

Helvi Saarinen

Pentti Vaananen

#### France:

Robert Pontillon

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Horst Ehmke

Wilhelm Droescher

Hans-Eberhard Dingels

#### Great Britain:

Ron Hayward

Ian Mikardo

Alex Kitson

Jenny Little

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Benedikt Groendal

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Surur Hoda

#### Israel:

Israel Gat

Nava Arad

Yoram Peri

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Egidio Ariosto

#### Italy (PSI):

Gianni Finocchiaro

Gino Bianco

Enrica Lucarelli

#### Japan (DSP):

Eiichi Nagasue

#### Japan (SPJ):

Shozo Sugiyama

#### Luxembourg:

Robert Krieps

#### Malta:

Francis Cassar

Jo Bartolo

#### Mauritius:

Leckraz Teelock

#### Netherlands:

Harry van den Bergh

#### New Zealand:

Frank Duffield

#### Northern Ireland (SDLP):

Dennis Haughey

Paddy Devlin

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Bjoern Tore Godal

Thorvald Stoltenberg

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Rui Mateus

#### Senegal:

Léopold S. Senghor

Babacar Bá

Caroline Diop

#### Spain:

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Luis Yañez Barnuevo

Luis Solana

#### Sweden:

Pierre Schori

#### Switzerland:

Christoph Berger

#### Guest:

Otto Kersten, International

Confederation of Free Trade Unions

Felipe Gonzalez, Willy Brandt

