



WILLY BRANDT AND THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

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Willy Brandt has died.

His death has deprived us of a man who for sixteen years was the inspired and inspiring leader of the Socialist International, the architect of its worldwide growth. Germany, Europe and the world have lost a great statesman.

Even as we in the Socialist International mourn him, we are conscious that the strategy he set out for our organisation is an enduring one. That had already been demonstrated at the congress held in Berlin in September which illness prevented him from attending.

It was the biggest gathering ever convened by our organisation, drawing together all those who profess the ideals of democratic socialism and who share in the task of putting them into effect in all corners of the globe.

The debates ended, as if in tribute to Brandt, with a set of resolutions that addressed the principal political questions at issue in the world today, providing a global vision of social democracy for the 1990s.

The Socialist International under its new president Pierre Mauroy is committed to making this vision a reality.

THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL MOURNS THE DEATH OF WILLY BRANDT

The Socialist International, the worldwide organisation of social democratic, socialist and labour parties, mourns the death of Willy Brandt, its president from November 1976 until the XIX Congress of the Socialist International held last month in Berlin, the city so closely associated with the life and concerns of Willy Brandt.

Our International had for sixteen years the honour of being led by one of the world's greatest statesmen, a man whose life and work uniquely symbolised the ideals and principles of our movement.

Democratic socialists everywhere today feel great sadness. We salute with pride the achievements of Willy Brandt, and his lifelong dedication to peace, to the defence of human rights, to a more just and democratic world, and to bringing people together in a common vision of a shared future.

We are proud to have worked with the man who will always be remembered for his resolute opposition to nazism; for his far-sighted policies as Chancellor of Germany; for his refusal to accept a divided Europe and his influential *Ostpolitik*; and for his leading role in mobilising consciousness of North-South issues and the urgent questions of development and inequality.

Under Willy Brandt's presidency the Socialist International was transformed into a truly global organisation which has been able to rise to the challenges of our times, and which today carries the hopes and expectations of millions of democratic socialists all over the world.

As the recent Congress of the Socialist International in Berlin declared, 'Willy Brandt's name will for ever be linked to the history of our International. During his years in the presidency he displayed the vision, the wisdom and the determination of a great leader. He has been the creative force which planted and nurtured the ideals of social democracy and solidarity throughout the globe. He leaves us a solid legacy upon which we will continue to build.'

Pierre Mauroy
President

Luis Ayala
Secretary General

9 October 1992



THE LAST FAREWELLS

The state funeral service for Willy Brandt was held in the Reichstag in Berlin on 17 October in the presence of many world leaders and comrades from the Socialist International. His coffin was then borne by officers of German armed forces out of the former parliament building to be interred in the Zehlendorf cemetery.

Paying his tribute, the German president, Richard von Weizsäcker said, 'the life of a great man has come to an end. He has left his mark on an epoch. He was a man who reconciled Germans with themselves'.

His friend of long standing Felipe González, the Spanish prime minister and SI vice-president said, 'I personally know that all the members of the International whose president you were for so long, and all those who knew you, learned to treasure your compassion, your warmth and the strength of your loyalty'.

'A month ago, after the end of the congress of the Socialist International in this hall, which you were

unable to chair, I called on you to greet you. You asked me about various points to do with the congress and after I'd told you three times that everything had gone off well you said to me with a little laugh, "It seems everything goes on better without me".

'From that moment, and in the knowledge that we would not meet again, you began to take your leave, and spoke of the many difficulties facing Europe and my country. You wished me the best of luck for the next few years and encouraged me to continue to work towards the ideals which we share.

'I neither had nor knew an answer to these simple, heartfelt and serene parting words. I could not speak to you of a future, of which you would no longer be a part.

'I could only express my thanks for your words, and now I would like to say to you, who can no longer hear me, "Farewell, Willy my friend".

'Your life is a piece of Germany's and Europe's history', González went on, 'If we might learn something of this history whose unfolding you experienced, it would make easier the end of this stormy twentieth century.

'You battled against the worst nationalism of those who took your nationality away from you and forced you to flee your country.

'You found new citizenship in another European country, and when totalitarianism had been vanquished, regained your original one. But in the same way that you never gave up feeling German, so you never relinquished being a citizen of Europe.

In his tribute, Björn Engholm, leader of the German Social Democratic Party, said, 'Exiled by the Nazis he found protection and a new political home in Scandinavia. He followed Nordic democracies with their humane and often radical pragmatism which are alien to abstract theorising. After 1945 no one embodied the other, the republican, the

social, the European Germany better than he did. Every gesture of his in the ghetto was unforgettable. The fact that he fell on his knees in Warsaw is living history.

'Willy Brandt is to be thanked for the fact that our country regained the honour it had lost - now even in the East. Millions of people in Germany and Europe are thankful for his policy of detente and of compromise as the way to freedom, and eventually also to unity.

'The oppressed and the suffering have indeed lost a friend. ... I hope that his death affects for a while our conscience, and that we resolve always to find courage for the truth; to build up our strength where it serves the people; to unite what belongs together, even if this means suffering; not to allow selfishness to expand endlessly. Above all, firmly to meet the political vandalism of the Right, in the spirit of Willy Brandt's words, "He who allows injustice to happen, paves the way for fresh injustice". In any event, we young people, whom he early on offered the chance to work together, came to rely on the fact that he was always there.

'His and our political home, social democracy, must stay as he was, open to the world, European, patriotic, eager for reform, on the left and free'.

Other funeral orations were delivered by Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor; Rita Süßmuth, speaker of the Bundestag, and Eberhard Diepgen, mayor of Berlin.



REMEMBER YOUR STRENGTH

*Willy Brandt's message
to the Berlin congress*

Dear friends,

Need I say how much I would have liked to have been with you today? But it was not to be - and so I must send you my greetings in writing.

Need I say how happy and proud I am that you are meeting in Berlin? Any number of venues in the new democracies in the East would have been worthy meeting places. But why not admit it? I was very moved when Felipe González suggested Berlin.

And why not add that I felt that if it was to be Berlin we should meet in the Riechstag: the place in Germany where war and peace in Europe has so often been at issue. The place where freedom and subjugation have so often been debated.

A while ago I asked that the leadership of our International be placed in younger hands. I had been at its head for sixteen years and I felt that this was a long time. But after all, what are sixteen years in the light of the centuries of tradition behind us?

And yet in that short time this city, this country and this whole continent have changed. In fact, the whole world is not the same world as it was in 1976 when I took up this office in Geneva.

To secure peace was not our only aim, but it was our first priority - peace between two blocs that were armed with nuclear weapons and which we thought were firmly entrenched; the peace without which freedom could not be attained.

Today, only one and a half decades later, we are no longer concerned about securing that peace; we are concerned about restoring any peace at all in many places in this extensively liberated and yet so disturbed world.

The parties gathered together in our community are committed to their countries and their countries have a commitment to the world - to their own part of the world and to the whole world. The fact that we have expanded beyond Europe and have become a truly worldwide and thus also a diverse community, affords me - and all of us - special satisfaction. However, the number of members we have and the number of those wishing to become members are not values in themselves. They are an obligation.

Wherever people are being caused great suffering it concerns us all. Do not forget, if injustice is allowed to continue for long this is opening the door to future injustice.

Strengthening the United Nations has been one of our old and familiar goals. Now that progress is beginning to be made and the UN is gaining influence, if not power, it is worth making a great effort. Let us help to provide the United Nations with the means it needs to exert influence.

Even after the start of the new era in 1989 and 1990 the world could not be only 'good'. However, now as at no other time in the past, a multitude of possibilities (both good and bad) are open to us. Nothing happens on its own - and few things last forever. So remember your strength and that all times call for their own answers. We must keep abreast of them if we are to achieve good.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped.

I hope that your deliberations will be fruitful. May my successor be blessed with the strength and good fortune he deserves.

Unkel, 14 September 1992