

Socialists on Rhodesia (*continued*)

We publish further Socialist reactions to the illegal Rhodesian declaration of independence [see last issue].

The British Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, announced stiffer economic measures against Rhodesia on December 1. In addition to the existing embargoes on trade in tobacco and sugar covering 70 per cent of Rhodesia's exports to Britain, embargoes have now been placed on other exports, bringing the total to 95 per cent. Among the items on the new list are asbestos, copper, maize and meat. British exports to Rhodesia now have to be paid for before leaving Britain and further restrictions have been placed on financial dealings with Rhodesia. Virtually all current payments from Britain to Rhodesian residents, including salaries, pensions and dividends, have been banned. British firms and banks are barred from transferring funds to their subsidiaries and branches in Rhodesia.

Mr. Wilson also announced a number of military moves taken to defend Zambia, Rhodesia's northern neighbour. A squadron of Javelin aircraft and a detachment of the R.A.F. regiment have been flown to Zambia to protect airports. The aircraft carrier Eagle, carrying Buccaneer bombers, Sea Vixen fighters and Gannets for airborne radar, is cruising off the coast of Tanzania. Mr. Wilson said that any British unit sent to Zambia would be "under unequivocal British command". He also said: "I have given President Kaunda an assurance that we shall not stand idly by if Rhodesia cuts off power supplies to the copper-belt".

On December 3 the British Government took over control of the Reserve Bank of Rhodesia. This means that the Smith régime will be denied access to Rhodesian funds—believed to amount to £22 millions—in other countries.

The National Council of the Social Democratic Party of Madagascar passed the following resolution on November 30:

In view of the unilateral declaration of independence made by the Prime Minister of Rhodesia, Ian Smith, establishing a White minority Government in Rhodesia,

Considering that this unilateral declaration is contrary to democratic principles, to the rights of man, and to the interests of the majority of the population,

Believing that this situation constitutes a form of Apartheid already condemned by the United Nations,

The National Council of the P.S.D.

vigorously condemns the flagrant violation of universally accepted democratic principles;

Severely condemns the unilateral declaration of independence made by the Prime Minister, Ian Smith;

Supports unreservedly the position taken up by Philibert Tsiranana, President of the Malagasy Republic in declarations made both in Asia and Europe;

Calls on all countries to refrain from any political, economic, financial and military actions which might aid or encourage the illegal régime instituted by Ian Smith;

Calls on the Government of the United Kingdom to carry out swiftly and vigorously all the measures it has proposed in order to put an end to this rebellion; and

Socialist International Bureau meeting

The Bureau of the Socialist International met in the headquarters of the Austrian Socialist Party on December 9 under the Chairmanship of Bruno Pittermann. There were also present: Karl Czernetz, Robert Rauscher (Austria); Robert Pontillon (France); Hans-Eberhard Dingels (Germany); Eirene White, Len Williams (Great Britain); Antonio Cariglia (Italy); Pieter Dankert (Netherlands); Anders Thunborg (Sweden); Sture Ericson (International Union of Socialist Youth); Gertrude Wondrak (International Council of Social Democratic Women) and Albert Carthy (Socialist International).

The main business of the meeting was devoted to finalising arrangements for the Congress of the Socialist International to be held in Stockholm from May 5-8, 1966, and for the preceding special conference. The theme of the special conference will be "Democratic Socialist thought and action in the new countries". This special conference will be of a private character, but the same theme will be discussed at the Congress, which will also discuss the international situation, the integration of Europe, and disarmament. Provisions will also be made for discussion of the problem of future liaison in the Asia-Oceania area, to respond to the desire of the parties in the area and aiming at a final discussion of the problem at a meeting point in Asia at the end of 1966.

Calls on the Security Council and on the Government of the United Kingdom to find a democratic solution by applying in particular the principles of self-determination by way of negotiations.

G. Nederhorst, Parliamentary Leader of the Dutch Labour Party, has urged the Dutch Government to announce jointly with Belgium and Luxembourg as quickly as possible a complete embargo on products from Rhodesia. In a written Parliamentary question he asked whether the Government realised that Amsterdam tobacco firms had imported great quantities of tobacco from Rhodesia, thereby cutting across the British embargo.

The International Union of Socialist Youth has called on all its affiliated members "to make public their support of the freedom-fighters of Zimbabwe and of the recent U.N. resolutions designed to wrest power from the hands of Ian Smith and his henchmen", and to give funds to the Liberation Committee of the Organisation of African Unity.

The Bureau had reports on the political situation in France following the presidential elections, and on the prospect for Socialist unification in Italy following the favourable decision at the Congress of the Italian Socialist Party [see last issue]. The Bureau expressed its confidence in the action undertaken by the Italian Social Democratic Party in preparing the Party Congress in Naples next month to deal with the problem of unification. It wished the efforts of the British Labour Party all success in the discharge of its heavy responsibilities in Rhodesia. The Bureau expressed its deep concern over the kidnapping of the Moroccan Opposition leader El Mehdi Ben Barka, [see *S.I.I.*, Vol. XV, No. 23] and its fears as to his fate.

The Bureau convened for Rome on January 15-16 a high-level economic conference which will discuss: "The struggle against inflation", "The economic development of Europe: The E.E.C. and national middle-term plans", "International economic exchanges—'The Kennedy Round'." The Disarmament Commission of the Socialist International will meet again on February 5-6 in Geneva in order to prepare a draft of resolutions for consideration by parties as a policy document for the Stockholm Congress. The next meeting of the Bureau will be held in London on March 18, 1966.