

DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE BUREAU OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL
(AT ITS MEETINGS ON DECEMBER 9, 1973, AND JANUARY 6, 1974)
CONCERNING THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL MISSION TO THE
MIDDLE EAST

Status and Basic Purpose

The mission is to visit the Middle East, and is to be a fact-finding body; it is to be composed of representatives of member Parties at the highest possible level. The mission is a mission of the Bureau of the International and the report of the mission should be presented to the Bureau. The members of the mission should all travel together and all visit the same countries.

Dates of Mission

The mission should visit the Middle East between mid-February and mid-March, 1974. The mission could make one trip or two trips depending upon the number of countries to be visited and on the dates when members of the mission were free to travel.

Countries to be Visited

The mission must visit Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Syria and if there is to be more than one trip made by the mission, these four countries must all be included in the first trip. Israel must be the very first country to be visited by the mission. It is left to the preparatory meeting of mission members (see below) to decide which other Arab countries, if any, should be visited by the mission. Other countries which have been suggested at different times by different members of the Bureau are Algeria, Libya, Lebanon, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, and contact also with leaders of the Palestinians.

Membership of the Mission

Membership of the mission is to consist of :

- one representative of the Austrian Socialist Party (Dr. Bruno Kreisky will be the representative and will act as leader of the mission);
- one representative of the member Parties in the Benelux countries (it has been agreed that the Dutch Labour Party will represent the Benelux parties);
- one representative of the British Labour Party;
- one representative of the French Socialist Party;
- one representative of the German Social Democratic Party;
- one representative of the Italian Social Democratic Party; and

- one representative of the Nordic member Parties (it has been agreed that the Swedish Social Democratic Party will represent the Nordic Parties).

Preparatory Meeting of Mission

There should be a preparatory meeting of members of the mission together with the Chairman and General Secretary. The preparatory meeting should reach conclusions concerning the exact dates of the mission, countries to be visited (except that Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Syria must be visited as stated above) and terms of reference (taking into account all views expressed at the January 6 Bureau meeting, as contained in the note prepared by the Secretariat). The preparatory meeting should also decide whether or not a member of the staff of the Secretariat should accompany the mission. The conclusions of the preparatory meeting should be circulated to the members of the Bureau so that, if any Bureau member found any of the conclusions unacceptable, a Bureau meeting could be convened to discuss this before the departure of the mission.

Publicity

The report of the mission should be presented to the Bureau and the Bureau will decide what should or should not be published. Therefore the mission should give no press conferences or interviews until the Bureau has heard the report of the mission and has decided what can be published. Concerning what information could be made public following the January 6 Bureau meeting, the Bureau agreed that it could be announced at that stage that the Bureau had decided to send a fact-finding mission to the Middle East between mid-February and mid-March which would be led by Bruno Kreisky; the Parties which will be participating in the mission could be named but no names of individuals were to be made public at that stage; no other information was to be published at that stage.

Individual Members of the Mission

The present position as regards the individuals who would represent their Parties on the mission is as follows :

- The Austrian Socialist Party will be represented by Dr. Bruno Kreisky;
- The Dutch Labour Party will be represented, it is hoped, by a government minister;
- The British Labour Party will be represented by either Harold Wilson, James Callaghan or Ian Mikardo;
- The French Socialist Party may possibly be represented by François Mitterrand;
- The German Social Democratic Party will be represented either by Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski or someone of similar level in the Party;
- The Italian Social Democratic Party will be represented by Antonio Cariglia; and
- The Swedish Social Democratic Party will be represented by Bernt Carlsson.