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To Bureau members

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IN ENGLISH ONLY

REPORT TO BUREAU ON MEETING OF MIDDLE EAST STUDY GROUP
OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL HELD IN LONDON ON JANUARY 15, 1975

The Chairman, Dr Bruno Pittermann, has requested that, when possible, all reports which are to be made to meetings of the Bureau should be circulated to the members of the Bureau in advance of the meeting. In accordance with this request, please find attached a short report on the meeting of the Middle East Study Group of the Socialist International held in London on January 15, 1975; this report will be considered by the Bureau of the International at its meeting in London on March 22-23, 1975.

Rodney Falconer

P. P. Hans Janitschek.
General Secretary.

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1. It was decided to ask the Bureau to request parties to send experts to meetings of the Study Group.
 2. The Study Group discussed the question of inviting a delegation from the Arab Socialist Union of Egypt to attend a meeting of the Study Group (already agreed in principle by the Bureau) in order to assist the Study Group in its study of Egypt. It was decided to send to the ASU a questionnaire dealing with the ASU, and the political, economic and social system in Egypt, and it was decided that, subject to the ASU sending a reply to the questionnaire, the ASU should be invited to send representatives to attend the next meeting of the Study Group.
 3. The Austrian Socialist Party had invited the Study Group to hold its next meeting in Vienna, and there was also before the Study Group an invitation from the Dutch Labour Party to hold the next meeting of the Study Group in the Netherlands. On grounds of cost, however, the Study Group decided to recommend to the Bureau that the next meeting of the Study Group should be held in London; it was decided to try to convene this next meeting of the Study Group in the spring of 1975.
 4. The National Union of Popular Forces (UNFP) of Morocco had sent a letter to the secretariat describing the political repression in Morocco and inviting the Socialist International to send to Morocco a mission of enquiry to investigate the situation with regard to human rights in that country. The Study Group decided to recommend to the Bureau that such a mission should be sent to Morocco.
 5. It was reported to the Study Group that the Syrian Ambassador in London had informed the General Secretary of the International that the work of the Study Group was being followed with interest in Syria and that the Ba'ath Party of Syria hoped that the Study Group would soon begin to study Syria and the Ba'ath Party, possibly even before completing its study of Egypt. The ambassador had said that in such a case, the Ba'ath Party would invite representatives of the International to visit Syria; he had said also that the Syrian Ba'ath Party was interested in some formalized relationship with the International and had enquired about membership of the International. The Study Group recommended that the secretariat should contact the Syrian Ba'ath Party and ask them to send information concerning Syria and the Ba'ath Party; if this information arrived in time, it could be studied at the next meeting of the Study Group.
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