

October 27, 1978

THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

A brief presentation

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PROGRAM OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

The Socialist International aims at the establishment of social justice within and between nations and the ending of all forms of oppression.

The purpose of the Socialist International is to strengthen relations between affiliated parties and organisations and to coordinate their political attitudes by consent.

The Declaration of Principles as expressed in the Frankfurt program adopted in 1951 with the revision made in Oslo in 1962 is the basic program of the Socialist International. The Bureau meeting held in Hamburg in February 1978 decided however to set up a working committee with the task of preparing for a draft of a new Declaration of Principles for the Socialist International; this in view of the need to adapt policy for the needs of the eighties. The target date for adoption of the proposed new Declaration is set for the Congress of the Socialist International scheduled to be held in 1980.

Members of the working group are: Felipe Gonzalez, General Secretary of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party PSOE, Spain; Bernt Carlsson, General Secretary of the Socialist International; Karel van Miert, Co-Chairman of the Belgian Socialist Party; and Reiulf Steen, Chairman of the Norwegian Labour Party.

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HISTORY OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

The Socialist International is an international political organisation composed of socialist, social democratic and labour parties throughout the world. It has existed in different forms since 1864, when it was founded in London by Karl Marx. This First International had a short existence, however, collapsing in 1876.

In 1889 there was another attempt and a Second International was formed at a Congress held in Paris. The difficult years preceding the First World War, the war itself and the revolutions which followed, caused a division in the international working class movement. This resulted in the creation of a Third International, Comintern, by Lenin in 1919, while the Second International was reorganised as the Labour and Socialist International in 1923. Both, however, had a limited existence - the former disappearing in 1943 and the latter in 1940.

The experience gained between the wars enabled the Socialist International to be reorganised on more solid foundations.

The Socialist International emerged in its present form from the 1951 Congress in Frankfurt, but naturally since then it has developed along new lines.

At the most recent Congress of the Socialist International held in November 1976 in Geneva, Willy Brandt, Chairman of the German Social Democratic Party, was elected President and Bernt Carlsson, International Secretary of the Swedish Social Democratic Party, was elected General Secretary.

The Socialist International, throughout its history, has been mainly concentrated in Europe. The reason for this was that the industrialisation process induced by the capitalist system in Europe was the first to produce a working class movement strong enough to set up political parties to fight the system of capitalism.

The Congress of the Socialist International in Geneva in 1976 resulted in a reorganisation and strengthening of the organisation. New Statutes were adopted.

The goal now of the Socialist International, as stated by Willy Brandt, is to break out of European isolation and become a truly global movement.

The Socialist International Party Leaders' Conference in Tokyo from December 17-19, 1977, was the first of its kind ever to be held in the Pacific area by the Socialist International. This is a reflection of the main result of the Geneva Congress - the strong commitment to spread the field of work beyond the boundaries of Europe.

This followed a mission to Southern Africa in September 1977 under the leadership of Olof Palme, resulting in support for front-line governments and liberation movements in that area which are fighting for national and social liberation.

A mission to Latin America also took place, in March 1978, which was led by Mario Soares.

The first meeting of the Bureau of the Socialist International in Africa took place in Senegal in May 1978.

STRUCTURE OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

The supreme body of the Socialist International is the Congress, which meets every two years. The most recent Congress was held in Geneva in November 1976 and the next Congress will be held in Vancouver, Canada, on November 3-5, 1978. It is the Congress which proclaims the principles and determines the Statutes of the International, elects the officers of the International and decides upon the admission of new member organisations.

The officers of the Socialist International elected by the Congress are the President, the Vice-Presidents and the General Secretary. At present there are fourteen Vice-Presidents. There is also an Honorary Committee consisting of the thirteen Honorary Presidents of the Socialist International.

The International has four categories of membership - full member parties, consultative parties, fraternal organisations and associated organisations. There are two fraternal organisations - the International Council of Social Democratic Women and the International Union of Socialist Youth.

At present the Socialist International has 38 full member parties, 16 consultative parties, two fraternal organisations and nine associated organisations, or a total of 65 organisations. Of those full member or consultative parties within the Socialist International, 20 are from outside Europe.

The parties have an aggregate membership of 15 million people and the support of more than 80 million voters.

Three applications for membership of the Socialist International have been unanimously recommended by the Bureau for approval by the Vancouver Congress. These are from the Barbados Labour Party, the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR) of El Salvador and the Republican People's Party (RPP) of Turkey.

The basic difference between, on the one hand, full member parties and fraternal organisations, and on the other, consultative parties and associated organisations, is that whereas all four categories of member organisations have the right to speak at Congresses of the Socialist International, it is only the full member parties and the fraternal organisations which have the right to vote.

All full member parties and also the fraternal organisations are members of the Bureau of the Socialist International. The Bureau meets two or three times a year and makes policy decisions between Congresses.

Conferences of leaders of the member parties of the Socialist International are held once or twice a year and discuss questions of principle affecting the democratic socialist movement, long-term political strategy and important issues of international policy.

The General Secretary heads the secretariat of the Socialist International which is located in London. It is from here that "SOCIALIST AFFAIRS", the English-language bi-monthly magazine of the Socialist International, is published.

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MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

The following is a full list of all parties and organisations currently forming the Socialist International:

Full member parties

Argentina	Popular Socialist Party
Australia	Australian Labor Party (ALP)
Austria	Socialist Party (SPOe)
Belgium	Socialist Party (BSP/PSB)
Canada	New Democratic Party (NDP/NPD)
Chile	Radical Party (PR)
Costa Rica	National Liberation Party (PLN)
Denmark	Social Democratic Party
Dominican Republic	Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD)
Finland	Social Democratic Party (SDP)
France	Socialist Party (PS)
Germany (Federal Republic of)	Social Democratic Party (SPD)
Great Britain	Labour Party
Iceland	Social Democratic Party
Ireland	Labour Party
Israel	Labour Party
Italy	Italian Social Democratic Party (PSDI)
Italy	Italian Socialist Party (PSI)
Jamaica	People's National Party (PNP)
Japan	Democratic Socialist Party (DSP)
Japan	Japan Socialist Party (JSP)
Korea (Republic of)	United Socialist Party (USP)
Luxembourg	Luxembourg Socialist Workers Party (LSAP/POSL)
Malaysia	Democratic Action Party (DAP)
Malta	Malta Labour Party
Mauritius	Mauritius Labour Party
Netherlands	Dutch Labour Party (PvdA)
New Zealand	Labour Party
Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland Labour Party (NILP)
Northern Ireland	Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP)
Norway	Labour Party (DNA)

Portugal	Socialist Party (PS)
San Marino	Unitary Socialist Party
Senegal	Socialist Party of Senegal
Spain	Spanish Socialist Workers Party (PSOE)
Sweden	Social Democratic Party (SAP)
Switzerland	Social Democratic Party
USA	Social Democrats USA (SDUSA)

Consultative parties

Bulgaria	Social Democratic Party*.
Cyprus	EDEK Socialist Party
Czechoslovakia	Social Democratic Party*.
Estonia	Socialist Party*.
Hungary	Social Democratic Party*.
Latvia	Social Democratic Party*.
Lithuania	Social Democratic Party*.
Paraguay	Febrerista Revolutionary Party
Poland	Socialist Party*.
Romania	Social Democratic Party*.
USA	Democratic Socialist Organising Committee (DSOC)
Venezuela	Democratic Action (AD)
Venezuela	People's Electoral Movement (MEP)
Vietnam	Socialist Party*
Yemen (People's Democratic Republic)	People's Socialist Party*
Yugoslavia	Socialist Party*.

- * in exile
- ** member of Socialist Union of Central-Eastern Europe (SUCEE)

Fraternal organisations

International Council of Social Democratic Women (ICS DW)

International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY)

Associated organisations

Asia-Pacific Socialist Organisation

Confederation of Socialist Parties of the European Community

International Falcon Movement/Socialist Educational International

International Federation of the Socialist and Democratic Press

Jewish Labor Bund

International Union of Social Democratic Teachers

Labour Sports International

Labour Zionist Movement

Socialist Union of Central-Eastern Europe

Recommended applications for membership:

Barbados

El Salvador

Turkey

Barbados Labour Party

National Revolutionary Movement (MNR)

Republican People's Party (RPP)

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PRESIDIUM OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONALPRESIDENT

Willy Brandt

Federal Germany

HONORARY PRESIDENTS

Trygve Bratteli

Norway

Walter Bringolf

Switzerland

Tage Erlander

Sweden

Jos van Eynde

Belgium

David Lewis

Canada

Sicco Mansholt

Netherlands

Daniel Mayer

France

Golda Meir

Israel

Alfred Nau

Federal Germany

Pietro Nenni

Italy

Rafael Paasio

Finland

Bruno Pittermann

Austria

Giuseppe Saragat

Italy

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Edward Broadbent

Canada

Bettino Craxi

Italy

Bruno Kreisky

Austria

François Mitterrand

France

Daniel Oduber

Costa Rica

Olof Palme

Sweden

Irène Pétry

International Council
of Social Democratic
Women - ICSDW

Yitzhak Rabin

Israel

Léopold S. Senghor

Senegal

Mario Soares

Portugal

Anselmo Sule

Chile

Joop den Uyl

Netherlands

Gough Whitlam

Australia

Harold Wilson

Great Britain

GENERAL SECRETARY

Bernt Carlsson

Sweden

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL TIME PLAN 1977 - 1978

<u>Date</u>	<u>Function</u>	<u>Place</u>
<u>1977</u>		
March 30	BUREAU MEETING	London
April 16-17	PARTY LEADERS' CONFERENCE	Amsterdam
June 2-3	BUREAU MEETING	Rome
June 3-11	MISSION TO SOUTHERN AFRICA	Angola, Zambia, Mozambique, Botswana and Tanzania
August 29-31	CONFERENCE ON CHILE	Rotterdam
September 22-23	CONFERENCE ON ENERGY POLICIES	Marseille
October 15-16	BUREAU MEETING	Madrid
November 5-6	CONFERENCE ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT	Zürich
December 17-19	PARTY LEADERS' CONFERENCE	Tokyo
December 23-24	MISSION TO SOUTH KOREA	Seoul
<u>1978</u>		
February 9-10	BUREAU MEETING	Hamburg
February 12	ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE ON MIDDLE EAST	Vienna
March 15-26	MISSION TO LATIN AMERICA	Mexico, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Costa Rica, Venezuela
April 24-26	CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT	Helsinki
May 12-13	BUREAU MEETING	Dakar
June 15-17	MISSION TO TUNISIA	Tunis
September 28-29	BUREAU MEETING	Paris
November 2	BUREAU MEETING	Vancouver
November 3-5*	CONGRESS	Vancouver