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SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

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To Bureau members

In ENGLISH ONLY

CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL
London March 22, 1975

1. OPENING

The Chairman, Bruno Pittermann, opened the meeting at 10.15 hrs.

2. GUESTS

The Bureau agreed that Niall Greene, International Secretary of the Irish Labour Party, should attend the Bureau meeting as a guest.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On the proposal of the General Secretary, the following items were added to the Provisional Agenda (Circular No.B18/75) :

a) the Situation in Kurdistan
b) Statements on the situation in the Dominican Republic and Madagascar

The Bureau adopted the Provisional Agenda as amended.

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

On the proposal of the General Secretary, seconded by Jenny Little, adoption of the minutes of the meeting of the Bureau held in West Berlin on February 23 was deferred to the next meeting of the Bureau, following a short discussion.

5. BUREAU MEETING IN AUSTRALIA

The General Secretary gave a short outline of preparations that had been made for the meeting to be held in Adelaide, Australia, May 12-14, as outlined in Circular No.B17/75. He also informed the Bureau of the invitation that had been extended to members of the Bureau by the Malaysian Democratic Action Party.

The following parties said that they had definitely decided to attend that meeting : Britain, France, and Israel, as well as the ICSDW.

Eric Miller then referred to remarks by the General Secretary about the conduct of other officers of the Socialist International including himself as well as to complaints made by members of the staff at which point Jenny Little requested that the discussion should not be continued but that the Committee's report should be presented to the meeting of the Bureau in Dublin and that this report should be the first item on the agenda, having been circulated in good time.

Robert Pontillon stated that he would for security reasons prefer an oral report.

Gerhard Kleipsties said that any written report must not fall into the hands of those not friendly to the Socialist International.

Hans Janitschek at this point stated that the report to be submitted by a Committee had to be in writing and that precautions should certainly be taken to ensure that its secrecy was kept. He also drew attention to the terms of reference of the Committee which made it quite clear that this was not an investigation of one officer of the International only.

As proposed by Jenny Little and seconded by Yoram Peri, the Bureau decided that the Committee should present a written report to the Dublin Bureau meeting, that it should be a short report and should consist only of the conclusions reach and recommendations made to the Bureau.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Middle East Study Group. Robert Pontillon and Rodney Balcomb presented the report of a meeting of the Middle East Study Group held in London on January 15, 1975 (Circular No.B20/75), recommending to the Bureau

i) to request parties to send experts to meetings of the study group,

ii) to send to the Arab Socialist Union a questionnaire dealing with the Arab Socialist Union and the political, economic and social system in Egypt,

iii) to invite ASU representatives to the next meeting of the Study Group once a reply to the questionnaire had been received,

iv) to convene the next meeting of the Study Group in the spring of 1975 in London,

v) to send a mission of enquiry to Morocco to investigate the situation with regard to human rights in that country,

vi) to instruct the secretariat to contact the Syrian Ba'ath Party for information concerning Syria and the Ba'ath Party so that this information could be studied at the next meeting of the Study Group.

Hans Janitschek questioned the wisdom of sending another questionnaire to the Arab Socialist Union in view of the fact that sufficient information about that party had already been obtained by the Socialist International in September 1973 and March 1974. He also raised the question why the invitation from the Austrian Socialist Party to hold the next meeting in Vienna had been turned down in favour of holding the meeting

in London.

The Bureau endorsed the report of the Study Group as contained in Circular B 20/75 with the exception that, in the case of the invitation from the Union National de Forces Populaires (UNFP) of Morocco, it agreed to a suggestion by Rodney Balcomb that, as a considerable period of time had elapsed since the invitation had been sent to the International by the UNFP, and as the UNFP had in the meantime split into two parties, with the authors of the letter of invitation now belonging to the breakaway party (Union Socialiste de Forces Populaires), it would be advisable for the Secretariat to contact the Moroccons again to see whether the invitation was still being extended and if so by whom, and for the matter to be referred to the Middle East Study Group for further consideration.

The Bureau also endorsed the membership of IUSY in the Study Group, which had been proposed by the Study Group.

b) The Situation in Kurdistan. Robert Pontillon stated that there was evidence that the Kurdish Democratic forces were about to be destroyed by the Iraqi army. He said the Socialist International could not remain silent in the face of such human tragedy. Karl Czernetz supported Pontillon's statement.

Hans Janitschek recalled to the Bureau that it had refused to accept an invitation which the Secretariat had received from General Barzani last year for a visit to his headquarters and that an application for membership from the Kurdistan Democratic Party had also been turned down. He said that the time when the International could have intervened politically on behalf of the Kurds had passed and that all that could be done now was to intervene on humanitarian grounds.

On the proposal of Robert Pontillon, seconded by Jenny Little, the Bureau decided to request Parties to undertake all necessary steps through diplomatic channels and at the United Nations to protest against the inhuman treatment of the Kurds by the Iraqi authorities. The Chairman and General Secretary were authorized to make a statement on these lines whenever they deemed it necessary, which should be directed to the Government of the Iraq.

c) Statements on the situation in the Dominican Republic and Madagascar

The Bureau authorized the General Secretary to write to the Dominican government protesting against the ban on leading members of the Dominican Revolutionary Party to speak on radio and television, and to inform the PRD of this action.

The following statement was adopted:

'The Bureau of the Socialist International expresses its grave concern at the recent events in Madagascar which have led to loss of life and the suspension of basic human rights including the indefinite suspension of all political parties and groupings. It expresses the hope that a situation can rapidly be brought about in Madagascar in which full human rights are restored, and there is a resumption of normal democratic political activity. In particular it expresses its grave concern at the arrest of M. André Resampa, General Secretary of the Malagasy Socialist Party,