

The Political Parties

The Labour Party, although polling slightly fewer votes than in February 1974, increased its share of the poll by over two per cent. The Conservative Party polled nearly 1,500,000 fewer votes than in February 1974, its share of the poll falling by over two per cent. The Liberal Party, despite its increased number of candidates, lost some 700,000 votes compared with February 1974. The SNP, in addition to gaining four seats from the Conservatives, took second place to Labour in Scotland with over 30 per cent (839,628 votes) of the total poll.

In Wales *Plaid Cymru* retained Caer-narvon and Merioneth, and its president, Gwynfor Evans, regained Carmarthen, which he had represented from 1966 to 1970 and failed to win by three votes in February 1974.

Both Dick Taverne (Social Democrat) and Edward Milne (Independent Labour) lost their seats at Lincoln and Blyth respectively to official Labour candidates, as did Edward Griffiths at Sheffield, Brightside, following his failure to secure readoption as the Labour candidate and subsequent decision to stand as an Independent.

In Northern Ireland, the UUUC, although losing one seat, polled over 40,000 more votes than in February 1974, increasing its share of the Province's total vote from 51 per cent to 58 per cent. Gerry Fitt, the SDLP leader, more than doubled his majority in Belfast West.

Members of the Cabinet

Rt. Hon. Harold Wilson, *Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service.*

Rt. Hon. Edward Short, *Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons.*

Rt. Hon. James Callaghan, *Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.*

Rt. Hon. Lord Elwyn-Jones, *Lord Chancellor.*

Rt. Hon. Roy Jenkins, *Secretary of State for the Home Department.*

Rt. Hon. Denis Healey, *Chancellor of the Exchequer.*

Rt. Hon. Anthony Crosland, *Secretary of State for the Environment.*

Rt. Hon. Michael Foot, *Secretary of State for Employment.*

Rt. Hon. Eric Varley, *Secretary of State for Energy.*

Rt. Hon. Shirley Williams, *Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.*

Rt. Hon. Barbara Castle, *Secretary of State for Social Services.*

Rt. Hon. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, *Secretary of State for Industry.*

Rt. Hon. Peter Shore, *Secretary of State for Trade and President of the Board of Trade.*

Rt. Hon. Roy Mason, *Secretary of State for Defence.*

Rt. Hon. Reginald Prentice, *Secretary of State for Education and Science.*

Rt. Hon. William Ross, *Secretary of State for Scotland.*

Rt. Hon. John Morris, *Secretary of State for Wales.*

Rt. Hon. Merlyn Rees, *Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.*

Rt. Hon. Frederick Peart, *Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.*

Rt. Hon. Harold Lever, *Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.*

Rt. Hon. Lord Shepherd, *Lord Privy Seal.*

Rt. Hon. Robert Mellish, *Government Chief Whip.*

Rt. Hon. John Silkin, *Minister for Planning and Local Government.*

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL BUREAU MEETING

Extraordinary Bureau Meeting

An extraordinary Bureau meeting of the Socialist International was held in London on 26 October attended by representatives of member parties of the International from Austria, Belgium, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Israel, Italy (both the Socialist Party and the Social Democratic Party), Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand and Sweden. The International Council of Social Democratic Women and the International Union of Socialist Youth were also represented. George Fernandes, Chairman of the Indian Socialist Party and Otto Kersten, General Secretary of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), attended as guests.

The International and Relations with other Parties

The Bureau discussed at length the relations of the Socialist International with political parties outside the membership of the International, including parties of the third world and parties which call themselves socialist while at the same time operating a one-party system. It was the feeling of the Bureau that its decision taken in Amsterdam in April 1972 that individual member

parties of the International should be free to settle their relations with other parties in the national sphere, should stand. The Bureau had before it a paper on the Socialist International and its relations with other parties prepared by the Chairman, Bruno Pittermann.

Mission to the Middle East

The Bureau agreed that the second stage of the Socialist International's mission to the Middle East should be completed in January 1975. The first stage of the mission took place from 9-16 March 1974 and visited Egypt, Syria and Israel. It was agreed that Bruno Kreisky, Federal Chancellor of Austria and Chairman of the Austrian Socialist Party should, as on the first stage of the mission, lead the second stage. The countries to be visited are expected to include Jordan, Tunisia, Iraq and Algeria.

1975 Congress

The Bureau decided in principle that the next Congress of the Socialist International should be held in September 1975. The exact date and place of the Congress will be decided after consideration of the matter by the Finance and

General Purposes Committee of the International.

Chairman of Indian Socialist Party

George Fernandes, Chairman of the Indian Socialist Party and leader of the recent railwaymen's strike in India, attended the Bureau meeting as a guest during the discussion on 'Relations of the Socialist International with other Parties'. George Fernandes gave a report to the Bureau on the present situation in India with special reference to the difficult economic situation and the prospect of a rate of inflation this year of 30 per cent or more, the political situation in the state of Bihar and the attitude of the Indian Socialist Party to the explosion by India of an atomic device in May this year. George Fernandes reported that the present voting strength of the Indian Socialist Party was five per cent of the electorate. The Socialist Party has six of the 525 seats in the Lower House in Parliament and four of the 250 seats in the Upper House. George Fernandes said that his party was keen to develop relations with other Asian socialist parties and hoped that the Socialist International could take the initiative in this matter.

General Secretary of the ICFTU

Otto Kersten, General Secretary of the ICFTU, also attended the Bureau meeting during the discussion on 'Relations of the Socialist International with other Parties'. Otto Kersten gave the Bureau a report on the development of the international trade union movement, its relations with other international organisations such as the United Nations, and political parties. Otto Kersten said that it was very much the wish of the ICFTU to continue its cooperation with the Socialist International especially with regard to the problems of multinational companies.

Anna Kéthly

The Bureau decided to award the Silver Plate of Honour of the Socialist International to Anna Kéthly, Chairman of the Hungarian Social Democratic Party in exile, on the occasion of her 85th birthday on 16 November 1974.

Statement on Trial in Spain

The Bureau unanimously agreed on the following statement on the trial in Spain of five Spanish socialists on 28 October:

'The Bureau of the Socialist International meeting in London on Saturday, 26 October 1974, protests in strongest terms against the trial by the Franco regime of five Spanish socialists—



from left to right, Otto Kersten, *General Secretary of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions*, Rodney Balcomb, *Assistant General Secretary of the Socialist International* and Felipe Gonzalez, one of the accused in the Spanish political trials.

Enrique Mugica Herzog, Felipe Gonzalez, Nicolas Redondo, Ambrosio Gutierrez and Christobal Caliz—in Madrid on Monday, 28 October 1974. These Spanish democrats are to stand trial on charges of 'illicit association' and 'illegal propaganda', and are accused of being leaders of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE): if found guilty, they may face prison sentences of eight to twelve years. The activities of which they are accused are considered normal, legitimate and legal political activities in any democratic country and the Spanish regime's attempts to stifle and prevent such activities further underline the undemocratic and oppressive nature of that regime. The Bureau condemns this further act of oppression by a regime already utterly discredited in all civilised world opinion, and expresses its complete support for its Spanish member party, the Partido Socialista Obrero Español, in its efforts to bring about a democratic and socialist society in Spain.

'The Bureau resolves to send a special observer to attend the trial on behalf of the Socialist International, and notes that the British Labour Party, the French Socialist Party, the German Social Democratic Party, the Italian Socialist Party, the Norwegian Labour Party and the Belgian Socialist Party will also send observers'.

The charges against the five accused, which date from 1971, are 'illicit association' and 'illegal propaganda' and the prosecution alleges that they are

leaders of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE). In the case of Enrique Mugica, a total of twelve years' imprisonment is called for by the prosecution, and, in the case of each of the other four, a total of eight years' imprisonment is called for.

This persecution of Spanish Socialists by the Franco regime aroused considerable international attention and indignation.

Representatives from a number of Socialist International member parties and from trade union organisations travelled to Madrid in order to observe the trial. These included: Otto Kersten *General Secretary of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions*; Jenny Little, *Acting International Secretary of the British Labour Party*, and Greville Janner, *MP British Labour Party*; Colette Anger *French Socialist Party*; Gerhard Jahn, *Federal German Minister of Justice German Social Democratic Party*; Liv Aasen *MP, Norwegian Labour Party*; and Karl Nandrup Dahl *Norwegian Federation of Trade Unions*. The Socialist International was represented by its Assistant General Secretary, Rodney Balcomb.

Four hours before the political trial of five Spanish Socialists was due to begin on Monday, 28 October, it was announced by the Spanish authorities that the trial was to be postponed until an unspecified future date. The reason given for the postponement was that it was necessary to make further investigations with regard to Felipe Gonzalez, one of the accused, following the publication a few days previously in the Spanish newspaper CORREO DE ANDALUCIA of an article containing an interview which he had given to that newspaper. Together with the other four accused,—Ambrosio Gutierrez, Enrique Mugica Herzog, Nicolas Redondo and Cristobal Caliz—Felipe Gonzalez will now remain in provisional freedom until such time as the trial eventually takes place.