

9 June 1997



**RESOLUTIONS AND STATEMENTS OF THE MEETING OF THE
SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, SICLAC**

Santiago, Chile, 30-31 May 1997

Dear Comrade,

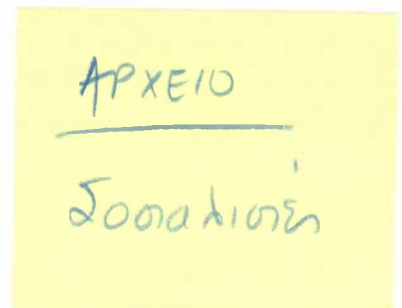
I am pleased to send herewith, for your information, the resolutions and statements adopted by the Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, SICLAC, at its meeting in Santiago, which was hosted by our member parties in Chile, Party for Democracy (PPD), Social Democratic Radical Party (PRSD) and Socialist Party (PS).

The meeting discussed two main themes: the State and the Market: Latin America and the Caribbean and Globalisation, and Governability and Democratic Institutions. It also addressed other topical issues for the region, as well as forms of direct cooperation among member parties.

I also enclose the list of participants at our meeting, which was chaired by José Francisco Peña Gómez, Chair of SICLAC and Leader of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, PRD.

Fraternal regards,

Luis Ayala
Secretary General



SANTIAGO DECLARATION

Original: Spanish

The Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, SICLAC, and its member parties, meeting in Santiago, Chile, express their fraternal thanks for the hospitality offered by the Party for Democracy, the Social Democratic Radical Party and the Socialist Party of Chile. They also recognise the effort put in by the Secretary General of the Socialist International to prepare for and stage this important event.

Concerning the central topics of the meeting, the plenary meeting formulated policy positions in line with the search for political and social alternatives in which the SI is engaged.

State and market: Latin America, the Caribbean and Globalisation

The meeting recognised the existence of a profound, complex process of globalisation. The Latin American and Caribbean region is part of this substantial change in the economy, in the system of international relations and on cultural, technological and political fronts.

It noted that in the countries of the region neoliberal policies have been promoted which have mostly caused serious social conflicts as a consequence of an extreme concentration of wealth and increase in poverty and lack of opportunities for significant sectors of the population. The women of Latin America and the Caribbean have been particularly affected by this phenomenon, constituting the "poorest of the poor".

It is in this context that SICLAC understands the rejection of neoliberalism by electorates all over the world. And it is conscious that this model has exhausted its possibilities, insofar as it fails to give answers with any real social content, which has led to important victories for democratic socialism in Europe.

SICLAC maintained that it is necessary to build economic systems which make viable sustainable development with decent jobs, which preserve rights to health, social provision, education, which strengthen democratic institutions, protect the environment, respect diversity, promote values of solidarity and create appropriate legislation that helps to overcome discrimination and ensure equality of opportunity for men and women.

For these aims to become reality, the SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean considers it necessary to advocate for the inclusion of a democratic clause and a social clause in regional and international economic agreements, which would preserve the region's essential democratic institutions and labour rights.

DECLARATION ON BOLIVIA

Original: Spanish

The Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, SICLAC, meeting in Santiago, Chile, on 30-31 May 1997, with the presence of delegates and representatives from its member parties in the region, send fraternal greetings and best wishes for electoral success to comrade Jaime Paz Zamora, candidate for the Presidency of the Republic of Bolivia, representing our member party, the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, MIR.

The elections next Sunday 1 June, will see the consolidation of democracy in Bolivia to which end Jaime Paz Zamora has given the best part of his life as a social fighter.

DECLARATION ON COOPERATIVISM

Original: Spanish

The Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, SICLAC, meeting in Santiago on 30-31 May 1997, declares that:

The present tendency towards concentration and centralisation of capital on a world scale threatens to destroy the fundamental values of coexistence between individuals and peoples and the gains which had seemed indisputable in terms of the relationship between worker and capital.

It is impossible to try and prevent or stand up to the structural changes merely in a voluntaristic way. But it is just as anti-historical to accept that the mere globalisation of capital can give rise to some positive outcome. Therefore we must redouble our efforts to find ways of freeing ourselves from this threat and to reaffirm cooperativism as an instrument of rich, non-aggressive internationalisation among peoples in the search for solutions based on reason and on the conviction that solidarity between people is a more powerful force than the aspiration of big finance capital to impose their rule on the world.

The meeting confirms that we must regain and modernise the function of cooperativism as a more just, more economically and technologically appropriate, more human and efficient way of concentrating capital.

RESOLUTION ON NICARAGUA

Original: Spanish

The Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, SICLAC, meeting in Santiago, Chile, on 30-31 May 1997, noted that coercive economic measures have been taken against various mass media in Nicaragua and in particular, against the newspaper Barricada. These government policies which affect Nicaraguan private enterprise have caused a serious financial crisis for the above-mentioned newspaper and for certain broadcasting stations not controlled by the Government.

SICLAC views with concern this situation which constitutes an assault on the Nicaraguan opposition press, and agrees to get in touch with President Arnaldo Alemán to call for reflection and the seeking of a just response to this serious problem.

DECLARATION ON PATENTS AND MEDICINES

Original: Spanish

The Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, SICLAC, meeting in Santiago on 30-31 May, 1997, declares that:

Recently there have been strong pressures on our countries to accept or give validity to the abusive patterns of patent systems meant for and directed at more developed countries, where they are already being strongly questioned, in the sense that it is being pointed out that they limit the innovative process, since they function on the basis of creating an artificial shortage in the production and commercialisation of new products, ensuring a monopoly in that particular product. Thus the system is based on restriction, high price and inaccessibility of the product for significant sectors of the population.

Patent systems constitute an important instrument in the economic and social development of humanity, because the new products are not the result of a gratuitous process or one that just happens by chance, so the existence of special systems which recognise and act as a spur to different innovative activities must be accepted. No-one wants to stop paying and we respect the rights to intellectual property. However, insofar as medicines are concerned, these should be accessible to all sectors of the

DECLARATION ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Original: Spanish

The Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, SICLAC, meeting in Santiago on 30-31 May 1997:

Urges the delegations from the United Nations member States and from the indigenous peoples of the world to renew their efforts to adopt a text agreed by consensus by member States and the indigenous peoples, during the current year's sessions of the Intersessional Group of the Commission for Human Rights, which was set up in order to work out a draft International Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

Urges that the Draft prepared for this purpose, submitted by the Subcommission for Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, be taken as the basis for such discussions;

Urges the member States of the United Nations to establish or strengthen the mechanisms of dialogue with the indigenous peoples of their countries, with the aim of providing the necessary agreement for the adoption by consensus of this Draft Declaration;

Urges the other bodies of the United Nations to contribute in their own fields to a speedy resolution of this process which has at its disposal fifteen years of valuable discussions and contributions towards the evolution of international law and the improvement of mechanisms for protecting and promoting human rights and in which the indigenous peoples of the world have played the main role;

Urges other bodies, institutions, non-governmental organisations and national and international figures to make their contribution and offer their abilities to give their support for the early adoption by consensus by the United Nations of an International Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples of the World during the current International Decade of Indigenous Peoples;

Urges the member States of the United Nations and the General Assembly and competent bodies to set up a budget for the expansion of the International Decade's activities, or to make bigger payments to the Voluntary Fund for the Decade set up by Resolution of the General Assembly itself.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chair of SICLAC	José Francisco Peña Gómez
Socialist International	Luis Ayala
ARGENTINA Popular Socialist Party, PSP	Guillermo Estévez Boero Silvia Ausburger
ARGENTINA Radical Civic Union, UCR	Raúl Alfonsín Luis Alberto Cáceres Adolfo Gass Simón Lazara Mario Negri Raúl Alconada Alicia Tate
ARUBA People's Electoral Movement, MEP	Hyacintho R. Croes
AUSTRIA Social Democratic Party of Austria, SPÖ	Herbert Berger
BOLIVIA Movement of the Revolutionary Left, MIR-Nueva Mayoría	Carmen Pereira

CHILE, PRSD (Cont)

Patricio Tombolini
 Iris Saavedra
 Mauricio Andrews
 Luis Riveros
 Alejandro Montecinos
 Sergio Villegas

CHILE

Socialist Party, PS

Camilo Escalona
 Isabel Allende
 Carmen Lazo
 Ricardo Núñez
 Fanny Pollarolo
 Hernán del Canto
 Clodomiro Almeyda
 Guillermo Miranda
 Gabriel Gaspar
 Eduardo Ortiz
 Cristián Fuentes
 Henry Zaldívar
 Alvaro Díaz
 Jaime Fuentealba
 Carlos Ominami
 Jaime Gazmuri
 Jaime Estévez
 Jaime Ensignia
 José Miguel Insulza
 Bernardita Aguirre
 Claudio Martínez
 Juan Gutiérrez

COLOMBIA

Colombian Liberal Party, PLC

José Renán Trujillo

COSTA RICA

National Liberation Party, PLN

Rolando Araya

MEXICO

Institutional Revolutionary
Party, PRI

Gustavo Carvajal
Gabino Fernández Serna
Carlos Flores Viscarra
Alfonso Zegbe Camarena

NICARAGUA

Sandinista National Liberation
Front, FSLN

Tomás Borge

PANAMA

Democratic Revolutionary
Party, PRD

Bruno Garisto

PARAGUAY

Revolutionary Febrerista
Party, PRF

Josefina Duarte
Antonia de Guillén
Hilda Marlene Escobar

PERU

Peruvian Aprista Party, PAP

Gerardo Morris Abarca
Aurelio Pastor Valdivieso
Alejandro Santa María Silva
Agustín Haya de la Torre

PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rican Independence
Party, PIP

Rubén Berríos Martínez
Fernando Martín García

BRAZIL
Workers Party, PT

Marco Aurelio García

CUBA
Cuban Social Democratic Party

Antonio Santiago

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
Santo Domingo Accord

José González Espinosa
(Party of Dominican
Workers)

Vicente Bengoa
(Democratic Convergence)

Guido Gómez Mazara
(Dominican Revolutionary
Party)

UNITED STATES
National Democratic Institute,
NDI

Santiago A. Canton
