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20 May 1997



**RESOLUTION OF THE MEETING OF THE
SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL MIDDLE EAST COMMITTEE**

Ramallah and Tel Aviv 14-15 May 1997

Dear Comrade,

I am pleased to send herewith, for your information, the resolution adopted by the Socialist International Middle East Committee at its meeting in Ramallah and Tel Aviv, which was hosted by Fatah, and by the Israel Labour Party and Mapam/Meretz respectively.

The meeting reviewed the current critical situation of the peace process and developments in the region, with the participation of the Chairman of Fatah Yasser Arafat, and the Leader of the Israel Labour Party Shimon Peres, and members of the leadership of Mapam/Meretz.

I also include the list of all participants at our meeting, which was chaired by the newly appointed Chair of the Committee Bjørn Tore Godal of the Norwegian Labour Party.

Fraternal regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luis Ayala', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Luis Ayala
Secretary General

RESOLUTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST

The Socialist International Middle East Committee, SIMEC, having met in Ramallah and Tel Aviv on 14-15 May 1997, declares:

- SIMEC deeply regrets the stalemate in the Middle East peace process. Lack of progress entails a clear risk of further escalation of violence in the region and an undermining of the forces of peace. Every effort must now be made to revitalise that process.
- The Oslo Accords must be respected and fully implemented by both parties.
- Israel has a special responsibility to bring the peace process back on track by not continuing with the construction at Har Homa. SIMEC condemns the settlement policies of the present Israeli government which endangers the peace process. Israel must also undertake to fulfil its obligations regarding the safe passage between Gaza and the West Bank, the operation of Gaza Airport, the construction of the Gaza Port, the release of prisoners and further redeployment.
- A serious and constructive beginning must be made to permanent-status negotiations, to achieve a durable and mutually acceptable peace between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples, on the basis of the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which embody the principle of Land for Peace. The Committee emphasises the need to engage into serious dialogue on all outstanding issues.
- Security cooperation between Palestinians and Israelis must be resumed whatever the circumstances. Security is a common concern for all.
- Suitable confidence-building measures must be devised so that the parties can gradually begin to develop a minimum of confidence necessary to relaunch the negotiations.
- The international community has a vital stake in the future development of the Middle East. The United States, the European Union and all interested parties are urged to redouble their efforts to bring the parties back to the negotiating table and to ensure momentum in the negotiations.
- The Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese negotiations, on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 425, must be resumed.
- International economic assistance in support of the Palestinian Authority must be continued and increased as a vital contribution

to the construction in the Palestinian areas of a viable and democratic society respectful of fundamental human rights.

- SIMEC congratulates the Congress of the Israel Labour Party which decided to recognise the proposition of the creation of a Palestinian state. SIMEC also refers to the longstanding decision of Mapam/Meretz in this respect.

- The Socialist International Middle East Committee, having met these last two days in Ramallah and Tel Aviv, recalling its longstanding commitment to and historic role in bringing together the parties in the peace process, renews, at this critical stage, its firm intention to continue working for a just and lasting peace in the region.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chair of SIMEC

Bjørn Tore Godal
(Norway, DNA)Secretary General of the
Socialist International

Luis Ayala

ARGENTINA

Radical Civic Union, UCR

Raúl Alconada Sempé

AUSTRIA

Social Democratic Party of
Austria, SPOe

Fritz Edlinger

BELGIUM

Socialist Party, PS

Simone Susskind

COSTA RICA

National Liberation Party,
PLN

Rolando Araya

FRANCE

Socialist Party, PS

Michel Thauvin

GERMANY

Social Democratic Party of
Germany, SPD

Wolfgang Weege

GREAT BRITAIN
The Labour Party

Ernie Ross
Nick Sigler

GREECE
Panhellenic Socialist
Movement, PASOK

Maria Astrinaki

ISRAEL
Israel Labour Party

Shimon Peres
Nissim Zvili
Israel Gat
Abraham Hatzamri
Ioram Dori
Uri Savir
Ivri Varbin
Ofar Bronchstein

ISRAEL
United Workers' Party of
Israel, MAPAM

Chanan Eres
Dedi Tzucker
Walid Sadik
Monica Pollack
Arie Shapir
Latif Dori

ITALY
Democratic Party of the Left,
PDS

Gianfranco Brusasco

ITALY
Italian Socialists, SI

Luca Cefisi

NORWAY
Norwegian Labour Party, DNA Tonje Westby

TERRITORIES UNDER
PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY,
Fatah
Yasser Arafat
Hani El-Hassan
Marwan Barghouti
Raymonda Al Tawil
Ilan Halevi

PORTUGAL
Socialist Party, PS José Lamego

SENEGAL
Socialist Party of Senegal Jacques Baudin

SPAIN
Spanish Socialist Workers'
Party, PSOE
José Bono
Ricard Torrell
Cristóbal Rozalen

SWEDEN
Swedish Social Democratic
Party, SAP
Pierre Schori
Monica Andersson
Birgitta Silén

SWITZERLAND
Social Democratic Party of
Switzerland Heinrich Buchbinder

TUNISIA
Constitutional Democratic
Assembly, RCD

Saïd Naceur Ramdhane

International Union of
Socialist Youth, IUSY

Zohar Blum

Socialist International
Women, SIW

Ester Levanon-Mordoch
Marisa Rodano

Group of the PES, European
Parliament

Nadia Van Hamme

Party of European Socialists,
PES

Jean-François Vallin

SI Secretariat

Latifa Perry
Justina Pang
