

30 March 1998



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

**Santo Domingo, 23-24 March 1998**

Dear Comrade,

I am pleased to send herewith, for your information, the statements and resolutions adopted by the Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (SICLAC), following its discussions at its recent meeting in Santo Domingo.

The meeting, which was hosted by the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) whose leader José Francisco Peña Gómez is the Chair of the Committee, focused its discussions on two themes: 'Latin America and the Caribbean and Globalisation: elaborating proposals for creating opportunities and strengthening solidarity' and 'Defining priorities for governments with social responsibility: policies for education, health and social services'. The Committee also received reports on national situations, and adopted resolutions on Cuba, the Central American Parliament, Bolivia, Haiti, Peru, Puerto Rico, Nicaragua, and a statement of defence of democratic institutions.

I also include the list of participants at the meeting.

Fraternal regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luis Ayala'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Luis Ayala  
Secretary General

RESOLUTION ON CUBA

Original: Spanish

The Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (SICLAC), meeting in Santo Domingo on 23-24 March 1998, welcomes the constructive dialogue between the Holy See, in the person of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, and President Fidel Castro. It had the immediate effect of achieving greater recognition of religious freedom on the part of the Cuban government and, at the same time, resulted in the first steps being taken towards lifting the embargo against Cuba, with the re-establishment of direct flights from the United States to the island and the removal of restrictions on the shipment of food and medicine and remittances of dollars to that country.

SICLAC, while demanding further actions by the US government with regard to the lifting of the embargo and the repeal of the Helms-Burton Law, hopes that the Cuban government pursues the economic opening and implements political conditions to open the way for better prospects for democracy in that sister Republic.

We acknowledge the release of detainees by the Cuban government, and hope this will be extended to other detainees deprived of their freedom, including Vladimiro Roca.

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RESOLUTION ON THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PARLIAMENT

Original: Spanish

The Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (SICLAC), meeting in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on 23-24 March 1998,

Considering:

1. That the Central American Union is essential for the eradication of poverty and to achieve a significant improvement in the living standards and level of culture and education of the people of the region, and to strengthen the capacity of Central America to make itself heard at international level;
2. The agreement between the Presidents of Central America to initiate a gradual and progressive process for the constitution of the Central American Union, as a better form of expression than the Community Association stipulated in the Tegucigalpa protocol of 1991;
3. That the desire for the political union of Central America can only be achieved by strengthening and consolidating democratic and representative institutions at regional level, and
4. The essential role of the Central American Parliament in the process of political union in Central America,

Resolves:

1. To recognise the spirit of integration expressed by the Presidents of Central America in the Declaration of Nicaragua, in September 1997.
2. To grant full support for the legitimate position and aspiration of the Central American Parliament in the sense that improved authorities and binding powers may be conferred upon it within the system of Central American integration.

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## RESOLUTION ON BOLIVIA

Original: Spanish

The Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (SICLAC), meeting in Santo Domingo on 23-24 March 1998,

*Expresses* its concern regarding the legal position and respect of human rights of the Bolivian citizen Oscar Eid Franco, detained for more than three years without a definite ruling having so far been made, and

*Resolves* to appoint a delegation which will visit Bolivia in the name of SICLAC, charged with gathering information on the development of the proceedings and the legal position of the Bolivian citizen Oscar Eid Franco.

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## RESOLUTION ON HAITI

Original: French

The Socialist International Committee on Latin America and the Caribbean (SICLAC), meeting in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic on 23-24 March 1998, is particularly concerned by the deadlock of the electoral process and the absence of a government during the past nine months, which has had serious social and economic consequences affecting the daily life of the Haitian people.

In view of this situation, SICLAC appeals to all political actors in Haiti, and in particular to the member parties of the Socialist International, to take steps to help resolve the situation:

1. by setting up, as rapidly as possible, on the basis of the appointment of a Prime Minister, a government which will contribute to the strengthening of institutions;
2. by relaunching the electoral process through the establishment of a balanced and credible Electoral Council;
3. by working for a realignment of democratic forces so that efforts may continue for the democratisation of the country.

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RESOLUTION ON PERU

Original: Spanish

The Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (SICLAC), meeting in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on 23-24 March 1998, supports the forces of democracy in Peru, especially the Peruvian Aprista Party, in their struggle against the present brutal, neo-liberal regime, under which the majority of the population is suffering even greater poverty and unemployment than before.

It also expresses its support for the alternative position advocated by the Aprismo and its inalienable social commitment to the poor of Peru, with a view to achieving social justice.

It also supports the accusation by the Aprista Party that the present government of Peru continues to disregard human rights and citizens freedoms, refusing to investigate and punish the immorality, corruption, torture and crimes that they have committed, and that they have been systematically preparing a fraudulent election, violating the Constitution and undermining the legitimacy of the State, in order to ensure the illegitimate re-election of Fujimori.

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RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO

Original: Spanish

The Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (SICLAC), meeting in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on 23-24 March 1998, expresses its support for the steps taken by the Puerto Rican Independence Party to obtain, during the course of this year, the 100th anniversary of the invasion of Puerto Rico by the United States, the approval of a resolution in the United Nations Committee on Decolonisation, which reiterates the applicability to Puerto Rico of Resolution 1514 (XV) of the General Assembly, confirming the inalienable right of the Puerto Rican people to free self-determination and independence, and requires the United States government to fulfil its decolonising obligations.

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**RESOLUTION ON ACTIVITY IN PUERTO RICO IN JULY 1998**

Original: Spanish

The Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (SICLAC), meeting in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on 23-24 March 1998, in accordance with the agreement reached at the last meeting of the Council in New Delhi, invites and urges member parties of the IS, especially those in Latin America and the Caribbean, to send delegations to the International Conference in Support of Puerto Rican Independence. The Conference, sponsored by the Puerto Rican Independence Party, will be held on 23-26 July 1998 in San Juan, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the invasion of Puerto Rico by the United States.

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**RESOLUTION ON NICARAGUA**

Original: Spanish

The Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (SICLAC), meeting in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on 23-24 March 1998, urges its member parties to support and attend the Extraordinary Conference to be held by the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), on 22-24 May 1998. The Conference will be devoted to improving its constitutional capacity, combatting anti-Sandinista campaigns and preparing for future electoral contests.

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STATEMENT

Original: Spanish

The Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (SICLAC), meeting in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on 23-24 March 1998, considers that it is essential to protect the freedom of the people of the region, to promote processes of social justice and encourage progress and development, as well as to achieve a legitimate voice in as many different international forums as possible, to recover or maintain the unconditional legitimacy of each country's institutions without the use of any form of deception or illegal short cut.

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

President of SICLAC

José Francisco Peña Gómez  
(Dominican Republic, PRD)

Secretary General of the  
Socialist International

Luis Ayala

ARGENTINA  
Popular Socialist Party, PSP

Guillermo Estévez Boero

ARGENTINA  
Radical Civil Union, UCR

Raúl Alfonsín  
Luis Alberto Cáceres  
Raúl Alconada

ARUBA  
People's Electoral Movement, MEP

Hyacintho R. Croes

BOLIVIA  
Revolutionary Left Movement, MIR-NM

Jaime Paz Zamora  
Guido Riveros

BRAZIL  
Democratic Labour Party, PDT

Ligia Doutel de Andrade



CHILE  
Socialist Party, PS

Gabriel Gaspar

COLOMBIA  
Liberal Party of Colombia, PLC

Juan Guillermo Angel

COSTA RICA  
National Liberation Party, PLN

Rolando Araya Monge

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
Dominican Revolutionary Party, PRD

Hatuey De Camps  
Enmanuel Esquea Guerrero  
Tony Raful  
Manuel Cáceres Troncoso  
Vicente Sánchez Baret  
Winston Arnauld Guzmán  
Hugo Tolentino Dipp  
Rafael Suberví Bonilla  
Hipólito Mejía  
Milagros Ortiz Bosch  
Rafael Fafa Taveras  
Fausto Liz  
Tirso Mejía Ricart  
Peggy Cabral de Peña Gómez  
Héctor Aristy  
Rafael Gamundy Cordero  
Julio Mariñez Rosario  
Eligio Jaquez  
Miguel Vargas Maldonado  
Héctor Rafael Peguero Méndez  
Ivelisse Prats de Pérez  
Rafael Báez Pérez

FRANCE  
Socialist Party

Vera Matthias

## HAITI

Party of the National Congress  
of Democratic Movements, KONAKOM

Victor Benoit  
Micha Gaillard  
Montinard R. Blanchet  
Carline Simon  
Jessie Ewald Benoit  
Hélène François  
Ginou Desplumes  
Marie-Sébastienne Jean

## HAITI

Lavalas Political Organisation, OPL

Gérard Pierre-Charles  
Pierre Paul Arry Marsan  
Rogère Marsan

## ITALY

Democratic Party of the Left, PDS

Donato Di Santo

## JAMAICA

People's National Party, PNP

Errol Greene

## MEXICO

Party of Democratic Revolution, PRD

Raymundo Cárdenas  
Estela Vargas

## MEXICO

Institutional Revolutionary Party, PRI

Celso Delgado  
Guillermo Máynez Gil

## NICARAGUA

Sandinista National Liberation Front,  
FSLN

Tomás Borge  
José Pasos

## PANAMA

Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD

Edith Bethancourt

## PARAGUAY

Revolutionary Febrerista Party, PRF

Luis Campos  
Oscar Britez

## PERU

Peruvian Aprista Party, PAP

Luis Alva Castro

## PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rican Independence Party,  
PIP

Rubén Berríos Martínez  
Fernando Martín García  
Luis Nieves Falcón  
Sara Benítez  
María de Lourdes Santiago  
Cándida Berríos  
Damaris Mangual  
Jessica Martínez

## SPAIN

Spanish Socialist Workers' Party,  
PSOE

José Manuel Caballero  
Trinidad Jiménez

VENEZUELA  
Democratic Action, AD

Timoteo Zambrano  
Gilberto Barras  
Andrés Stambouli  
Rogelio Aceves

Socialist International Women, SIW

Sofía Leonor Sánchez Baret

Parliamentary Group of the  
Party of European Socialists

Ana Miranda de Lage  
José Carlos Marín

SI Secretariat

Latifa Perry  
Gabriela Shepherd  
Catalina Perry

Invitados:

CUBA  
Partido Socialdemócrata, PSD

Antonio Santiago

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
Santo Domingo Accord

Fernando Alvarez Bogaert  
(UD)

José González Espinosa  
(PTD)

José Oviedo  
(PTD)

Virtudes Alvarez  
(MIUCA)