

1 August 1997



**MEETING OF THE
SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL AFRICA COMMITTEE**

Dakar, 25-26 July 1997

Dear Comrade,

I am pleased to enclose for your information the Declaration issued by the Socialist International Africa Committee at its recent meeting in Dakar, which reflects the outcome of its discussions. The meeting was hosted by the Socialist Party of Senegal, PS, and chaired by Ousmane Tanor Dieng, Chair of the Committee and First Secretary of the host party. Habib Thiam, Prime Minister of Senegal, addressed the participants. SI President Pierre Mauroy, as well as a number of party leaders from the region, including Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, Prime Minister of Mali and Leader of the African Party for Solidarity and Justice, ADEMA-PASJ, also took part. The full list of the participants in the meeting is also enclosed.

The SI Africa Committee discussed: "The Democratic and Humanitarian Challenges Facing Africa - The Social Democratic Response". It also reviewed the recent and forthcoming electoral processes in several countries, as well as continuing its ongoing discussion on sustainable economic development, with a particular view to the next meeting of the SI Committee on Economic Policy, Development and the Environment, which, it is planned, will be held in Africa and focus on the African economic situation. Under this last agenda item, the Committee adopted the report of the Joint Working Group set up by the Parliamentary Group of the Party of European Socialists and the African and Caribbean members of the Socialist International.

Among the participants were delegates from a number of African countries where the situation gives rise to serious concern. The Committee heard reports from John Fru Ndi, Leader of the Social Democratic Front of Cameroon and candidate in the forthcoming presidential election; from Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Party for Democracy and Socialism of Niger, PNDS, Prime Minister in the deposed democratic government of Niger; and from Plácido Micó, General Secretary of the Convergence for Social Democracy, CPDS, Equatorial Guinea, several of whose prominent figures have recently been arrested. Discussions also focused on the still grave

situation in the Great Lakes region and on recent developments in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo and Guinea.

The enclosed Declaration, adopted in Dakar, summarises the Committee's views on all the subjects discussed.

The Africa Committee also considered the activities of the working groups it has established on cooperation between parliamentarians and on political training, and agreed on a number of initiatives including the sending of missions to investigate the disquieting developments in Equatorial Guinea, in Niger, in Togo and in Kenya and to observe the elections in Cameroon. Equally, the visit of an SI delegation to the Great Lakes region at an opportune time remains a priority.

Yours fraternally,

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

Luis Ayala
Secretary General