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Socialist Internationalist Stockholm Initiative Aims for Stronger World Government

On April 22, 1991, thirty world leaders gathered in Stockholm to elaborate what may come to be seen as a fundamental shift in socialist strategy and thought. The "Stockholm Initiative" marks a basic shift from the perspective of solving global problems through "international cooperation," to the building of effective transnational institutions. Some of the participants included Ingvar Carlsson, then Prime Minister of Sweden; Willy Brandt, Chair of the Socialist International and former Chancellor of Germany; Julius Nyerere, former President of Tanzania; Gro Harlem Brundtland, prime minister of Norway; Kalevi Sorsa, former prime minister of Finland; Edward Heath, former prime minister of the U. K.; and Benazir Bhutto, former prime minister of Pakistan. The 28 proposals concurred upon below represent a shot-across-the-bow of George Bush's New World Order, and a clear that now is the time to press for the subordination of national sovereignty to democratic transnationalism.

PEACE AND SECURITY

We propose:

1. improved United Nations capabilities for anticipating and preventing conflicts, in particular the establishment of a global emergency system;
2. the elaboration of a global law enforcement arrangement, in line with the United Nations Charter, focusing on the role of sanctions and on military enforcement measures;
3. organizational and financial measures to strengthen the United Nations capabilities for peace-keeping and peace-making operations;
4. Regional Conferences on Security and Cooperation to be tried in regions outside Europe;
5. that the monitoring of world arms trade, particularly by the United Nations, be strengthened with the purpose of eventually agreeing on global norms, regulating and limiting trade in arms, and focusing on both supplier and recipient countries;
6. a pledge by governments in the industrialized countries to allocate a specific part of the peace dividend for international cooperation;

7. a commitment by governments in the South to substantially reduce their armed forces, with the purpose of creating a peace dividend to be invested in human development.

DEVELOPMENT

We propose:

8. that the world community sets the goal to eradicate poverty within the coming 25 years, through a committed effort to achieve sustainable development;

9. that the following targets for the year 2000 be emphasized and that countries' achievements be monitored closely:

¥ primary education for all children

¥ equal participation of boys and girls in schools

¥ reduction of child mortality by at least one-third

¥ reduction of maternal mortality by half

10. a strengthening of the multilateral framework of trade- related agreements, reducing protectionism on all fronts, and expanding opportunities for developing countries' participation in world trade;

11. a strengthened debt strategy, introducing a strong element of debt forgiveness to radically cut the debt overhang;

¥ by terms and conditions in Paris Club reschedulings that go far beyond today's in providing relief and applying to a broader range of countries

¥ by commercial debt restructuring that better corresponds to the secondary market value of that debt

¥ by increased financing on appropriate terms by the international financial institutions

12. that all industrialized nations set public time-targets to provide one percent of their GNP for international development cooperation.

ENVIRONMENT

We propose:

13. that fees are levied on the emission of pollutants affecting the global environment, in particular carbon dioxide emissions from the burning of fossil fuels;

14. an international energy dialogue promoting a more efficient use of the world's energy resources, and, in particular, the use of alternatives and renewable energy sources, such as solar energy;

15. that the United Nations be encouraged to take up environmental issues at the highest level in all appropriate fora;

16. that nations resolve to make the July 1992 United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (in Brazil) a breakthrough for sustainable development.

POPULATION

We propose:

17. that national and cultural leaders mobilize the political commitment and the technical means for making a breakthrough in limiting population growth;

18. that the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development promote the implementation of policies and programmes to reach population stabilization goals.

DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

We propose:

19. the strengthening of the United Nations' role in monitoring how countries live up to their commitments to conventions and declarations concerning human rights and democracy, recognizing that democracy can develop only through popular internal will;

20. the strengthening of independent international institutions that offer to monitor countries' observance of democratic rules and principles, in particular at time of elections, respecting the constitutional order of each country.

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

We propose:

21. that the United Nations takes on a broadened mandate at the Security Council level, following the wider understanding of security which has developed, and that its composition and the use of the veto be reviewed;
22. that the Secretary-General be given a stronger position and the means to exercise authority, and that the method of appointment of the Secretary-General and of higher-level staff be reviewed;
23. that the system-wide responsibilities and authority of the Secretary-General concerning inter-agency coordination and cooperation should be firmly established;
24. that the financing system of the United Nations be reviewed, and that countries who do not adhere to the financial rules be deprived of the right to vote (such as the U.S. - ed.);
25. that the activities of the United Nations in the economic and social fields be strengthened and rationalized;
26. that the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank be coordinated, among themselves and with the United Nations system and GATT, with the aim of clearer division of labor, better harmony and full universality in their work;
27. that a World Summit on Global Governance be called, similar to the meetings in San Francisco and at Bretton Woods in the 1940s;
28. as a matter of priority, the establishment of an Independent International Commission on Global Governance.

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Webmaster:  jhughes@changesurfer.com

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