

SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE ISSUES RESOLUTIONS

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Dec 83 pp 4-7, 21

[Article by 'Atif Husayn, Ahmad al-Suyufi, Muhammad al-Sa'dani, Maysah Hafiz, Mary Ya'qub and 'Imad Mahjub: "The Second General Conference of the Socialist Labor Party Issues Recommendations"]

[Text] The national character of radio and television services is to be adhered to; procurement of imported movies and dubious, foreign serials is to be stopped; and the Press Authority Law and its executive decree are to be repealed.

Guarantees required for free elections are to be set in the law; laws restricting freedom are to be repealed; Muslim and Christian clergymen are to be called upon to perform their duties; the eight percent condition in the Elections Law is to be abolished; and the state of emergency is to be lifted because holding an election under a state of emergency would be inconsistent.

A freeze on the Camp David Accords is called for in reaction to Israel's repeated violations of the accords; diplomatic relations with Israel are to be broken if it does not withdraw immediately from Lebanon.

President Mubarak's meeting with 'Arafat supported the rights of the Palestinian people and crowned the Labor Party's action and its support for the PLO.

Egypt's special relationship with the United States is to be reconsidered, and normal relations with the Soviet Union are to be restored.

Conditional foreign aid is not to be accepted, and self-reliance and reliance on Arab and Islamic sources are to be taken into consideration.

The second conference of the Socialist Labor Party [SLP] issued its recommendations and resolutions as follows:

## First, in the Area of Foreign Policy:

1. Balanced relations between the east and the west are called for. Diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union are to be restored, and care must be exercised in adhering to the requirements of the non-alignment policy. [That includes] establishing balanced relations with the east and west, and that requires the restoration of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union while at the same time calling upon the Soviet Union to stop [its] aggression against Afghanistan.
2. Our special relations with the United States must be reconsidered in light of the United States' strategic agreement with Israel. The United States' existing position, which is based on a shameless alignment with Israel, makes it incumbent upon Egypt that it reconsider its special relationship with the United States so that no harm can come to its national security. The United States supports Israel with all its resources and disregards the interests and the rights of Arab countries, and that was quite evident in the so-called Strategic Cooperation Agreement between the United States and Israel. Egypt should refrain from giving the United States any facilities, and most importantly, any military bases for U.S. forces. Egypt should not allow U.S. forces to conduct joint exercises on our territory, nor should it enable the United States to obtain information or data under the guise of scientific research or under any other pretext.
3. The United States must withdraw from the multi-national forces in Sinai and in Lebanon.

This U.S.-Israeli alliance makes it necessary for U.S. forces to be withdrawn from the multi-national forces that are stationed in Sinai or those that can be found in Lebanon to preserve the peace. This is because U.S. forces, which are completely aligned with Israel, have lost their neutrality. Those U.S. forces are to be replaced by UN forces after the groundwork is laid to prepare the Soviet Union to agree that a UN force be formed. This would be done after diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union are restored. [This is necessary] particularly since U.S. forces have repeatedly attacked Syrian and Druze positions in Lebanon and have thus become involved in the fighting.

4. A policy that expresses that of the non-aligned countries and Third World countries is to be pursued in the Security Council.

The fact that Egypt became a member of the UN Security Council makes it incumbent upon it as an Arab, non-aligned country that is affiliated with the Third World to pursue a policy that embodies these relations when it exercises [the functions of] its membership. Egypt has to support liberation movements and the rights of people to determine their destiny. Egypt is to condemn the foreign invasion of any country.

5. Conditional foreign aid is not to be accepted. Self-reliance is to be considered first, and then Arab and Islamic sources [second]. Conditional foreign aid is not to be accepted because this aid affects [our ability to exercise] our free will in making decisions. That requires three conditions:

A. Projects that are not immediately needed or urgently important are not to be expanded, [particularly] if foreign financing is required for them. We would then not have to apply for loans and aid to finance them.

B. Rigid rules are to be laid down to set public spending on the right course in a serious and well-considered manner so that the country's resources can provide those needs to meet which Egypt turns to foreign countries.

C. Arab sources [of aid], such as Arab development funds and Arab and Islamic banks are to replace those sources [of aid] that are controlled by countries which set conditions on loans and investments. This is particularly the case since surplus Arab oil returns are deposited in American banks and Arab oil governments are the ones that supply the international financial organizations, such as the IMF and the IBRD, with the capital they offer as aid to those countries that turn to them for that aid.

#### Second, in the Area of Arab Questions

6. It is necessary for the unity of the Arab rank to be restored and for the way for that to be paved by popular meetings.

5. [sic] The dangers surrounding the Arab region are such that they may lead to a clash between the two superpowers. That clash may turn Arab territory into the scene of a nuclear war. This requires that the unity of the Arab rank be restored, and it requires that national popular forces [join forces with each other] by cooperating with all the honest forces in the Arab world so that Egypt can take its place in the Arab rank and return with its resources, capabilities and influence to steer [the course of] the Arab ship in the stormy seas [that lie ahead]. Egypt is to call for a pan-Arab national conference of all Arab forces, and that conference would diagnose existing conditions and prescribe the remedy for them honestly, freely and sincerely.

6. The fact that the fighter, Yasir 'Arafat was received in Egypt is to be commended.

--The conference commends President Muhammad Husni Mubarak for receiving the Palestinian leader, Yasir 'Arafat, leader of the Palestinian Resistance when [the latter] was passing through Egyptian territory after his departure from Tripoli, Lebanon. This meeting is considered to be [an action] supporting the efforts that are being made to regain the rights of the Palestinian people. It tops the actions taken by the SLP and crowns that party's continuous positions to champion the Palestinian freedom fighters under the leadership of the PLO.

8. [sic] Diplomatic relations with Israel are to be broken if it does not withdraw immediately from Lebanon.

--Recalling the Egyptian ambassador from Israel was not an adequate response to Israel's continued occupation of parts of Lebanese territory and its insistence that it continue building settlements on occupied Palestinian territory, in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as well as its efforts to slow down Egypt's efforts to get the area of Taba back--an area in the Sinai Peninsula. These actions require that all diplomatic relations with Israel be broken, particularly since the members of the Egyptian embassy in Israel are being threatened continuously.

9. The Camp David Accords are to be frozen because of Israel's repeated violations of those accords.

Israel has in fact repeatedly violated the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. These violations began with the bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor, [and they went on to include] annexation of the Golan, the declaration of Jerusalem as the united capital of Israel, the deadlock in the autonomy talks, the invasion of Lebanon, the massacre at Sabra and Shatila, the continued establishment of settlements on occupied Palestinian territory, and the threat the Israelis posed to the departure by sea of Yasir 'Arafat and his colleagues from Tripoli under the UN flag. All this makes it necessary that the treaty be frozen since the two parties have corresponding obligations.

Third, in the Area of Practicing Democracy and Ensuring Honest Elections:

10. The required guarantees for the elections process are to be set forth in the law.

--An appeal is being made to establish [in law] the guarantees that were proposed by the chairman of the party to ensure the integrity and neutrality of the elections. The party chairman's proposal was included in the draft bill that he submitted to the People's Assembly to amend the law [regulating] the exercise of political rights. Foremost among those guarantees are particularly the following:

A. The voters' rolls in each electoral district are to be identical to the civil status registers so that the names of people who are deceased and people who are no longer residing in the country can be deleted and the names of young men who have reached the voting age can be added.

B. People are to vote on the basis of their personal or family identification cards; it is not necessary to obtain special voting cards which are handed out arbitrarily.

C. Each voter is to provide his signature or his imprint next to his name when he votes. This will confirm that he was present in person.

D. Instead of the elections department in the Ministry of Internal Affairs a judicial panel is to oversee the elections process.

11. Laws that restrict freedom are to be repealed, and Muslim and Christian clergymen are to return to their functions.

All the laws that take away and restrict public and personal freedoms, the so-called laws of ill-repute, [are to be repealed]. Foremost among these laws are the law of political parties, which imposes restrictions on the establishment of parties and prescribes that a custodian be appointed for them, and the law that pertains to protecting the domestic front and social peace and determines political isolation. The existing decree [regulating] students' associations is to be repealed; that decree had divested these associations of their distinctive student quality. Archbishop Shinouda and all Muslim and Christian clergymen are to resume their activities which had been prohibited in accordance with the resolutions of September 1981. The law that forbids clergymen from discussing the public's problems and public decisions in houses of worship is to be repealed.

12. The eight percent condition set forth in the People's Assembly Election Law is to be abolished.

--The condition that a political party receive eight percent of the total vote nationwide as a condition for being represented in the People's Assembly is to be abolished because it would be difficult to ascertain that this percentage was not available and because it is feared that that condition may be used as a tool to keep out candidates who win an election but who are from a particular party.

13. The state of emergency is to be lifted because it conflicts with the freedom of the elections.

--The declared state of emergency is to be abolished before nominations for the People's Assembly are filed. Application of the emergency law should at least be suspended while the elections process is underway: that is, from the time nominations are filed until the results of the elections are announced.

14. A neutral government is to assume power during the elections period.

--A neutral, non-partisan government is to assume power during the elections campaign to ensure that agencies of government do not side with the candidates of the ruling party.

15. Equal access to the media is to be provided for [political] parties.

--Equal access to the media--radio and television--is to be provided to [political] parties as of the beginning of the new year.

Fourth, in the Area of Culture and Information

16. The Crisis of Television and Radio:

A. Although the Radio and Television Association Act stipulates that radio and television are national media and although these agencies have a national board of trustees to manage and direct them, the ruling party has exclusive access to the two television channels and to radio stations. The activities of other parties are ignored.

If elections for the People's Assembly are to be held in Egypt in the next few months, then the Radio and Television Association Act must be implemented so that from now political parties can have equal access to the media to explain their programs and present their ideas to citizens. [They can thus discuss] political, economic, social, educational and cultural affairs as well as other questions and the people's basic problems.

B. The conference also recommends that the board of trustees for the Radio and Television Association be reorganized and that it include intellectuals who are concerned about the value of these media. All political parties are to be represented on that board.

C. The conference recommends that the procurement of imported films and dubious foreign serials that are full of violence and sex be stopped. These movies and serials are exported to us by the United States and by Zionist clients in that country. Procurement of these movies and serials should be stopped to protect the moral and religious principles and traditions of the Egyptian people and to protect the cultural heritage of our Arab nation.

D. The conference is asking that honest principles be firmly established and that television and radio production be steered in the direction of setting good examples and presenting [programs about] heroic Egyptian, Arab and Muslim leaders.

E. Total care should be devoted to the task of reforming conditions, repairing equipment and improving the production [efforts] of Egyptian radio and television so as to restore to those agencies their prestige in Egypt and in the remaining Arab countries.

F. The conference is asking that video clubs be barred from showing base and vile movies and that everything that infringes upon morals and virtue be confiscated.

17. The position of national press organizations and freedom of the press:

The conference of the Socialist Labor Party regrets to state for the record the biased position that national newspapers have assumed because they ignore news of its activities and news of the activities of opposition parties as well. This is not consistent with the fact that these newspapers are said to be national. This attitude turns these newspapers into government newspapers to which the ruling party has exclusive access.

A. The conference is calling for repeal of the Press Authority Act, Law No 148 for 1980, and its executive decree.

B. The conference is also calling for repeal of the stipulation that press organizations be owned by the Shura Council. It is also asking that these organizations be converted into joint-stock companies whose shares can be acquired by citizens and employees, provided that no shareholder own more than a certain number of shares. The general assembly [of the stockholders' association] is to elect the newspaper's board of directors and editor-in-chief.

C. The conference asserts the right of each party and each political and national movement to publish newspapers which express the opinions of members.

D. The conference is also asking that all restrictions imposed on resuming the publication of newspapers and magazines which had been published earlier and were banned by the September 1981 decree be lifted.

E. The conference also affirms the need to stimulate and support the regional press. Regional newspapers are to be liberated from the control that governors and government officials in governorates have over them so they can speak about citizens' problems truthfully.

F. The conference affirms the need to abolish the Supreme Press Council and to support the Press Union and the General Union for Workers in the Press and in the Printing and Publishing [Industries].

G. The conference also thinks it is necessary to abolish the press office in the Ministry of Information and to liberate newspapers from that office's supervision and instructions so that freedom of opinion and freedom of speech can be protected.

H. The conference is asking that the conditions of the Middle East News Agency be reconsidered and that it be extricated from the poor, deteriorating conditions [that are prevalent] in the agency so it can perform its national role [using] the most modern means and equipment and the best leaders.

The conference is also asking that leaders of opposition parties be given the opportunity to meet periodically in their club with representatives of news agencies and foreign newspaper correspondents, just as leaders of the ruling party do.

The conference is asking that the conditions of Egypt's information offices abroad be reconsidered and that a strategy be devised for the activities of the foreign information agency.

I. The conference is asking that the Publications Law be amended so that books and publications can be unhampered by [threats of] confiscation, banning and censorship. [The conference is also asking] for the repeal of the new law which was issued this year by the People's Assembly forbidding the republication of books and magazines that are published abroad. The conference also insists that old and new emergency laws be repealed to provide freedom of speech and to give people the freedom to find out what their intellectuals, their writers and their journalists in all agencies of the media think.

18. The role of culture and the arts in building [the character of] the Egyptian Arab:

Because of the important role culture and the arts play in building [the character of] nations and individuals, the conference of the Socialist Labor Party is asking for [the following] to emphasize the importance of culture and arts agencies in building [the character of] a sound Egyptian, Arab citizen.

A. These agencies are to be supported and liberated from censorship and government control so they can perform their popular role in the best possible manner. Culture agencies must not be viewed only as tools for recreation, amusement and popular information.

The party is asking that movie theaters, theaters and popular cultural establishments be made available and that care be given to public sector as well as private sector studios within the confines set by reason, sentiment and patriotism.

B. The conference is also asking that customs fees on devices and equipment for the theater and for movies be reduced or that some of these devices and equipment be exempted from such fees since the theater, the movies and books have a cultural and an educational mission. [The conference is asking] that attention be devoted to schools and to the children's theater.

B. [sic] The conference is asking that a necessary staff of artists be made available to stimulate progress in the theater and in the movies and provide a theatrical culture. [The conference is asking] that specialized institutes of art be supported and that the conventions and the literature of the theater be fostered.

C. The conference is also asking that public libraries be made universally available in neighborhoods. These libraries are to be enhanced by adding references and books [to existing collections]. The writing and publishing of books is to be encouraged, and the Public Organization for Books is to be developed so it can offer valuable books at suitable popular prices and resume its mission of translating the classics and making them available at a suitable price.

The conference is asking that school and university textbooks be purged of historical and national inconsistencies. The conference is asking that care be exercised in teaching about Egyptian and Arab social revolutions and that the question of Palestine be placed on the curriculum in basic education [classes].

The conference emphasizes the importance of providing cultural fare to school students and university students and spreading culture and the arts in their midst. Culture and the arts are the people's treasure.

4. There is no doubt that the intellectual and emotional development of the Egyptian Arab can only come about through an honest cultural movement. This can come about by providing freedom of speech and guaranteeing freedom of speech to all writers and artists.

We are also to protect our cultural and our popular heritage from the barbaric attacks of Zionism. This can only be achieved by establishing an association of Arab artists and writers. Hence the conference is appealing to Arab artists and writers to set up this association soon.

#### Fifth, in the Area of Agricultural Policy

1. Cooperative Marketing of Cotton: The conference thinks that the cooperative system for marketing cotton in its present form is nothing more than a process of turning over the cotton crop to the government with the state controlling [the operation] under the guise of calling that system a cooperative system. That system has caused the terrain that is cultivated with cotton to shrink 1 year after another because farmers are not planting cotton. This system has also hurt the grades of cotton because no attention is devoted to improved harvesting [methods]. That has affected the reputation of Egyptian cotton in foreign markets even though [for us] cotton is one of the principal sources of foreign currency; it is one of the principal crops that provides the needs of Egyptian industry. Therefore, the conference has resolved to ask the government to give farmers the freedom to sell their cotton crop voluntarily by letting buyers make competitive bids for the purchase of cotton or by having a real cooperative marketing system to ensure that farmers receive the real price for their crop. Until that is done, the conference is asking that the price of cotton be increased so that the price of cotton can come close to export prices, be compatible with the costs of production, and realize a lucrative return to farmers.

2. The mandatory turning over of the rice crop:

The conference is also asking that the rules mandating that the rice crop be turned over [to authorities] be reconsidered as follows:

A. Areas of one feddan or less where rice is grown are to be exempt from the



mandatory requirement of turning over the crop so that a small producer can have a surplus for his own consumption.

B. The ratio of the rice crop that is to be turned over from areas larger than one feddan where rice is grown is to be reduced to a tax instead of the half tax.

C. The voluntary delivery price for 1 ton of rice is to be 150 pounds so that farmers would have an incentive for turning over their surplus rice.

D. The imprisonment penalty for failing to turn over a rice crop is to be abolished; that penalty is to be replaced with a fine equal to the damages incurred as a result of the failure to turn over the rice.

### 3. The mandatory turning over of the wheat crop:

The conference agrees that a portion of the wheat [farmers grow] is to be turned over [to authorities], provided that areas where wheat is grown, which are less than one feddan, be exempted from that requirement so that small farmers can have the wheat they need for their own consumption. The conference is asking that the price of wheat be increased.

4. Fertilizer averages for crops: The conference is asking the government to increase fertilizer averages so that the objectives of a vertical increase in crops can be realized. Necessary measures are to be taken to protect against the watering down of fertilizers fertilizers and damage to fertilizer sacks as well as shortages due to poor storage conditions in warehouses. The conference is asking that fertilizer prices be stabilized so that the policy of reducing production costs can be realized.

### 5. Agricultural Automation

The conference resolves that expansion in the use of agricultural automation in all farming operations has become a necessity required by agricultural development and by the need to face the shortage of farm labor due to the emigration of workers and the expansion of education in rural areas. Furthermore, automation reduces production costs and saves the efforts of livestock so that more meat and milk can be produced. In this regard the conference is asking for the following:

A. Training centers are to be established for workers who are needed to operate farming machinery. Workers are not to operate the machinery unless they have received a certificate from the center.

C. [sic] A fair price is to be set for performing every service, and the owner of the machinery and the farmer are to abide by that price.

D. An effort is to be made to protect farmers from the rising prices of mobile irrigation machines and tractors by trying to expand the manufacturing of such machinery locally to meet the needs of farmers.

### 6. Farming Cooperatives

The conference emphasizes the importance of farming cooperatives as popular organizations and units of production that play an effective role in realizing the

objectives of the state's farming policy, improving [conditions] in Egypt's rural areas and bringing those conditions closer to urban standards. The conference thinks that farming cooperatives in their present state are not able to realize the objectives that it was hoped they would achieve. Therefore, [the conference recommends] the following:

A. The cooperative bank, which is mentioned in the Farming Cooperative Act, must be established so that the funds of cooperatives may be deposited in it; the bank can then invest those funds to serve its members.

B. All forms of custodianship set up by the government over cooperatives are to be lifted, and the government's role as overseer is to be confined to that of ascertaining that the law and the agricultural policy are being properly applied and that the funds which the state loans to cooperatives are being properly utilized.

C. Investments for the cooperative sector are to be included in the state's plan, provided that agricultural societies assume their responsibilities and invest those funds in the areas of food security, rural industries and other projects that would improve conditions in rural areas.

D. An effort is to be made to convene the general assemblies of agricultural cooperative societies at those locations that are mentioned in the law because these general assemblies are the highest authorities controlling the activities of agricultural cooperatives. This effort is to be made so that meetings of general assemblies do not become superficial functions.

E. An effort is to be made to expand cooperative training for members of agricultural cooperatives so that careful leaders, staff people and members of cooperatives can be developed. [These people would then have the ability to] understand the principles and objectives of cooperatives.

## 6. Pricing Policy for Agricultural Crops

The conference recommends that the pricing policy for agricultural crops be reconsidered so that prices can be close to export prices. Farmers can thus receive a rewarding return from their crops, and that would give them an incentive to adhere to cultivating those areas that are targeted for cultivation in the state's plan.

## 8. The Relationship between Owners of Farm Land and Tenants

The conference is charging the Farmers' Secretariat of the Socialist Labor Party with [the task of] raising the question of the relationship between owners of farm land and tenants. This matter is to be discussed among members of the party so that the grassroots membership can offer solutions to it. The relationship between landlord and tenant and the fact that that relationship rests on just principles is one of the matters to which the party is attaching importance. This is based on the fact that such a relationship would be the real way to increase agricultural production. A conference for that purpose is to be held after the matter is presented to the grassroots membership of the party.

## 9. Farm Land and the Vertical Increase in Production

Good production can only come from good land. To realize the objectives of a vertical increase in production, it is essential that an effort be made to improve soil quality and soil fertility. Soil fertility in 90 percent of the land has reached grade four, and that is a serious indicator that the soil of farm land, which is Egypt's most precious resource, is deteriorating. Therefore the conference is asking the government to include among the priorities of its plan that of expediting the process of improving soil quality and increasing soil fertility. The necessary investments must be made to achieve that [objective] in the shortest possible period of time since returns on investments made in this area are fast, yielding as much as a 25 percent [return on investment] in the same year.

The conference is also asking the government to speed up its reclamation of over 250,000 feddans of fallow land that is interspersed throughout the cultivated terrain. This is land for which means of irrigation and drainage are fully available. Farming cooperatives that are located in the vicinity of this fallow land are to assume responsibility for working this land and improving it, provided that the state offer them funds, machinery and the necessary experience for such an undertaking.

### The Composition of Agricultural Crops:

Farming in Egypt is still being conducted in the old style: traditional crops are cultivated. Wherefore, it has become essential that there be a new view so that farming can be developed and improved and farm land can be utilized in a way that is ideally suited to give farmers and the state the maximum income.

Therefore the conference is asking the government to step up its reconsideration of the present composition of crops and the extent to which it would be possible to make changes in that composition by cultivating new crops for export that would strive to develop exports.

The political consequences of bringing about the required implementation [of this matter] with regard to providing the wheat we need from the wheat crop are to be taken into consideration.

## 11. Irrigation and Drainage

The conference is asking the government to step up [its efforts] to make covered drainage generally available nationwide because of its good effects on improving the soil, preserving soil fertility and bringing about a horizontal increase in acreage. An effort is to be made to avoid the harmful effects [of covered drainage systems]: shut down inspection rooms, idle air vents, and the failure to maintain [those systems]. Otherwise, the results that had been hoped for from the project would be jeopardized.

The conference is also asking the government to devote attention to [the process of] clearing drains, creeks and uncovered irrigation ditches whose condition has become so poor as to pose a serious threat to the status of drainage and irrigation. Such a threat would affect the safety of irrigation and drainage methods.

The acquisition of small dredging machines by farming cooperatives is to be taken into account so that these farming cooperatives can perform the clearing chores in a better manner.

--In the Area of Productivity and the Problem of Wages

The Socialist Labor Party believes that productive work, which is performed earnestly and honestly, is the principal foundation upon which the country's progress and prosperity are based. The party believes that economic development can only come about through a connection between three ingredients. These are, [first], horizontal development, which [is carried out] by adding new units of production as reclaiming and cultivating land and building more factories; [second], vertical development, which means increasing the productivity of existing units of production by providing vocational guidance and training and developing the tools of operations; and, [third], staying in step with technological progress and devising technical improvements in the tools and methods of production and maintenance. This means safeguarding production capacity, existing units of production and natural and human resources from what may thwart production. Tying wages to productivity is also deemed to have a far-reaching effect on increasing workers' productivity. Therefore, the conference recommends the following to increase productivity for the purpose of doubling production.

1. A national council on productivity is to be established. Its members are to include representatives of management and labor unions and an appropriate number of professors and technical experts regardless of their party affiliations. That council is to adopt a course of supporting policies and programs [promoting] productivity in all areas in general.
2. A center for applied labor studies is to be established. That center is to set down the modes of operation that would be referred to in measuring productivity standards, in estimating the various labor needs of projects and in tying wages to productivity.
3. Job descriptions and classifications are to be completed until a standard serving the purposes of training and [the notion of] tying wages to production is reached.
4. Tying wages to production is considered a measure that would help in the formulation and execution of a wise wage and price policy which could curb inflation and hold it down to a minimum.
5. A special course on guidance and productivity is to be added to the curricula of colleges of engineering, economics and business; it should also be added to the curricula of the institutes of higher management and public administration. In addition to the academic aspect of the course, the course should cover applied cases showing models of successful guidance and planning achieved by advanced countries and some developing countries.

With regard to the policy on wages, which has an effect on workers' productivity, the conference thinks that application of the open-door policy and the establishment of foreign banks and investment companies have created a sharp imbalance in the structure of wages. There are now three levels of wages. That fact has led

to a disparity in incomes and has disrupted the purchasing power [of citizens]. This phenomenon was reflected primarily on productivity in government and in the public sector. Moreover, it undermined the purchasing power of wages as a result of continuing price increases. In this regard, therefore, the conference recommends [the following]:

1. A wage and price agency that would formulate a wise policy on wages and oversee its implementation is to be established. On the one hand, that wage policy would tie wages to the cost of living and, on the other hand, it would tie wages to productivity. This agency would be authorized to fight inflation and achieve justice in the distribution of wages and national revenues. That agency must be established on the basis of representing three parties: workers, employers-- [i.e.,] management--and authorized government agencies.
2. A system that would increase pensions in proportion to increases in the rate of inflation is to be adopted. This would reduce the suffering of people living on pensions, and it would put an end to the continuing decline of their real incomes as inflation continues to get worse.
3. A ceiling on salaries and bonuses is to be set in all sectors, and that should be applied to chairmen of boards of directors, to directors of investment companies and to senior executives in those companies. The gross disparity between workers' wages in government and in the public sector and the wages of employees in the private sector and in investment projects is to be checked.

#### Eighth, in the Area of Setting Population and Demographic Policies on the Right Course:

Although the conference of the Socialist Labor Party shares the government's interest in the population problem, the conference thinks that the government's policy in that regard tends to magnify the problem with its references to the so-called population explosion. The conference also does not agree with the government in its limited view of the population problem as a separate problem, nor does it concur with the government's failure to devote attention to investigating the interaction between this problem and other phenomena and problems. The conference emphasizes that a population problem does not exist apart from a problem with the ideal investment of economic resources. If resources can be developed at a rate that is higher or that is not less than the rate of population growth, there would be no problem. The problem arises when the rate of development is lower than that of the population growth, as is the case now. The problem arises when the rate of development cannot catch up with the rate of population growth in the near or distant future.

But it is not enough to achieve a balance between the rate of development and that of population growth. That balance must be linked with a proper distribution of the population over the various areas of the country to avoid such high concentrations of the population in some regions as well as crowding in major cities that the capabilities, services and facilities of those cities are overburdened. Therefore, a population policy must be formulated on the basis of steering population growth into new residential areas that can attract and accommodate large numbers of people. Everything must be done to put an end to the congestion in major cities, especially in Cairo and Alexandria and some capitals of

governorates. This indicates that a population policy is a complex multidimensional and multi-faceted policy. It is not merely a campaign for promoting family planning as a means for limiting the growth of the population. The discussions and recommendations of the Bucharest Population Conference proved that family planning has no tangible effect [on population growth] and that family planning methods are not popular with the people of Third World countries. Attention ought to be devoted primarily to [the task of] wiping out illiteracy, developing resources and increasing the rate of economic development.

We are not to turn to family planning unless the rate of economic growth [in the country] fails to catch up with the rate of population growth. In this case the aim of family planning would be to close the gap between these two rates. One notices that what in Egypt is called the national family planning campaign or [the effort] to tame the so-called population explosion is not founded on scientific and practical principles. Publicity and profiteering have taken hold of that effort.

If the funds that are being spent on the family planning campaign, with the support of international agencies and some foreign countries, were being spent on a campaign to combat illiteracy, more positive results would have been realized in the area of voluntary family planning.

Therefore, the conference finds it imperative that the population policy be reconsidered on scientific, practical and more realistic bases. These may be summarized as follows:

1. An effort is to be made to increase [the rate of] development so that it would correspond with the rate of population [growth] in the shortest time possible and exceed it as much as possible in the future.
2. Plans to expand inhabited areas are to be made so that the burden placed by the population on the Nile Delta and the narrow Nile Valley strip would be reduced. The population increase would be steered into new residential areas that would be established in suitable areas at a suitable rate.
3. In establishing these new residential areas consideration must be given to the fact that plans for these areas are to be formulated in the light of a feasibility study of their future resources and their ability to accommodate people. Such areas must have production establishments that provide opportunities for employment, and they must have facilities, services and means of transportation and communication between them and the rest of the country.
4. The horizontal and vertical growth of major cities like Cairo, Alexandria, Tanta, al-Mansurah, Damamhur and Sawhaj is to be frozen, and the tendency for the population of these cities to grow is to be curbed by the following means:
  - A. Horizontal growth on the outskirts of the city is to be restricted.
  - B. Vertical expansion is to be stopped by prohibiting the construction of high-rises in cities that are not prepared to handle those high-rises. New neighborhoods are to be established, and these are to be appropriately planned for the construction of such high-rises.

C. Decentralization is to be applied by restricting the work force in the central departments of ministries and in administrations to the [smallest] minimum possible.

D. The management offices of major companies that have installations or plants located in the governorates are to be transferred from the capital to those areas where those installations or plants are located. A decision had been made on such a measure, but the companies dragged their feet in implementing it, and the government took no practical measures to force the companies to carry it out.

E. Construction of new plants or installations on the outskirts of Cairo or Alexandria is to be prohibited.

5. Rural areas are to be stimulated, and facilities in rural areas are to be improved to curb the tendency people have to migrate to cities. This is to be done on the following bases:

A. Manual industries are to be encouraged, as well as small industries specializing in the production of parts that are to be assembled in assembly plants that serve a number of villages.

B. Agricultural industries that are compatible with the crops which are usually grown in neighboring areas are to be encouraged.

C. The recreational resources of rural areas are to be utilized by turning some villages into summer or winter resorts or places for rest and relaxation.

Eighth, in the Area of Party Affairs:

1. Amending the Party's Bylaws

The conference approved motions that were made to amend the party's bylaws. These include in particular:

A. A set of regulations is to be drawn up in accordance with Articles 8 and 9 of the bylaws for questioning party members who violate the principles and the bylaws of the party.

B. The number of staff members in offices is to be set, and the manner in which they are elected is to be determined.

C. Two new organizational levels are to be introduced into the structure [of the party]: the level of the local committee and that of the precinct committee.

D. The authorities and the make-up of the general secretariat are to be clarified.

E. The organizational structure [of the party] is to be rearranged from the bottom upwards.

F. The dates for periodic elections of office staff members of all levels, even the governorate committee, are to be determined.

G. The constituents' committee has the right to cast a vote of confidence in the

staff of its office. [Such a vote has to have] a three-fourths majority of those attending a meeting convened for that purpose.

2. Two organizations are to be established within the party: one for young people and one for women.

[The conference] recommends that an organization be established for the young people of the party and another for the women of the Socialist Labor Party. The rules for establishing these two organizations are to be laid down by the Executive Committee and approved by the Supreme Committee.

### 3. AL-SHA'B Newspaper

In praising the role that the newspaper, AL-SHA'B played in defending the course of democracy and expressing the ideas and principles of the party, the conference thinks it is important that the newspaper be developed and supported so it can stay in step with current conditions that are being experienced by the country.

The conference is affirming the need to have AL-SHA'B come out more than once a week or to have a second party newspaper besides AL-SHA'B come out weekly. The dimensions of AL-SHA'B as well as its sections are also to be changed.

The conference also finds it necessary that the party's newspaper devote attention to religious aspects and to youth activities. Appropriate space for that purpose should be provided in the newspaper. Attention should be devoted to highlighting the news and activities of parliament, the news and problems of governorates and news of party committees. Attention should also be devoted to investigative reports, to articles that present the public's problems and to articles that make the party's program and its ideas and principles known.

The conference calls upon the newspaper's board of directors and its editorial board to draw up an urgent plan [to effect] this development and change.

The conference also calls upon the party's Executive Committee to look into the establishment of a publishing house that would also publish a newspaper.

### 4. An In-House Publication

The conference calls upon the Information Secretariat to publish the party's in-house publication nationwide and to work with the party's committees on the publication of in-house publications that record the party's activities.

### 5. The Financial Report

The conference declares its approval of the financial report that was submitted by the colleague, the treasurer of the party. The conference also thanks him for the efforts he made in preparing the report.

### 6. The Secretary General's Report

The secretary general's report on party activities informed the conference of the party's various activities. The conference is asking that efforts be made to



complete the requirements that have been deemed necessary for the party's committees which have not yet been able to obtain sites [for their operations]. The conference is also asking that educational courses for party members be increased.

#### 7. The Statement of the Party's Chairman

The general conference also states for the record its appreciation for the statement about the party's policy that was presented to the conference by the chairman of the party. The general conference declares its support for what was stated in that statement.

8592

CSO: 4504/124