

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

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presented by

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at

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF INDIAN WORKERS' ASSOCIATION

OF GREAT BRITAIN

held on 11th - 12th November, 1967 at Leicester

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Central Executive Committee of the Indian Workers' Association,  
Great Britain, 1 Birch Croft,  
Erdington,  
Birmingham, 24.



## TRADE UNIONS

As one of our aims we have carried out extensive campaigns asking our people to join the appropriate trade unions and play a full part in the struggles of the British working class to improve their level of wages, conditions of work etc..

We are proud to say that our people by their actions have belied many of the racist accusations that they isolate themselves from British workers. Instead, they have proved themselves to be first-class trade unionists. We go further and state that they have on occasions given British workers a lesson in trade union solidarity.

In several instances members of our organisation have played a leading role in successful industrial struggles. Earlier this year at the Coneygre Foundry 350 workers came out on strike against sackings which were being made on a racial basis.

The I.W.A. has consistently fought in support of two principles which were relevant to events at Coneygre:-

- (1) We have done everything possible to bring our members into the trade union movement and to encourage them to play an active part alongside workers of all nationalities in support of trade union principles.
- (2) We have consistently fought against racial discrimination in all its forms. It was quite apparent that the management at Coneygre were sacking people on a racist basis.

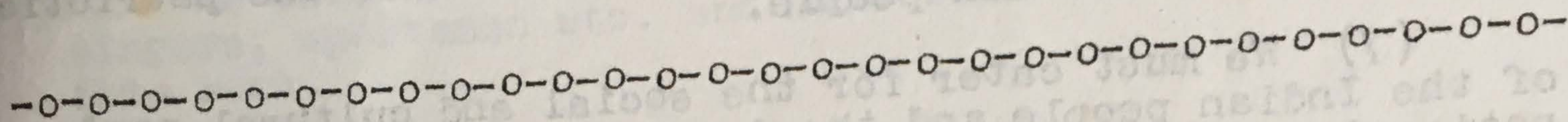
With the workers concerned the I.W.A. kept in close touch with the relevant trade union throughout the dispute and sent out appeals to Indian and other workers in the area and I.W.A. branches all over the country in support of the strikers. The strikers won their full demands and the sacked workers were reinstated. We were immensely proud of the leading role played by our I.W.A. members in this dispute.

Only a few weeks ago another successful struggle at Midland Motor Cylinder Company took place. Again, our members were at the forefront of the struggle. The three demands by the strikers - reinstatement of a shop steward and another worker, disciplining the foreman and a manage-



ment declaration on the establishment of piece work rates were all met.

At Coal Cast and Ripton Foundries our workers again proved victorious.



WHAT ARE THE MAIN TASKS AND FUTURE PROGRAMME OF THE I.W.A.G.B.?

(1) We should support the growing militant struggle of the Indian people - workers, peasants and middle classes - against the corrupt bourgeois-landlord Congress Government as well as other reactionary forces in India and for the defence of the people's rights and the victory of the people's democratic revolution.

(2) We should defend India's independence and sovereignty and support the struggle against the sell-out to imperialism, especially to U.S. imperialism - the enemy of all mankind.

(3) We should promote the unity and solidarity of the oppressed peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America in their struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism and for national independence and world peace. In this regard we must support the peoples war in Vietnam against U.S. imperialist aggression and for national salvation.

(4) Indian workers are a component part of the working class in Britain. The IWA must raise their class consciousness and class solidarity and unite the whole British working class, through the trade unions etc., in the common struggle for the defence and advancement of the working people and against the offensive of British imperialism, whether represented by the Tory or Labour parties. This struggle is a component part of the world-wide revolutionary struggle for the overthrow of the system of exploitation of man by man and for social advance.

(5) The Indian workers must unite with all the other oppressed national minorities and win the support of the British working class against racial discrimination, the