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20 July 1985

Comrade Prem,
Lal Salam.

As I indicated to you during the break in our days activities, in Derby on 14th July. The Comrades in Birmingham made certain complaints regarding communication.

- 1) The branch members alledge that they were not informed of the General body meeting of A.I.C. attended by Com. Surjeet and held in Hillingdon at my residence.
- ii) All the members complained that they had not recieved any information regarding the World Youth Festival and the tour to Moscow.
Although I accepted the overall reponsibility for this failure to communicate directly with the branch, as National Gen. Sec. of I.Y.A.. I am seriously concerned by the fact that both Com. Sohan Sandhu - member Secretariat A.I.C., Com. Teja Sandhu ex-member C.E.C. I.W.A. were given the relevant information along with the comrades from all our other branches. They were all requested at the extended meeting held in Leicester, to discuss the Festival and Tour locally and let me know if anyone was interested.

It was disturbing to learn of the lack of communication between the Birmingham branch members and the two Comrades. This item, though raised at the I.Y.A. meetings was not discussed, as I informed the Comrades that it had to be referred back to the Party.

It was only when I was pressed by the Comrades from Birmingham during the break, that I suggested that they talk to you and Com. S. Sandhu, regarding this problem.

with reference to the item raised by Com. Parawana, I have included in my report the full background to the issue as outlined by Com. M.Basavapuniah.

Also enclosed full report of I.Y.A. activities and COM. Suneet's visit- two copies of Com. M.B.'S article , one for you and one for Com. Parawana. + copy of Press Release.

I shall be attending the World Youth Festival from 26th July- 5th Aug. 85. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance in the matters raised above.

Yours Comradely

Harsev Bains

HARSEV BAINS
Member C.E.C. A.I.C. (G,B.).

REPORT OF INDIAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION (G.B.) July 1985

At the I.W.A. (G.B.) conference held in Coventry on Sunday 23rd July 1985, it was decided by the Comrades from the I.Y.A. C.E.C. to hold a General Body meeting and Public meeting in Derby on 13 or 14 July 1985. This was done in order to avail ourselves of the opportunity of discussing organisational and political aspects of youth work, with Com. Suneet Chopra Nat. Vice Pres. D.Y.F.I.. He was expected to stay for a few days in transit between his visit to the Second Congress of S.A.D.R. in the W. Sahara and India.

Com. Suneet is a member of the sub-committee of D.Y.F.I. and S.F.I., who are directly responsible to the Polit Bureau of C.P.I.(M).

After his return from the Sahara he reported in detail the formation and development of D.Y.F.I., and the second congress of the Polisario to the Southall and Birmingham branches of I.Y.A.. He also met informally with the I.Y.A. comrades from Wolverhampton and the comrades in Leicester. During the visit to Wolverhampton on 13th July both Suneet and myself were able to discuss the proposed agenda for I.Y.A. C.E.C. meeting with Com. Prem Singh. During Suneet's visit he also informally met; a representative from North Korean Friendship Society, friends from Ireland, Labour Party, Jerry Pocock C.P.G.B. .

One thing that became most apparent during his visit was the enthusiasm and inspiration generated during the meetings with all young people both men and women.

During the question session of the meeting in Birmingham, a number of points concerning the I.Y.A., I.W.A., AND A.I.C. were raised. Majority of the questions concerning I.Y.A. were dealt with but there were a number left un-answered especially those that were inter-related.

Some of the issues raised regarding organisational functioning and development of I.Y.A. were noted and subsequently discussed at the C.E.C.:-

- 1) Firstly, we discussed the broad base of our organisation. In this respect we are lagging behind in educating our ranks about the real broad based character of our organisation. There cannot be a mass organisation without mass membership. But we have not attempted to achieve that goal. Our branches seem to be happy in having limited membership.

There are so many reasons for our failure to enroll mass membership.

- a) Selective membership; not enrolling every young man and woman but selecting a few and enrolling them.
- b) Failure to enroll women as members, as if I.Y.A. is a men's organisation. Some Comrades believe that women should go to women's organisations. If half of the 'British-Indian' youth is kept outside, how can we broaden our base?
- c) Failure to keep regular contact with the members and to involve them in many activities.
- d) Leaving the largest section of non-committed youth, and enrolling only a limited number of youths out of the total number eligible.

- e) Enrolling members, not regular or monthly, but at particular times e.g. at Conference times.
 - f) Failure to maintain a register of members and renewing them every two years.
 - g) Failure to deposit one third of membership fees to C.E.C.
- 2) Secondly, there are weaknesses in Committee functioning at local and National levels. Except on rare occasions most of the meetings are attended by only 50% of the members. As a result of it, the process of developing a collective leadership and planned growth has not been possible. The organisation is mostly dependant on one or two persons and the absence of a particular person jeopardises the existence of the whole organisation. We have to inculcate the idea of the importance of committee meetings and attending them: taking part in discussions, arriving at collective decisions and developing the sense of responsibility in implementing them individually; the meetings should be lively and attractive: the office bearers should be more active, dynamic and capable of providing proper leadership, otherwise the same situation will repeat itself again and again.
- 3) Thirdly, the 'life cells' of our organisation are the branches. In some areas we have failed to develop their leadership as a team, to educate them properly, to plan and streamline their functioning effectively. Since 1977, no new units have been formed and in fact the branches in Leicester, Coventry, and Swindon have been allowed to die. The branches that continue to be active i.e. Derby, Birmingham, Southall and Wolverhampton are fast becoming disillusioned. Glasgow branch has still not been constitutionally formed.
- 4) Fourthly, the failure to understand the demarcation between the Party organisation, and the workers, youth and women organisations continues to be raised at all the meetings. The answer to this as given in Com. M.B.'s article was discussed at the C.E.C., but there still seems to be confusion in the ranks. Therefore I have requested LOKTA to publish the article, so that it can be fully discussed and properly understood by all the Comrades.

The C.E.C. has decided upon the following improvements to be implemented immediately:-

The Association should place higher emphasis on the problems that the Indian youth in Britain has to face. e.g. Unemployment, racism, facism, communalism, dowry system, sports, culture, education, and Peace.

As most of the problems are inter-related i.e. caused directly or indirectly by Imperialism & Capitalism, it was agreed that we should form Anti-Imperialist Centre in London which if developed properly among the youth and students will help make the I.Y.A. run centre a focal point for all progressive based organisations.

The Centre should be able to attract intellectuals from colleges, universities and institutions. This will enable us to break new ground and it would seem from our initial investigation that Harpal Brar seems to have been quite active in this area. However, the superiority of our Party's Political line will make it a little easier for us to make a headway.

Through seminars, discussions and mini-meetings we will attempt to educate the members and sympathisers of our youth organisation in order to increase their anti imperialist awareness.

The Anti-Imperialist Centre should be able to provide an invaluable service to C.P.I.M.-- A.I.C. by :-

- i) Developing contact at our lowest level with other anti-imperialist democratic and liberation movements.
- ii) Collecting, recording and disseminating information to the Party here and in India.

The C.E.C. was unanimous in its decision to positively encourage young women to join the organisation and participate in all its activities by quickly promoting them to leading positions within the Association. This progressive move will help to break down the barriers that exist between men and women within our society and help to free the women by promoting equality. The campaign against the evils of 'Dowry' system will also be enhanced. This move is not supposed to be to the detriment of the A. I.W.

Attempts will be made in future to organise sports activities on a regular basis.

The C.E.C. opined that in order to attract Indian youth born in Britain, we must organise multifarious cultural activities.

The new membership campaign should reflect fully the name of the organisation and should no longer be confined to Punjabis alone. The enrolment to include those non-committed youths who are not members at present and we should also attempt to enroll students.

A letter, requesting strengthening and streamlining of the relationship between D.Y.F.I. and I.Y.A. to be sent to the former.

Resolution supporting S.A.D.R. was moved and adopted. It was agreed that we recommend this to the conference and public meeting for endorsement.

Next meeting of I.Y.A. C.E.C. to be held in Birmingham, day after their public meeting.

C.E.C. meeting to be held at, 110 Salisbury Rd
Cape Hill, Smethwick. Tel. 021 558 2288. On 25 August, at 10.00 a.m.

END

ANTI IMPERIALIST CAMPAIGN CENTRE LAUNCHED

The Indian Youth Association (G.B.) during it's public meeting held in Derby on Sunday 14th July 1985, announced the formation of an Anti-Imperialist Centre to be based in London, U.K.

This announcement comes at a time when Imperialism led by the U.S. is threatening World Peace and is seeking to topple democratically elected governments e.g. Nicaragua. At the same time Anti Imperialist youth is gathering in Moscow for the 12th World Youth Festival, to promote Peace, Friendship, and Solidarity among nations.

The proposed Centre will act as a 'Bridge' between the Indian youth in Britain and the anti imperialist liberation and democratic movements of the world.

Addressing the meeting, Prem Singh, National President, Indian Workers Association (G.B.), dealt with the national and international situation, with particular emphasis on Punjab. He described the role of workers and youth Association working together to expose the real enemies of India.

ECONOMIC CRISIS

National General Secretary, I.Y.A., Harsev Bains explained that the economic crisis that has led to Privatisation of all the profit making nationalised industries and the closure of those that fail to fill the coffers of Government has resulted in increasing unemployment to well over 4 million.

He congratulated all those young people, who were involved in rallying political, moral and financial support to the historic strike by the National Union of Mineworkers, to preserve their jobs. This gesture of solidarity has been praised by the leadership of the N.U.M., who continue to struggle against Thatcher's right wing anti-union policies.

C.E.C. Decisions

He explained the Central Executive Committee's decision to positively encourage young women to join the organisation and participate in all it's activities by quickly promoting them to leading positions within the Association. This progressive move will help to break down the barrier that exists between men and women within our society and help to free the women by promoting equality. The campaign against the evils of 'Dowry' system will also be enhanced.

The enrolment of young women in the new membership campaign, will only eradicate one of the anomalies, the other will be to organise all 'British' Indian Youth and students and to expand our broad base under the banner of I.Y.A.. Only then will the full requirements of the Association's Constitution be met. A constitution that was adopted 8 years ago in 1977 in Derby under the presidium headed by Com. Kishori Lal Comrade- in- arms of Shaheed Bhagat Singh.

Anti- Imperialist Consciousness

Importance of raising the level of anti imperialist consciousness among the youth was highlighted by Suneet Chopra, National Vice President, Democratic Youth Federation of India. He recalled the historic fact that genuine Martyrs like Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev were hung by the British imperialists for demanding an Independent India for all Indians. Also Shaheed Udham Singh, who preferred to be known as Ram Mohammed Singh, because of his secular beliefs was hung by the British Colonialists for avenging the murder of innocent Indians at Jalian wala Bagh.

He went on to explain, amidst thunderous applause that 253 martyrs of D.Y.F.I. who have sacrificed their lives in the last four years,

to uphold the integraty and unity of the country have been replaced by thousands more, ready to take their place. For the indian youth of today; the true followers of the secular and democratic freedom frighthers, will not allow the country to be divided and torn apart by any imperialist power or it's agents. To this end he welcomed the initiative taken by I.Y.A. to launch the new Anti imperialist Centre in London, The 'hub' of imperialist activities. He gave a detailed report of the history of the youth movement in India, with special reference to its role on the issues of Peace, Democracy and Civil Liberties. Suneet Concluded his address with a report on the Second Congress of the Polisario Youth (UJSARIO), which he attended along with a thousand strong delegation from 38 different countries in Western Sahara earlier this month.

END VISA REGULATIONS

Avtar Sadiq, Nat. Gen. Secretary I.W.A. (G.B.) announced the start of a national signature campaign to seek an end to the discriminatory racist marriage laws in Britain and the visa regulations imposed by the Indian Government. The meeting was inspired by a progressive cultural programme, which included poems and song recital by, among others Mushtaq Singh, Ajit Pathlawa, Hardip Bains, H. Dardi and Lehnbar Singh.

LOKTA

The Secretary of I.Y.A. Derby Branch Rajinder Bains moved a motion supporting LOKTA, the recently launched monthly magazine and requested all young people to subscribe to the paper themselves and urge their friends to do the same.

The meeting concluded by adopting a resolution supporting the struggle of the Saharawi People moved by Shingar Singh, President of I.Y.A. Derby Branch.

RESOLUTION

The Indian Youth Association of Great Britain calls upon all the democratic and anti-imperialist youth to support the just struggle of the Saharawi people to rid their country of Moroccan occupation troops, aided primarily by U.S. and French imperilaist forces, who have launched a war of genocide against them. We call on all just and democratic people to support the liberation struggle led by POLISARIO and aid their agricultural, educational and women's advancement schemes materialy.

Today in its tenth year of existance, the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic is recognised by 61 countries and is a full-fledged member of the organisation of African Unity.

We demand that the British Government recognise the Saharawi Democratic Republic immediately.

It has come to our notice that the British Military attaché in Morocco along with the U.S. and Saudi Arabian Military attaches has violated Saharawi territory by visiting areas illegally occupied by the Moroccan regime. We condemn this violation and demand that such violations are never repeated again.

Realeased by
Indian Youth Association

Harsev Bains

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SOUTHALL

MIDOX