

REVIEW OF THE CONFERENCE.

The bi-ennial congress of the I.W.A.G.B. took place at Wolverhampton on 31 st. May & 1st June. 158 delegates & 10 observers took part in this conference and the discussion was very constructive which revealed its maturity and healthy atmosphere. The General Secretary's report was detailed and the branches had received it at least 14 days before the congress.

After receiving the delegates, the conference started with a resolution on the victory of Vietnamese & Cambodian people over the imperialist U.S. ruling Class. THE General Secretary presented his report. It was well received. The fraternal delegates spoke and those who could not come, their messages were read out. After the report the conference was divided into 5 commissions to discuss Race & E.C.C.; Youth & Culture; Education & Non-Manual Workers; Transport; and Engineering-Foundry Workers. There was maximum participation in these Commissions. The delegates have really appreciated the idea and work of these commissions. It gave maximum time to discuss the problem and this idea need to be developed in our meetings at local and national level. At the end of 1st day we had a good cultural function.

Next day, the chairmen of the 5 commissions presented their reports. The reports were quite comprehensive and put forward certain tasks and proposals. Our weaknesses on the women and Youth front were pointed as was in my report. This is a very neglected and weak point and must be done something now & immediately. The youth has not been brought in and have failed to create a link and close liason and have not taken any step to tackle their various problems. From sports to a culture, generation gap along with (holistic) racist & anti-working class atmosphere must be understood to take steps to take steps to guide and seek their co-operation.

Education is a burning issue and we have neglected our under 5s, their educational needs, nursery provision, play groups (and the aid from local council), bilingualism, our language & culture and our children's identity to achieve success (even to fight against injustice). We must plan our strategy and the steps to achieve our ends.

Racism is increasing in jobs and in the provision of general opportunities. The race relations act must be strengthened and racism must be declared a criminal offence. The Community Relations Commission must be dissolved. WE do not need any agent for conciliation and should have the power to take a

Racist and discriminatory person or an agency to the court. The coming Nationality Act must be watched carefully and should start mobilising our people from now on. I have already circulated concerning this coming Nationality Act and many delegates got it. So do something now. Transport and industry require our attention and should start fighting at two fronts - be members, participate and pose the problem there AND also we must build the mass movement from outside to fight against racism.

With the increasing inflation and recession, & EEC national preference, racism is bound to increase.

Our achievements elaborated in the report were acknowledged and the future tasks given the report were accepted. We lost some branches and at the same time new branches have affiliated. Our communication is lacking - fault lies at both ends. The branches must keep the centre informed of its activities and their problems - must send regular report to the centre. The United Front And United Action are two different things. For the united action, consult the centre. Do not commit the centre without consulting us. We make distinction between the Tories and the Labour though both of them work within the capitalist framework. We condemn the machinations and the interference of the Indian High Commission in various organisations and we oppose the Overseas Congress which is the front organisation of the Indian Congress. Our united action must be to strengthen our organisation and to benefit the masses. So we should not fall into the trap of absolute principle. This report and the previous circulars should be used for general guidance.

In future we must keep our initiative. We should arrange for educational seminars and one day or two days school on various topics such as Trade Union; Racism; Education; Culture; Youth; Women; EEC & The Migrants; Social & Welfare Agencies; Social Structure of U.K. etc. at the branch and regional level. So branches should inform me about their plans. The branches

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xx can form their sub-committees on various topics.

We are planning to call a national conference on Trade Union & Racism with in few months. We will also consider to call our conference (1 day) on education and Youth.

The need is felt to press for O&A level education facilities in our Asian and other Minority languages in our towns. Pressurise your Councils for xx this and for facilities for Community Centres for our people. Approach them for money for play groups, literacy & for sports places. Approach the EEC to provide money for the x betterment of the immigrants and their children in U.K.

The inefficiency of the Indian High Commission was rightly condemned and we are writing our High Commissioner to this effect and we will also meet him personally. The branches should write as well.

The BBC and its Asian planners were condemned. All of us should send our news and daily activities to them for transmission as news. If they do not transmit then we will take further action. They have promised (18th June)

to transmit. Let us see. The address is-British Broadcasting Centre, Broadcasting House, Pebble Mill Road, Birmingham-B5 7 QQ. (Asian Program)

The police attitude and its general treatment was not thoroughly examined except 1 delegate. This needs more highlight and exposure.

The Weekly Paper came under discussion. We found it difficult to print due to inaction of the branches, finance, too spread out responsibility etc. This will be discussed in the central Executive Committee very soon.

We should try to produce occasional bulletins and pamphlets such as Common Market by me.

We did not discuss the ban on the doctors trained in Indian sub-continent in U.K. and in the EEC. This grossxx racialism and need to fight as a test case. Find some doctors to help us. Ask Trades Unions to pass resolutions against racialism and fight at the shopfloor level.

Concerning the Black Peoples Forward Conference and its future will be explained in branch meetings. IWAGB is a broad organisation and we need the help to fight racialism and inequality with the support of others but we can not share our platform and action with our enemies which may lend credit to them as was the case under the issue of the EEC- Powell & National Front were anti EEC but we did not share platform with them.

Our Finance Secretary could not present the accounts in the conference and this will be done as soon as the present & the EX Treasurers have done their sums.

The constitution amendments were long due and they were prepared a year before but could be presented in the congress. The amendments were passed unanimously and this will be given for the printing. It will take some time to get it done.

COM. H.S. Surjeet, General Secretary of the All India Kisan Sabha was our distinguished guest and he spoke about the national and the international situation and gave us valuable advice concerning our British situation.

We are thinking to hold a Youth Festival with the help of Coventry IWA in the near future.

The arrangement of boarding & lodging was very efficient and was praiseworthy and everybody appreciated the hospitality of the Wolverhampton IWA. I also thank them for this marvellous arrangement and cordial treatment.

The resolutions were passed unanimously on the EEC; Racism; Indian High Commission; Iranian Students; Southern Africa; BBC Asian Programme and on Vietnam.

Now I ask you to start work in the light of our conference and take IWAGB further into the people. Don't lag behind. If you have ideas try to convey me in writing or by ringing. No need to wait for the congress and then c--.

At the end the Central Committee and its Office Bearers were elected unanimously. Their names are on page 3.

Dated JUNE 1975.

Yours Brotherly

Gurnam S. Sanghera.

After passing and endorsing the resolution concerning Vietnam, following Resolutions were unanimously passed.

1- South Africa- This conference strongly condemns the suppression of a vast majority of indigenous black population of Southern African countries by a small minority of white settlers. We demand from the Commonwealth countries, especially Britain and India to support the armed struggle carried on by liberation fighters of Rhodesia and South Africa.

2- BBC-ASIAN PROGRAMME- ---This national conference of IWAGB deplores the biased attitude of the Asian Programme of BBC which either ignores the real issues faced by the Asians or by manipulation, present a distorted view of them through the unrepresentative individuals. It has been consistently hiding the activities of the IWAGB and under-rating its achievements. We demand from the organisers of the said programme to a change in their unscrupulous attitude, otherwise the IWAGB will be forced to take other steps to put an end to it.

3- INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION LONDON.--- This conference deplores the total lack of interest & calculated indifference of the Indian High Commission to the serious problems facing the Indian workers in this country. Not only the High Commission functioning bureaucratic and high handed as much as inefficient in dealing with individual cases, it has failed in its duty to fight strongly represent the interests of the Indian Community to the British Govt & to take effective actions to protect the rights of the former. This conference asks the Indian High Commission to become responsive to the feelings and needs of the Indian Community.

4- Iranian Students.--- This conference condemns the actions of the Shah of Iran in imprisoning 21 students for their political activities and expresses solidarity with the people of Iran, particularly their left wing leaders in their fight against the repressive fascist regime of Iran.

5- Racism--- This conference asks the Indian workers and other immigrant workers to join together, as also with the progressive British organisations and build a powerful mass movement against the growing evil of racism in this country. This congress is concerned about the proposed legislation on U.K. Nationality which would take away the rights presently enjoyed by the Commonwealth immigrants and make their position insecure. It also expresses alarm at the activities of the National Front and similar organisations, which are bound to grow with the coming recession & economic depression in this country. The conference also notes the deliberate policy of delay and harassment followed by the U.K. government in dealing with the applications of the dependents and fiancée from India and demands the immediate positive- yes, decision on the applications.

6- THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY.--- This conference views the Common Market as one of the attempt by discredited capitalist forces to marshall their economic, political and military forces against East Europe, and also is an instrument for strengthening international monopolies and their exploitation of the people through higher prices, lower wages and declining for opportunities. The immigrant workers in particular would now face competition from the common market national workers and curtailment of political rights through the proposed new nationality act, while they themselves will be denied the opportunity to work in the common market countries as in the case of the commonwealth doctors trained outside the common market countries. This conference emphatically says 'NO' to the question of U.K. remaining in the EEC and asks its members to join the referendum campaign on this basis. At the same time the conference warns the members against associating themselves with the Powellites and others who are viewing the same from a narrow racist, national chauvinistic viewpoint.

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Gurnam S. Sanghera.

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Civil Liberties in India.---

This conference expresses its deep concern at the increasing curtailment of civil liberties and democratic rights in different parts of India, in particular in W. Bengal, a large number of persons belonging to CPI(M) and other groups have been detained for several years without trial; more than 400 workers have been killed since 1972, and meetings of opposition parties have been systematically attacked by the goondas of the ruling party. In several parts of India, a reign of terror has been unleashed, semi fascist terror method of large scale murder, arson and imprisonment have been adopted and opposition parties are being suppressed. In addition the democratic rights of the trade union have also come under attack; many unions are not allowed to function, and industrial actions as in the case of the recent railway strike have been subjected to massive torture from police and military. An economic crisis is mounting, the myth of green revolution has failed, attempt to confuse the masses through spectacular actions by exploding nuclear bombs and sending satellites into the orbit has lost their glamour. The Govt. is now using coercive methods to silence the expression of anger and frustration of the masses.

The conference asks its members to study the Indian situation; and demand from the Govt. the release of political prisoners and an end to the policy of suppression and terror and curtailment of civil liberties.

JUNE 1975.

Yours Brotherly,
Gurnam S. Sanghera.