

INDIAN WORKERS' ASSOCIATION : GREAT BRITAIN

(Report from June 1975 - July, 1977).

Report presented at the Bi-ennial National Congress in  
Bradford (St. Peter's School, Near Public Baths, Leeds Road)  
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Note: This is the Summary report of the activities and successes  
of the past two years.

We are holding our bi-ennial Congress after a two year continuous, consistent, and successful campaign against the Semi-fascist and dictatorial rule of the Indira Congress in India. Since 28th June, 1975, I.W.A.G.B. and its branches have been educating, campaigning and mobilizing people against the imposition of Internal and External Emergency in India. These oppressive and anti-people Indira Congress has been swept away in the general elections held in March, 1977. This is the victory of the Indian people.

At this time capitalism is engulfed in deep economic crisis in which inflation, unemployment, poverty, redundancies and inequality are the regular features. Britain at the bottom of the heap and can be called "the sick man of Europe". Inflation is running at the rate of 18-20% and the unemployment figure is one and a half million people. The economic graph - prosperity and depression greatly influence other issues such as racialism. The Right reactionaries are also on the move. But the progressive forces are also alert and getting round to combat anti-people forces.

The Indian Workers' Association has always stood for freedom, workers' unity (irrespective of any other distinction), equal opportunity and progressive measures and radical steps. Since its formation in 1938 (Coventry), it has fought for the working class in general (according to its capacity) and the Indian in particular.

Migration: Details of the Indian labour emigration to other countries were given in 1975 report. There are more than six million people throughout the world who came originally from the Indian Sub-Continent. Indians going overseas take their India with them and transplant or recreate in the new settling place. Indians have been living in Britain before the twentieth century. Before the second world war there were a few thousand, who were active economically and politically (for Indian Independence and Trade Union membership). After the second world war about 7,000 (seven thousand) Asians were living in Britain. The pioneers in the U.K. were Punjabi Sikhs. Mainly they were from the rural areas and were associated with agriculture or allied jobs. During the fifties there were 69,600 from India and 9,000 from Pakistan. The dominant majority were unlettered and non-English speaking. At present people from the Asian Sub-Continent are about 1.5 per cent of the total population. Male Indians born in India are 155,745 and the female Indians born in India are 126,935 and the Indians born in the U.K. are 230,000, thus totalling 513,000.

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faults in (or could not get on with) the girls, after getting their marriages registered. So separation and divorce cases, and also inter-family quarrels. The Home Office also found this excuse to whip all the Asians. The police started enquiring about the validity of the marriage and entered their bedrooms to harass them. The organisations had to fight against it. Now the marriage of the fiance from India will be on probation for a year before allowing the male to settle here permanently. Anyway divorce rate is increasing among the Asians though the percentage is insignificant.

The other biggest social problem is the dowry system. The paradox is that everybody condemns it but still it is increasing. We need a determined and consistent fight against it.

The Asian family and social system has helped a great deal to keep the crime rate very low among its community.

Some Asian girls are in need of residential care due to family conflicts and stresses.

Migrants in Western Europe: There are about 15 million immigrants living in Western Europe. The word 'immigrant' is synonymous with blacks or coloured in the U.K. but in Western Europe they are whites and blacks.

In Switzerland foreigners are 28 per cent of the work force and are 17 per cent of the total population.

In West Germany the foreigners are 2 million and 1 million dependants.

France has 2 million foreign workers. There the immigrants are 7 per cent of the population.

In Belgium the immigrant work force is a quarter of a million and immigrants are 6 per cent of the population.

Holland has half a million immigrants which make 3 per cent of the population.

There is hostility against the foreign workers and racialism is rampant against the black immigrants. The majority of the migrant workers are "guest workers" which means on a temporary basis. They face many restrictions and no civil rights for the temporary workers. The immigrant workers have helped to build up capitalist economy. The report "Western Europe's Migrant Workers" state, "The plentiful supply of relatively undemanding labour, young and hard working, has favoured a degree of economic development that would not have been possible without it. They have increased productivity by removing labour bottlenecks, and have encouraged capital investment by being prepared to work night shifts - have enabled European workers to move into higher skilled jobs. They have been less demanding on the social services because of their age structure, and have been prepared, because of their mobility, to move in and out of short-lived jobs".



Immigrants in Britain: According to the Census under 3 million people were born overseas. Two out of three people born overseas are whites.

According to 1974 figures of Registrar General the black population of Britain is 174,400 which is 3.2 per cent of the total population. About 40 per cent of the coloured population are born in the U.K. The birth among the coloured population is on the decline now. The coloured people have fewer old people and this makes less demands on pensions etc. Nearly half of the black adults have been here for 15 years or more.

The Immigration cuts are devised to block the entry of the coloured people as the former Labour Chief Whip, Mr. Bob Mellish said, "Enough is enough - the burden can not go on being shouldered by our people". Who shoulders the burden will be mentioned in the further pages. The whole debate is about black immigration. Jonathon Aitken (Con. M.P.) said "That this House notes with concern the changing demographic character of Great Britain, particularly the outflow of young people emigrating overseas and continuing inflow of immigrants from the new Commonwealth and call on the Government, in the interest of improving race relations, to make clear and accurate statements of its immigration policy".

But in 1975 about 2,074 a year permit holders were coloured people while the whites from non-E.E.C. were 7,986.

The coloured people with less than a year permit - 670, but from the other white countries with less than a year permit were 8,060. In 1975 about 10,000 whites came for settlement from the white commonwealth, while the coloureds were far less.

Labour Government has a record of good statements but its record of action is shameful (except the period of Mr. Alex Lyon as a Minister of Immigration & Race Relations). The Labour Party has never disowned anti-coloured statements by its own leading national and local members. We are clear about the Tories and their racist, anti-working class policies.

Racialism has been created by capitalism and white capitalist institutions maintain it and they condone it. There is a lot of propaganda that Britain is "tolerant" - so it means that something is undesirable which is tolerated. Thus it implies that something is wrong with the coloured people. As we can see from its history, the racial bias has been inherent in it and the racialism has been institutionalised by various sections. The Green Paper on British Nationality is the last nail. Racial disturbances have been happening against the Jews. Then in 1919 in many British parts there were calls of repatriation. Trade Unions spoke against the coloured seamen which led to Special Restrictions (Coloured Alien Seamen) order of 1925. Then race riots in the thirties and later in 1958 and 1970. Race issue is tossed during elections and voting behaviour reflects native's racist attitudes.

Many people think that the government is unresponsive to the needs and demands of the coloured people but succumbs to the racists. Up to now the political expression of the coloured

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immigrants has been reactive rather than active. The youth and our organisations have been initiators. The coloured people have not been able to express unitedly but the step has been taken towards that direction (in the Organisation's activities). There has been inter-party consensus on the question of race. The blacks are being dehumanized and made to feel inferior. The effort is to colonize the coloureds by cultural and institutional imperialism. Violence is not only by guns but violence is committed when the poor people are made to die or when the blacks are despised and under-rated.

"There is a high level of alienation among young blacks from the institutions of British Society", (Select Committee on the West Indian Community). At least the authorities have started accepting that racialism and racial discrimination is prevalent and thus complacency must disappear. They must accept that political actions have made the blacks more insecure. Race relations industry is humbug and is to keep the blacks in place. Race Relations industry confuses the issues and helps to blunt the struggle by pretending that it is genuinely concerned with the oppressive situation of the black community.

The Asians have been thrown and spread about in the British Empire to oil the capitalist production and to build the colonies. Like the Nazis, the Asians were moved about as a compact labour force in Asia, Africa and West Indies. Now their dependants are denied the entry into Britain on the same excuses as used by South Africa to Africans and to the blacks in America during the thirties and forties. It has become respectable in every strata.

Racial fight is closely linked with the class struggle. Grunwick (film processing factory) strike (since August 1976) shows the class solidarity (across the colour line). More later on.

General Situation: Many workers are not class conscious. The mass media puts over a negative view of the peoples' strikes and tries to create division among the workers. Workers also fail to see the role of the property and the power structure. Popular dissent continues to be contained and many smoulder or fragment in disillusion. Class conflict is inherent in this order. The threat and movement for dispossession will continue and will become reality one day.

The poor have become poor. The welfare state does not distribute between classes but it redistributes within classes and this redistribution between households at different stages of life is far more than redistribution between households at markedly different levels of income. Significance is given to superficial issues but not to the fundamental issues of property ownership. The government policies are translated into restraint on wages not on profits or dividends. The Labour seems to claim that it could run the Capitalist economy better than the Tories. Now 1½ million workers are unemployed. Prices have risen sky high. The aim of the Social Contract is to freeze wages, curb the right of the workers to undertake industrial action while allowing the prices to rise and profits to thrive. Inequality has widened. The richest 1% of the adult population control 30% of all private property. The richest 5%

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have 54% and the richest 10% control 67% of the total property. Car, washing machine, or colour television ownership, do not change the relations to the means of production. The housing, hospitals, education expenditure has been attacked. Six thousand million pounds on defence and keeping the army in Germany etc. is not axed.

Housing: Though the coloured people are trying to spread out in the suburbs yet they are concentrated in poor quality, inner city housing areas due to various reasons such as -- nature of job; wages; mortgage availability and sense of security etc. So they are localised in stress areas. Dominant majority (70%) of the blacks are in ten Urban Conurbations. Present areas must be improved and barriers be removed for the spatial mobility. P.E.P. report states "There is a stronger tendency to geographical concentration among the Asians than the West Indians, partly because there is a greater need for cultural solidarity arising from the lack of English and the cultural distance from the receiving Society and partly because certain forces in the housing market act more strongly on people whose families tend to be large". It ignores the major factors of racialism and racial discrimination.

Coloured people's households lack hot water, bath and W.C. facilities twice as much as among the whites e.g. among Indian households 35%; Pakistani households 57%, white in general population 17% lack them.

But the coloured people want to be house owners. 77% coloured have terraced houses compared with 28% whites. Owner occupied among the general population is 46%, but among the Asians, house owner occupation is over 58%.

The white people in council housing number 27.6 per cent but the Indians are 11.2 per cent and Pakistanis are 6.3 per cent in public (council) housing. The council houses allocated to the coloureds are inferior and they are made to live in worse off areas than the white counterparts. Here is an example - Households not having their own bath, hot water and inside W.C. are :- Asians 26%/Whites 13.2%

The Blacks require different considerations such as joint mortgages to extended families. Red areas labels hit the coloureds hardest (to get mortgage). The 1976 Race Relations Act imposes on the local authorities to promote "good race relations". It says, "what prejudice to their obligations to comply with any other provisions of this Act, it shall be the duty of every local Authority to make appropriate arrangements with a view to securing that their various functions are carried out with regard to their needs, (a) to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination; and (b) to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups". So the Act allows positive action. They can look at the special needs of the black people and can recruit employees from a particular racial group. We also need Housing Aid and Advice Centres.

Urban Programme: Section 11 of the Local Government Act 1966 allows local authorities to claim 75% of staff salaries employed to provide special provision in the exercise of their functions due to the presence of substantial number of the coloured people. But do

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the local authorities provide special facilities to the coloured people while they may be claiming that money?

Under the Urban Aid programme 75% of the cost to the local authority of voluntary and local authority schemes to provide facilities in deprived areas is granted. In 1975 - 76 a total of £22.8 million was paid in grants. Who gets it? — Mostly authorities for their own purposes. Money is for capital expenditure and running costs. Special consideration is given to schemes of multi-racial content. Few Asians got it. Every I.W.A. should apply for it. But where the Tories are in power, they try to sabotage the scheme and the already sanctioned money as it has happened in Nottingham.

Urban Deprivation: "Racial disadvantage" is the product of a racially discriminatory policy. The deprivation experienced by the coloured people differs from the deprivation suffered by the white people, in some respects. The coloured people are more socially disadvantaged and face multiple deprivation. Positive discrimination and priority must be given to meet the needs of the disadvantaged coloured people.

The White Paper on Racial Discrimination says "Racial disadvantage identified as comprising the problems of newcomers (and the Carryover of disadvantages to the children of immigrants); cultural alienness; and low status, material and environmental deprivation, which is shared with disadvantaged whites, but where the deprivation is multiplied and accentuated by racial discrimination (Paras 4-13; 22-26).

The Race Relations Act 1976 proposes three initiatives.

- 1) It sets up Commission for Racial Equality to work to eliminate racial discrimination, harmonious relations and equal opportunities.
- 2) Local Authorities should see that various functions are carried out to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote good relations, and equal opportunity.
- 3) Special needs of the ethnic groups be met and positive action should be taken in the employment sphere.

The deprivation is a cycle of cumulative disadvantages as the Government admitted in the White paper on Racial Discrimination (Sept. 1975), "by which relatively low paid or low status jobs for the first generation of immigrants go hand in hand with poor and overcrowded living conditions and a depressed environment. If, for example, job opportunities, educational facilities, housing and environmental conditions are all poor, the next generation will grow up less well equipped to deal with the difficulties facing them. The wheel then comes full circle. - If, at each stage of this process, an element of racial discrimination enters in, then an entire group of people are launched on a vicious downward spiral of deprivation". (P.37)

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Record Keeping: We strongly feel that ethnic minority records in every field must be kept. The reason being racial monitoring and ensuring equal treatment. It will also help to judge the effectiveness of the policies. The Cullingworth report recommended "records should be kept and used to establish how many coloured people are applying, how many are getting and what type and the quality of ----. The resultant statistics will raise questions which will need investigation. If only small proportion are applying, is this because they are being excluded by (intentional or unintentional) barriers. In short records are needed as a tool of management."

Local Authorities must present themselves as the model of determined fight against racialism and especially in the sphere of employment. The White Paper on Racial Discrimination (Sept. 1975) mentioned in these terms, "Since 1969 all government contracts have contained a standard clause requiring Contractors in the U.K. to conform to the provisions of the Race Relations Act 1968 relating to discrimination in employment and to take all reasonable steps to ensure that their employees and sub contractors do the same."

It would be the intention of the government when new legislation about racial discrimination is enacted to require a similar undertaking to comply with its provisions as a standard condition of Government Contracts - It is, therefore, intended that it should be a Standard Condition of Government Contracts that the Contractor will provide on request to the Department of Employment such information about its employment policies and practices as the Department may reasonably require".

But it lacks real will behind it. The racial discrimination is on the increase. Why not the policy in every field and every walk of life?.

Racialism is the contribution of European Civilization of Imperialisms and now the effort is being made to make the children internalize their own inferiority and under-achievement. Race relations is not an individual problem. Race relations must be examined as an element within a total system of social relations. The conflict between the black masses and the ruling circles is a class conflict. So black and white masses will have to unite to defeat the rulers. But in the meanwhile, struggle will have to be waged and fought in every field and at every level which will eventually unite with the class struggle. Daily fights will have to be fought. Lenin wrote that, "independent movement of the workers will be hindered, so long as slavery disfigured a part of the Republic". and Marx wrote "American Anti-slavery war will be for the working classes". This applies to the present race situation. ~~Racialism is present~~ the whole working class is not racist. Race prejudice is propagated by the exploiting class, by stigmatizing one group as inferior so that the exploitation of either group itself or its resources may be justified. Lenin said in 1903, "it is not the Jews who are the enemies of the working people, The enemies of the workers are the capitalists of all countries".

The working class suffers from extreme exploitation and their standards have suffered serious cuts. The whole employment

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field suffers from racialism and workers' poverty. <sup>One</sup> Half:xx million workers are unemployed. Trade Union Congress passed a resolution in 1955 "This Congress condemns all manifestations of racial discrimination or colour prejudice whether by government, employers, or workers. It urges the General Council to lose no opportunity to make the Trade Union attitude on this issue perfectly clear and to give special attention to the problems emerging in this country from the influx of fellow workers of other races with a view to removing causes of friction and preventing exploitation". But no provision of induction to Trade Unionism of new members. There has been no serious effort until last year. There has been racial discrimination at every level. On 6 February, 1977 Mr. Dyson, General Secretary of National Union of Dyers, Bleachers and Textile Workers said, "We are entitled to criticise a neighbour or indeed a whole community (black or white) if they do not conform to standards of hygiene and good social behaviour - Immigrants must be given the opportunity to integrate, then we must all be prepared to accept them as neighbours and give them the opportunity of taking part in all Community activities". So it means no equality or participation until the coloured assimilate - Integrate in what and what for? The integration was coined to smooth the harsh racialism and racist acts.

Employment: The coloured people are in low paid, dirty and shift work - 81% of Asian workers are in manual work. 91% of the black men are working compared with 77 % of the white.

Among the women, West Indian are 74% at work and 45% non-Muslim women, compared with 43% of the general population.

Between 1973 (November) and May, 1975, numbers of unemployment rose by 65%, but the number of black unemployed rose by 156%. In 1976 about 45% black unemployed were aged 16-24. Unemployment of black youth doubled in February, 1976 and increased four times (372%) since February, 1974.

Job levels : 40% whites are in professional and white collar jobs but 20% of Indians; 30% African Asians and 8% West Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi.

79% of white men with degree standard qualifications are in professional managerial jobs compared with 31% of the coloured people.

83% of white men with 'A' levels are in non-manual jobs compared with 55% of coloured people.

The black men earn less in professional, white collar and skilled manual jobs, ~~than~~ the whites of their own age and in the same level of job.

73% of the coloured population is aged 11-45 compared with 46% of the total population.

Even now the British Steel Corporation representatives face great difficulties in recruiting men for dirty and heavy jobs generally (Manpower Studies). C.I.R. report on Birminid Qualcast Subsidiaries shows that over 90% of the immigrants were employed in

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unskilled and semi-skilled production jobs. The Select Committee on Race Relations (1976-77 on The West Indians) writes, "The Race Relations Employment Advisory Service is fully aware that racial discrimination in employment persists.....there is considerable disappointment about the progress". (Page 96).

Doctors: Coloured staff in the National Health Service makes the substantial part - 25% of doctors are from overseas and 33% doctors in hospitals are coloureds. About 50% of the doctors come from the Asian sub-continent. They are taken in unpopular specialities. Overseas doctors formed 60% of Senior House Officers; 57% are Registrars; 28% are Senior Registrars and 14% are consultants. 86% registrars are in geriatrics. Their advancement to the more attractive levels of medicine is blocked while the young English doctors pass them on the upward way.

In 1975 the British Medical Association required all overseas doctors in Britain to undergo English language test. 60% of the doctors did not pass. Many coloured doctors are arrogant, anti-working class and maltreat our own people. Many black and white doctors extract expensive gifts forcibly.

Even Average earnings of black professional, management and white collar (£40.50) is less than the whites (£52.40). Similar situation is in skilled manual area. I.R.R. report points out, "In jobs involving contact with the public, the more the demand for an intimate relationship with a person or family, the less acceptable a coloured person is". There must be equal opportunity ~~with which~~ to defeat racialism; only job related tests; facilities for language teaching; apprenticeship for late comers and adequate system of monitoring employment and promotion policies etc.

C.R.C. - C.R.E.:- 25% Community Relations Officers are Asians but they are under fire from both sides. They are under attack from the blacks for being men of the establishment and also under fire from the white C.R.O.s for not damping down the militancy of the coloured people. Local Community Relations Councils generally are for status quo and blunting the coloured leadership but for propping up "Yes men" or "Uncle Toms" who are safe people. The composition is middle class, anti progressive in general. It has wider jurisdiction under the Race Relations Act 1976 and under the new set up of Commission for Racial Equality. Monitoring counselling, reporting and preparing the case against racial discrimination or discriminatory act, is their job. It must serve as a pressure group to combat racialism, must help and support the black people (and their organisations) to fight for their rights and to articulate their opinions. So the black people must make use of this set up due to the changed circumstance. If it fails in its duty, then expose it inside and outside (as was done in Derby C.C.R. on 22 June 1977).

New Commission for Racial Equality has started with wide spread opposition from the blacks. Its structure and emphasis is haphazard with no clear guide lines. It was expected that the blacks will have direct access to the C.R.E. independently

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of the local C.C.R. but now minority groups will have to work through local C.C.R. So utilise them if you can. It seems it's fate will be the same as of it's predecessors N.C.C.I. and C.R.C. (+ R.R.B.). It's Advisory Committee and Commissioners are safe individuals who are men of the establishment. The Times Educational Supplement wrote, "Many well disposed people are now inclined to write off the new Commission before it has begun". (6 May 1977). So grass root participation is blocked and barriers are created against the access. We printed these opinions in our letter to the Home Office in October 1975 and they have been proved correct.

I.W.A.G.B. welcomed the White Paper on Racial Discrimination (September 1975) but pointed out its weakness, delays in getting justice and the puzzling rigmarole procedures. The onus is on the individual and C.R.E. will take issues in principle. The Race Relations Act, 1976 is based on it. So it contains many weaknesses and will be difficult to get justice. We pointed this out in our letter dated 14 October 1975, "You (Home Secretary) will have to make another law very soon as this will prove quite incapable and handicapped to do anything effective". All these acts and C.R.E. are to act as instruments of mediation between state apparatus and black and white people.

Police: The myth of police neutrality and colour blindness has been exploded. It is also well established fact that the police and the courts are anti-worker, anti-Union and are colour biased. The Police admit that crimes committed by the blacks are not proportionately greater than those committed by the whites. Among the Asians it is law. Select Committee on the West Indians writes, "That racial prejudice is displayed by some members of the police forces and that West Indians, especially young blacks, are frequently subjected to police harrassment are allegations widely made, not only by West Indians". (Para. 106). "So it has led to mutual distrust and antagonism lead to the formation of battle lines" (Paragraph 107). The biased attitude of the Police is well exposed in the Grunwick Strike (London). The Police forces are infected with bribery and corruption as has been revealed by the imprisonment of Scotland Yard officers. The Guardian of 13th July, 1977 writes, "Sir Robert Mark (Ex-Police Commissioner of London) admitted last night that very senior officers are still serving in the Metropolitan Police Force who may have taken part in corruption among the force's detectives". The enquiry against the police is generally a hush up. There must be independent Tribunal to enquire into the complaints against the police. The General Secretary has written a booklet about the Police and Racism in Punjabi.

Education: Detailed analysis was given in the 1975 report. The education is modelled to serve the interests of the ruling class. Emphasis was put in the teaching of mother tongue (but not using it as a medium of instruction in first or upper classes). Mother tongue helps to teach certain values (progressive culture) and identity. In the field of education and mother tongue, initiative has been in I.W.A.G.B's hands. Commendable work has been done in the form of Educational Conferences in Wolverhampton (October 1975) and in Leicester (1976) General Secretary, G.S. Sanghera read one of the papers on Multi-racial Education at the Worlyerhampton Conference, emphasising the need to incorporate ethnic minority languages and cultures in the normal curriculum of all schools in Britain. At the Leicester Conference, Senior Vice President Mr. N.S. Noor read

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a paper on the under-achievement of ethnic minority children in Britain. The racial climate in general, teacher attitude, housing, brutal selection procedures, disrespect for ethnic minority languages, and cultures in schools, apathy towards special needs of the black children etc. were considered to be the main causes of the under-achievement. Disproportionate allocation of E.S.N. Schools to black children is also a problem.

The E.E.C. has issued a directive asking all countries to give due regard and place to ethnic minority languages and cultures in their school. Britain has accepted it in principle but has postponed its application. All the branches must speed up the fight against the racist attitude. Urban Aid given for immigrants' education is being exploited for the other purposes, by the local councils. Enquire about it from your local council.

Many immigrants are ignorant of various Social Services and Advisory/Social agencies. The activists must know about their mechanics and make useful contacts with them.

Youth: I.W.A.G.B. has helped the youth to establish Indian Youth Associations in Glasgow, Bradford, Nottingham, Derby, Coventry, Birmingham, Leicester and Wolverhampton. They have played an important role against the Indian Emergency and against racialism. These branches are very active. Their draft programme and aims were circulated by the I.W.A.G.B. General Secretary. They will be holding their first national conference very soon, where they will form their Centre.

The conflicting situation of the youth along with their other problems has been dealt with in the Draft programme. The Hunt Committee recommended that Local Authorities should take action to ensure that the needs of the ethnic minority youth are met and "assess their Youth Service provision in terms of these particular young people". But the local authorities have ignored it. (Under the Race Relations Act 1976, it is legal for the Youth Service to provide or support a separate provision for the coloured people. Ethnic minorities must articulate their needs and work towards the acceptance by the local authorities. The local authorities should have regular joint consultations with the ethnic minority organisations (genuine and grass root).

"There is abnormally high level of alienation among Young blacks from the institutions of British society". (Select Committee on West Indians Para. 20).

Some Asian girls are at odds with their parents but it is being blown out of proportions by the mass media. The tension and strains are there. Parents will have to adapt and adjust as well. The Asian girls under stress, who leave home, may need Centre for female Youth Care or Care Hostel for these adolescent girls.

Identity: There is no homogeneous culture. Ruling class culture is used to control others. Black man is defined by the racist dominant structure. The immigrants are being asked to destroy their own self. Various names are labelled to the black people. So by this creation and dispersion of such labels and knowledge, colour and

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their certain features attain social and political significance. The knowledge gathered by the officials has the same purpose. The degree of control over the allocation of material resources has close relationship with the labels. People may dismiss these labels as irrelevant but it is not so as the inter-group patterns and identity take from under it and the agencies of the power structure guarantee them and thus make these labels legitimate. The minority groups have no power to initiate or control their own destiny. This talk of integration and pluralism is also humbug. Miliband writes "The flaw in the pluralist heaven is that heavenly chorus sings with a strong upper class accent - the system is skewed and unbalanced in favour of a minority".

We need to resist this paternalism. Force them to de-colonise their minds. Fight a united working class fight against the labels. The blacks must make full use of their voting power. C.R.C. study revealed that in 59 constituencies the coloured people are decisive voters. We must register our people as voters and then utilise this legal weapon in the interests of the people.

The coloured people have close interest in their back home politics. They have formed the replica of those political parties and religious groups here - having close links with back home parties. But here though their political participation is limited, yet they are joining various political parties, mainly Labour, Liberals Tories and the Communist. Many so called black leaders join for their own selfish purpose and others feel to participate here. Majority of them are in the Labour Party. The Tory Party has formed its Asian Wing in which many businessmen, retailers and some ordinary folk are involved in every town. It is estimated that 89% of the blacks voted for Labour and 27% for the Tories in 1974 but in 1975 the black vote for Labour was 78% and for the Tories it increased to 13%. The membership of these parties has generated and accelerated factional fights.

Art: The art of the blacks has been neglected by the authorities. It has survived and spread mainly due to the initiative and effort of the coloured people themselves. The main platform for its survival and expansion has been provided by the I.W.A.G.B. and its branches. The Progressive Writers' Association G.B. has played a vital role. Cultural/Art squads are being run by Leicester, Glasgow and Birmingham I.W.A. Now various individual groups have been formed and centres are being established. Our Arts must be accepted on equal footing by the Arts Council and Local Authorities. Financial support must be provided by the Authorities.

The Progressive Writers have produced a great deal of literature dealing with the race relations and Indian Situation (especially against the Indian Emergency). We are proud to say that our member ~~xxx~~ R. Dhand has been awarded the Punjab Sahitya Academy Award (India) and ~~xxx~~ his book has been recommended for 'A' levels (Punjabi) in England. Authorities should encourage our Asian Writers as well.

Women: Though Sex Discrimination Act is in force, yet a lot of sex inequality is present. Even professional women are concentrated in minor and auxiliary professions. Women in manual work are recruited exclusively from the working class. The black women are the worst sufferers. They do the slave labour in the coloured people's

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enterprises. Those who get the jobs to do at home are worst paid. The black employers pay less (no standard rate), allow no union, no paid sick leave, worst working conditions, bullying and instant sacking are prevalent. The black employers squeeze maximum profits. The government authorities and the trade union movement must pay attention to this side.

Asian women are restricted to the home life. No outing and no entertainment. Their participation in political field is negligible. ~~Through~~ women's associations are there, the majority of them are ~~xxx~~ middle class blacks, for "mornin' coffee" or holding bazzars. Must form progressive mass based women's associations as has been done in Bradford by Mrs. R. Virdee.

Press: Race Relations are dynamic and not static. The Press is biased - anti-working class and anti-coloured. The press influences the readers and also reinforces their prejudices. In 1976 the press created violent atmosphere by sensationalizing the minor events and incidents so the press contributed to the rising feeling against the coloured people.

"Racism and the Mass Media" Study reports, "People have derived from the media a perception of the coloured population as a threat and a problem, a conception more conducive to the development of hostility towards them than acceptance". It further states, "The British news media have failed <sup>in analysing</sup> ~~adequately~~ the underlying bases of racial conflict in this country, and in so doing have assisted in the scapegoating of coloured immigrants - only that the handling of racial news should not be based on the uncritical acceptance of prevailing cultural assumptions about colour and the colour problem".

Though the N.U.J's code of conduct enjoins journalists not to - "originate material designed to encourage discrimination on grounds of race, colour, creed or sex and exacerbate relationships", yet the way the journalists presented reports in 1975-77 are a slur on the above resolution.

Later on a balanced text can not redress the damage caused by sensational headlines.

The irrational fear is fed and perverted by <sup>the</sup> irresponsible and anti-coloured, anti-working class reporting such as Hawley Report; Malawi Asians in a hotel; mugging and crime. Especially the word 'mugging' is ~~is~~ associated with the blacks. Immigration and race relations are equated with the so called exploitation of this country such as 'Immigrants living on the State', 'nearly £145 a week in state handouts'.

Passions are inflamed by demagogue politicians and the irresponsible press contributes its share. The press gave far more publicity to the racist news.

The B.B.C. showed racist, anti-immigrant film. In spite of protests, it was repeated (OPEN DOOR).

Our General Secretary, G.S. Sanghera produced 50 minutes programme, entitled "People to People" and was transmitted on B.B.C.2 in February, 1977.

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The Asian Unit of B.B.C. is also anti-people and bolsters up their dinner friends and Uncle Toms. B.B.C. must show one Asian film per week.

Indian Papers are after their sales. They print every type of article on race situation but on Indian situation they are anti-left. But 'Desh Dardesh' took a determined and praiseworthy stand against the Indian Emergency.

National Front: It is a Fascist organisation. The National Party is also the same type. The racist elements are gaining momentum and the National Front got more than 120,000 votes in county elections in London. It polled over 9% in 13 London constituencies and around 20% in two of them. Their main support comes from the young and female, from the areas "in which there is concentration of semi-skilled and unskilled workers". (Bryan Cassidy G.L.C. member). It is a serious threat to democracy. "It could expect to win about 25 seats in a general election fought under a system of proportional representation." (The Guardian, 5th July, 1977). They are anti-worker and anti-progressive. Mr. Tyndall, leader of National Front said that communists are not restricted to King Street (P.G.B. Office). "The Labour Party is Communist. The Liberals are nearly communists. The Unions are practically communists. the broadcasting services and press are riddled with Reds". Their solution is to smash the progressive. National Front has membership among prison officers, immigration officers, trade unions and the press. Tony Bastalile - Thames T.V. producer and reporter produced racist, anti-immigrant film, "England our England". National Party leader, Mr. Reid said in 1976, after the racist murder of Southall Indian youth "One down and one million to go". But no action was taken against him.

Powell's racist outbursts have lead to respectability. The racists are growing rapidly as one National Front leader said, "we are doing marvellously, growing 500 per cent a year". (Guardian 8 October, 1974). So they are oiling their Nazi machine. The Government is appeasing them and pandering to their ideas.

Leamington's Robert Rolf defied the Race Relations Act and the court, who kept the sign (for more than three years) outside his home advertising it for sale to an English family only. He was released after 46 days while he kept the sign on (in June 1976). It was the victory of the racials.

There must be a concerted demand to ban the extremist racist organisation.

Racist Atmosphere: First came B.B.C. film "Open Door" in 1976. Then sensational news was spread concerning the four Melawi Asian families staying in an expensive hotel at the expense of the local authority. This incident was distorted by the mass media. After this Hawley report by D.F. Hawley of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office was leaked which created heated discussion. The report wrongfully concluded that "deceit and false documentaion" was organised and dependants were referred as of no end and as a "bottomless pool". It gave a boost to the National Front.

Two students (one Iranian and one Indian) were killed by the racials in London. Attacks followed on the Asians. Authorities did nothing. Also in July 1976, came the suggestion for the comprehensive register of the Asian dependants eligible for entry into the U.K. The implications were serious and the procedure would end up like South Africa. It was



The murder of Young Gurdeep Chaggar in Southall led to the Unity (isolation of reactionay blacks) and the mass mobilization against increasing racialism. The Home Secretary came to Southall. Prime Minister issued a statement. The Churches came against it. The Indian High Commissioner remained quiet and no help.

Indian Workers' Association G.B., its branches along with other black and white progressive groups organised a highly successful (12,000 people) in July 1976. The opportunists, I.W.A. Southall, British establishment and SCOPO organised their demonstration on 4th July which ended in complete failure.

An old Asian lady was burnt alive in Leamington Spa. Our branch and other immigrants formed a Committee to fight against the racialsists. The role of C.R.C. and Indian High Commission was condemnable. Vigilante group was formed. Concerning the defence and vigilante groups, we circulated our stand that open and parallel defence squads may do more damage than benefit. It depends on the objective situation.

Race Relations Act 1976 was formed. Our comments had been sent before to the Home Secretary.

There were huge demos and marches against the National Front in Bradford, Birmingham, London etc. in which I.W.A. branches played a leading part.

In November 1976, Trade Union Congress and the Labour Party held the march against racialism. I.W.A. branches took an active part. It was a historic march.

In April 1977, demonstrations were organised in various towns against racist. The Anti-national demonstrators were not allowed to march in London on 23 April, 1977, though the National Front was permitted to march. I.W.A. branch took place and spoke in that rally.

This year again the gangs of white youths are attacking the Asians in Spitalfields and Aldgate. The racists come armed with bottles, sticks and knives and attack. The police have done nothing. Now they are forming their own vigilante groups. Then possibly police will see it as a challenge to themselves. The Police also indulges itself in witch-hunting.

People have demonstrated against the racists and Powell at their branch levels. Inter-racial solidarity committees are very active in Glasgow, Bradford, Derby, Leamington Spa, Coventry, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, London, and Reading. Our branches have the key role to play (and have played).

Nationally the grass root organisations of the immigrants met in May 1977 in Birmingham to co-ordinate energies against racialism and National Front. The participants are I.W.A.G.B; SCOPO (Pakistani Federation); West Indian Standing Conference; Board of Deputies (Jews), Bangla Deshi Federation; Akali Dal U.K. and Southall I.W.A. They unanimously elected our General Secretary (G. Sanghera) as their convenor. Now the T.U.C. N.U.S. (students), I.R.R. and British Council of Churches etc. are being approached for joining in.

I.W.A. branches also took part in Trade Union demo against racialism in Manchester on 9 July, 1977.

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I.W.A.G.B. along with other groups foiled the effort of the Gulbinkian foundation and black opportunists to form a docile black organisation in July 1976 (in Birmingham). The racial discrimination fight is the fight of the black and white. The Grunwick strike (at film processing firm in London) began at the maltreatment and sacking of the coloured people. Now it is being helped by the trade union movement and the dominant majority of the pickets are whites. The Scab labour (black legs) are blacks and a few whites. So this strike shows the way forward. The trade unionists, from all over the country, showed their solidarity by holding a national march in London. I.W.A. Leicester took coach load to that march on 11 July, 1977. All the branches must help the strikers in every possible way.

Union: The coloured people have helped to form unions in non union factories and had to suffer for that. Grunwick strike has been going on since August 1976, but for the last eight weeks it has become a national issue. It has exposed working conditions, law of picketing, and anti-union attitudes of the employers and the Tory Party. Bigger issues of union recognition are involved. On the other hand reactionary National Association for the Freedom of Employers (N.A.F.E.) is determined to hammer severe blows on the workers and unions. The police intimidate the pickets. Now the trade union congress must come out openly against Grunwick as the firm has refused to accept the verdict of the court and findings of A.C.A.S. that unions be recognised. The Slave labour must be condemned. Jack London wrote "After God had finished the rattlesnake, the toad and the vampire, he had awful substance left with which he made a scab. A scab is a two legged animal with a cork screw soul, a water logged brain, and a combination backbone made of jelly and glue. Where others have hearts, he carries a tumour of rotten principles". (Revolution: Stories and Essays).

E.E.C. I.W.A.G.B. and its branches opposed the British entry into the Common Market as it is against the interests of the workers.

British Nationality Green Paper: Separate commentary (and background) has been written by the General Secretary ~~has been~~ attached with. The Green paper disallows dual nationality. Nationals of another country settled here may lose civil rights. The 1955 citizenship Act required that anyone who had "voluntarily acquired the citizenship of another country (s) cease to be a citizen of India". It was to hit Asians in East Africa. Later on British Passport holders, Indians, residing in Kenya were made to have Indian visa in 1968 and the same was extended to Uganda and other East African Indians. But British Passport holder Asians living anywhere else are free to visit India. Dictator India intended to start Indian visa for British Passport holders in U.K. Now we ask the Indian government to insert a clause in the Indian Constitution to allow people of Indian origin to enter and settle freely in India.

Race Relations Act Separate papers on Race Relation and Employment; and representation in Industrial Tribunal are prepared and attached along with.

Birmingham, Derby branches took part in the Trade Union meeting to combat racialism. Most of the branches took part in May Day celebrations in 1976 and 1977.

Derby I. W.A. took part in a march against the National Front in Rotherham on 22 June, 1976. Leicester, Bradford, Wolverhampton and Derby took part in a march against the National Party and National Front in Blackburn in 1976.

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Emergency in India: India's Congress Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi imposed internal emergency on 26 June, 1975 to flout the Allahabad Court verdict against herself and to entrench herself in power. Without consulting her party and cabinet ministers, she withdrew all the democratic rights and clamped down emergency. External emergency was already there. Defence of India Rules; Maintenance of Internal Security were in force against the working class. She tried to gloss over her nefarious acts and hoodwink the people but in vain. Economic crisis was beyond her control. Congress has always bandied about slogans such as "Socialistic pattern of Society", "democratic Socialism", and "Garibi Hatao" (Remove poverty) at the eve of elections but all failed. The situation grew worse day by day. The number of registered unemployed increased by 28 fold. Top ten per cent grew fatter while the per capita food grains for the poor declined. The foreign debt etc. increased tremendously.

The constitutional coup was unconstitutional and was an act of desperation. Her twenty point programme was the same old song. She virtually instituted a one party dictatorship. The democratic rights and civil liberties were suppressed. Press censorship instituted. Workers' strike right, bonus etc. were withdrawn. 42nd Amendment in the Constitution was to perpetuate her dictatorship. Police raj prevailed. Judiciary was in chains. Due to the rapidly advancing crisis and recession, she wielded ~~every~~ arbitrary and semi-fascist weapon. Though she was pretending to fight against the Right, yet she thrust burdens on the masses and attacked the workers, peasants and agricultural workers. Forced sterilisation led to innumerable atrocities. She failed to contain economic crisis. The people opposed in various forms and many awaited for the opportunity which came in March, 1977.

Indian Workers' Association opposed the Emergency from the very beginning. If there has been any consistent, articulate, open and mass based campaign against the Emergency, that was in Britain. Within 72 hours of the imposition of Emergency in India the I.W.A.G.B. mobilized its centres for mass demonstration in London in 1975. It was very successful as all the branches from all over Britain participated very enthusiastically. After this socials and meetings were held in local towns. Another major demonstration against the Emergency took place in August 1975. "Civil Liberties in India" Committee was formed which composed of I.W.A.G.B., Indian Communist Association, Akali Dal U.K. and other associations. It was a historic march. Thousands of people poured into London to express disgust and condemnation of Indira's Emergency. Television and Press gave a good coverage.

Civil Liberties Committees were formed at the local levels as well. Where ever the Indian High Commissioner or Congress Government officials appeared, they were welcomed with anti-Indira, anti-Emergency placards. From Glasgow to London, all over the country, the wind was against the Indian Emergency. India C.P.I. leaders Sh. Jagjit Anand and Sh. Darshan Canadian tried to unite Overseas Congress, C.P.I. sympathisers and C.P.G.B. members, in favour of Emergency but their move could not face the opposition of the masses. They were discredited. Overseas Congress was fully backed by the Indian High Commission. Overseas Congress is of opportunists and the Indian Ministers required them for their reception and dinner, wine parties. The Overseas Congress tried to organise a public function in West Bromwich Town Hall to back up Emergency. But the assembled people attacked the Indian and Overseas Congress. The Indian Assistant High Commissioner and the Congress leaders had to save themselves by running away from the hall. They even left their jackets on the chairs. Such was the anger against the Emergency.

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Then a Punjab Minister Mr. Umrao Singh came to Birmingham and the Overseas Congress brought him to Smithwick Sikh Temple. There he had to face hundreds of I.W.A.G.B. demonstrators. After a great tussle, police took him in. But inside it was worse. The assembled people went on chanting and did not let him speak. So shame facedly he wanted to come out but could not ~~xxx~~. The Police had to help him to come out. Outside he had to face eggs and toilet paper. His turban was rolling on the floor.

Then in Wolverhampton, the pro-Emergency <sup>Supporters</sup> tried their last trick by inviting the High Commissioner to a public meeting which was organised to oppose I.W.A.G.B. Our I.W.A. hall was full. But there were hundreds of I.W.A. leaders from other Midland towns to oppose dictatorship in India and ~~xx~~ the Indian High Commission. Nobody was allowed to speak in the Overseas Congress hall. The High Commissioner did not dare to come inside the hall.

Now the Overseas Congress realised that people are against them. After this, many Indian Congress leaders and Ministers came but no public function was organised. They accepted their defeat.

I.W.A.G.B. branches held their Republic and Independence Day meetings in 1975, 1976, and 1977 and in these meetings the major issue was the Indian Emergency and its opposition. People filled the halls and greeted the Anti-Emergency speeches and motions. I.W.A. leaders wrote various articles against the Emergency in the "Desh Bardesh". Our progressive writers wrote poems and stories against the Emergency. The "Sandesh International" and "The Punjab Times" praised the Emergency, appreciated Indira and eulogised Sanjay. They had no arguments. Due to our writings against the Emergency "Desh Pardesh" increased its sale by 20%. Now the previous bootlickers of Indira are finding fault with her emergency.

I.W.A.G.B. produced thousands of leaflets opposing Indian Congress and the Emergency.

In April, 1976, "Civil Liberties in India" committee (of which our General Secretary was Co-convenor) organised a day conference ~~about~~ <sup>the</sup> Indian Emergency. Trade Unions, Academies, Left wing organisations and black and white people participated in it. Discussion also took place in groups. At the end of the conference, resolutions were passed against the Emergency. Trade Union, Ruskin College, Oxford, promise co-operation and every help.

On 26 June, 1976, national demonstration was held in London (Under the "Civil Liberties in India"). I.W.A. branches from all over the country participated in it. It was very successful.

We waged balanced fight against racialism and racial discrimination in Britain and also kept up the momentum against the Emergency in India. Available literature from India (against the Emergency) was widely distributed among the local I.W.A.B. Mrs. Gandhi complained about the opposition of her rule in Britain. Our organisation was ~~to~~ <sup>first</sup> to initiate it and kept it on till March, 1977. A public meeting was held before the Indian General Elections in London. After the successful and correct verdict of the Indian masses ~~xx~~ against the Emergency and Indira Congress, Birmingham and Londong I.W.A.B. held victory meetings.

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The Overseas Congress is an organisation of few opportunist individuals who were propped up by the Indian High Commission. But the role played by I.W.A.G.B. through the public meetings, marches and writings (as of Com. H.S. Dhesi N.S. Noor, ~~the~~ General Secretary) exposed the discredited Congress.

Later in 1976 and 1977, they did not dare to bring their Indian leaders to any public meeting.

The Right C.P.I. leaders, Mr. Anand and especially Mr. D.S. Canadian not only supported the Emergency but actively helped to activate the Overseas Congress and persuaded them to organise pro-Emergency demonstration in London which was led by him, Chaudhri Darshan Singh; Pt. Vishnu Dutt and Southall I.W.A. leaders. But in the public meetings either the people did not let him speak or he could not answer their questions.

Southall I.W.A. which is only a cinema organisation, served as the tool of the Indian High Commission. It pursued pro-Emergency line and sent its delegation to India to assure Mrs. Gandhi of their support. Here they have no political power as was proved in 1976 race conflict. After the racist killing of young Chaggar, the Youth and other people did not allow Southall I.W.A. and pro-Emergency leaders to speak in their meetings. Even when these pro-Emergency and other people tried to hold anti-racism demonstration on 4 July, 1976, these leaders were pushed out and Southall I.W.A. flag was torn.

The Indian High Commission was the chief instigator. Corruption is rife. It takes years to get the passports renewed. The legal papers and even passports are lost in that office. Their attitude is dictatorial. They despise people. They just go to big parties or to inaugurate some events where they were/are greeted by black flags and anti-Emergency slogans. The Indian High Commission even sabotaged the meeting of delegates with the Indian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. These officials should be sacked, not transferred, and proper enquiry be held in the workings and other matters of the Indian Commission.

Various left groups co-operated to oppose Emergency and racism. I.W.A.G.B. welcomed the belated call of the Labour Party to fight against racism. The Labour Party and Trade Union Congress organised a historic demonstration against racism on 21 November 1976 in London. I.W.A.G.B. took an active part in it. Again on 9~~th~~ July, 1977 I.W.A.G.B. supported the demonstration of the Trade Union movement against racism, in Manchester. Now the Trade Union and Labour movement must move towards the banning of racist organisations.

At the local level most of the Trades Councils organised anti-racism marches in 1976, 1977, as in Bradford (April, 1976), Birmingham (April 1976, 1977), and London (April, 1977). Glasgow, Reading, Coventry, and Leamington 1976. Should keep close contact with them. Nottingham,

Some I.W.A.G.B. <sup>branches</sup> are on the Trades Council as in Glasgow, Bradford, Nottingham, Huddersfield and Reading. Others should ~~xxx~~ try to that end.

I.W.A.G.B. has formed information forum with other organisations ~~as~~ well, we have contacts with migrants' organisations in Europe such as F.I.O.S. Our General Secretary also attended three day "Europe Migrants Conference" in Geneva in 1976 and was on that Committee. This year European meeting was held in Italy but could not go due to the short notice, shortage of funds,

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and short time to consult others. In future, in such cases, I.W.A. Secretariat or the General Secretary and the President are allowed to take decisions.

Progressive writers Association has co-operated with I.W.A. branches by providing their poets and writers. We should build closer links with them at the central level.

I.W.A.G.B. opposes the Irish Terrorist Act and sees it as an instrument to attack the Irish militants and Unionists. This Act must be repealed. The British ruling class is terrorising and oppressing people in Ireland. They are asking for freedom. The British Army must be withdrawn. We are for United Ireland in which the minority rights be safeguarded.

Similarly we have opposed Zionism but that does not mean the elimination of Jews. Palestinians should ~~also~~ have their own home.

I.W.A.G.B. and its branches condemned the brutal killings and terrorism in Sweto (South Africa) in June, 1976. The black Africans are prepared to sacrifice themselves at the altar of freedom and they will win. We support their struggle.

South Africa is helping Rhodesian racist regime as well. But now the guerrillas are giving telling blows. Smith regime is attacking the black neighbouring states as well. His increasing aggression against the blacks is quickening his downfall as well. The blacks will win soon. But the manoeuvres of the British Government are to favour the racist regime. The U.N.O. and E.E.C. must come out against the Rhodesian and South African racist governments. The Companies in the Common Market, having interests in Rhodesia or South Africa, must be forced to oppose the apartheid rules of these states and pay equal pay.

I.W.A.G.B. also wrote to the Home Secretary against the deporting of American Journalists Agee and Hosenball, who were writing against the American C.I.A.

I.W.A.G.B. produced thousands of posters of "demand Charter" for the Indian Prime Minister and distributed outside Albert Hall, London (June 1977). Two letters were given personally to Mr. Morar Ji Desai (Indian Prime Minister) and Mr. Uajpayee (Foreign Minister) by our Assistant Secretary, Mr. Dhesi.

Organisation: Among the immigrants of Europe the Indian Workers' Association G.B. is the only nationally organised mass based body. Our last conference was held at a time when inflation was raging. Britain was/is in crisis, racialism and racial tensions were clouding Britain and the Indian was facing draconian laws and Mrs. Gandhi's case was in the Allahabad High Court. After a month, the Indian situation changed. Emergency was clamped and in Britain racialism was on the ~~xxxxxxx~~ march.

As all the ~~other~~ branches and the Centre remained in the thick of the struggle, so we were able to improve our membership tremendously. Even the local executive committee composition shows a great change because quite a good percentage are youth.

The Central Executive Committee has met quite regularly. Two members have not attended any meeting - From Slough Mr. Dhillon and Mr. Bahaduri (London). Three attended 50% and others attended all. Mr. Kewal Lehal resigned. The Executive gave full co-operation but the main burden of writing, speaking and organisation fell on the General Secretary. Major help in attending the organisation's meetings and public speaking was given by the I.W.A.G.B. Secretariat members\*,  
Mr. Kirpal S., N.S. NOOR, H.S. Dhesi, Prem Singh. Continued...../



Though we decided to divide England and Scotland in Zones (and thus electing regional Secretaries) yet it was not put into practice. We must do it now. It is too much for one person. The division and functioning was given in the organisational section (P.9 Last year's report).

I.W.A.G.B. decided to form Women's Organisations at the local level but this has not materialised except in Bradford whose Secretary is Mrs. Sarvjeet Kaur Virdee. Women's participation is essential.

Though no branch has lagged behind in activities, yet some face minor conflicts due to misunderstanding of political issues and organisational matters. Political education is essential as we have political objectives on radical line.

Central Executive Committee members represent the Centre and not individual branches but at the same time they are link men between the Centre and the branch. The Central member can keep his own opinion while informing the Centre of the branch's opinion if it is different from his/her own.

Bradford branch which was divided in 1975 has not only revived itself but has become one of the most unified, active and strong branches. The hold ~~xxx~~ the National Conference (31st July) and public function on (30th) is a proof in itself. Bradford branch has contact with Pennine Radio, the local paper, Trades Council and C.R. C.

Leeds I.W.A. is weak though it is running Indian programme on B.B.C. Radio Leeds.

Derby branch has showed the way (after Bradford) how to work inside and outside local C.R.C. and win a mass support of the black and white. It has good relations with the Trades Council. Has Inter-Racial Solidarity Comm.

Nottingham has become static and is locked in inactivity due to minor problems. But on the other hand it managed to get £62,000 for Indian Community Centre which has been bungled by the Tory Council. It is on CRC, Trades Council and local radio.

Coventry is active on every front except public functions. Leamington Spa has useful contacts with others and is active but it did less at the burning of an old Indian lady (at the hands of the racialists) than its capacity.

Birmingham has made a marvellous come back and is the centre of activity now. Wolverhampton and Leicester require every appreciation. Slough faced a few internal problems but now it is overcoming them. That branch needs some more discussion. Reading branch is spread over every sphere and the people look towards it for guidance and help.

The London branches are quite active but we need more initiative and drive from them as they are located in the World Centre. Through them, we can influence many events and issues.

Glasgow had to face some problems but they have been overcome. They are the sole masters of the situation at the present moment. Their SILK, composed of Unions, immigr, is a great success. It is on CRC & close ally in People Cin.

Though the Central Committee decided to form branch in Hounslow, yet it has been unsuccessful. Croydon and Dartford I.W.A's were approached for affiliation but could not. Hitchen I.W.A. can be persuaded for close co-operation leading to affiliation.

Branches should have regular political discussion. We have aims to achieve. We are not for self isolation but neither open for disruption. While fighting our battles here, we will keep close ties with India.

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The Centre has been able to involve other Indians but have not been successful in bringing in Gughatis except in Leicester. I.W.A. branches should avail themselves of all the opportunities. While fighting small and daily fights (and achieving victories which are part of the bigger ones), we are pledged to struggle for the long term radical objectives.

Only a few branches send their regular reports such as Reading, Leicester, Derby; a few now and then. The Central Committee asked the branches to collect facts about police discrimination; National Front, their racist actions; Actions of local C.R.C; Cases concerning the Indian High Commission and thus prepare a dossier but no branch took that trouble. No response. (Reading sent on Police).

Local news bulletins can be produced as was done by the Glasgow and Reading branches.

The Centre should hold local and regional Seminars on various issues.

Black <sup>women</sup> ~~women~~ be guided and the <sup>TU.</sup> movement be approached to form Unions in Cottage industry owned by the black people.

Women's Recreational Centres are required. Indian Arts can be revived here.

Youth and Parents' discussions are essential.

Tax Concessions for the dependants outside India are going to be scrapped. It will affect the blacks. Fight against them now.

There should be close liaison between the National Health Service and the black communities. Leaflets should be in our mother tongue as well. The blacks (grass root) should be on the Community Health Councils and National Health Service at every level. Similarly positions should be created in other institutions as well.

Legal Aid /Advice Centres be opened and should be available to everybody. Leaflets about the legal aid and law centres must be available in English and mother tongue.

Blacks should be on the School Governing Bodies and on Industrial Tribunals.

Local Directory of Lawyers be published by the Authority, mentioning their special fields, services and fees. E.E. C. rules and laws affecting the lives of the immigrants should be published and made available to the people.

Campaign must be launched immediately on the question of (Green Paper on) nationality. M.P's and Commonwealth Commissions and their Governments must be lobbied. Programme for action is given in the separate article (attached alongwith).

Action on the Youth front (boys and girls) is demanded immediately. The Government has its own plans. Be careful. The black community should be encouraged to have their articulate collective voice. It should be co-ordinated with the white working class struggle. Fight against racialism and racial discrimination is a class fight.



Assess the situation. To attack the fundamental problems, political action is essential.

Local I.W.A.'s should organise a careful and continuous monitoring of racialism; for this, involves others as well. In Bradford, C.R.C. was persuaded to form the sub Committee for this purpose. Through this, test Race Relations Act 1976 and C.R. E. (Commission for Racial Equality).

Organise a campaign to ask the government to ban racist organisations. Racism <sup>should</sup> be a criminal offence. Parliamentary Select Committee (on Race Relations and Immigration), on the West Indian Committee wrote, "Legislation itself is not enough. It must be accompanied by effective and resolute administrative action. What is needed, above everything else, is a clear and demonstrable Government Commitment to equal rights." (Para. 32).

With the worsening of economic situation, race relations will get worse. So let us not sit and watch. Politicise people. The growing strength of the National Front and other racist groups is a threat to the Trade Union movement and to the democracy. We welcome the resolution of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Management Staff (A.S.T.M.S.) resolution of 23rd May, 1977 which called upon its committee to intensify its campaign against racism and asks the government to "enact legislation to curb and if necessary prohibit the spread of racist activities".

It is appropriate to end with the words of Marx "Labour can not emancipate itself in the white skin, where in the black, it is branded".

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Note- Few branches have not sent their reports. Only two reports arrived while I was writing this report. Others arrived when I had, not only written, but had duplicated and stapled this report. Anyway 99% of their ideas and activities are included in this report.

Addition- The Indian Cultural programme started by the education department in Leicester, is being organized and run by our local Asst. Sec. Com. Avtar Sadiq with the help of other Exe. members. Our Central Committee member Dr. Biplab D. Gupta is on the National Council of this Union.

Nottingham IWA Sec. Com. Pushkar Singh is on the District Comm. of T&GWU. He was TU delegation member which went to Russia last year.

We whole heartedly support the proposal of Mr. John Birt, controller of current affairs & features at London Weekend, that the fourth channel be devoted to minority interests and ethnic minorities should have their own regular programmes.

xxxxxxxxxxxxx Please, be kind enough to send me your amendments or new or extra suggestions by 28 July 1977.

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Study the recommendations of the Report of the Annan Committee on the future of Broadcasting, especially relating to the ethnic minority groups.