

INDIAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION (G.B)

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Dear Delegates,

This Bi-Annual Conference of the Indian Youth Association is taking place when the Western Industrial World is engulfed in an unprecedented crisis.

The warmongers, led by Reagan-Thatcher & Co., have escalated the Nuclear Arms race to divert the attention of the people from the real issues, and they have resorted to inflicting incalculable misery upon thousands of people throughout the world. Last year we witnessed naked aggression, led and backed by these expansionist reactionary regimes, in the South Atlantic and in the Middle East. The arch-villians of Vietnam are trying to recover lost pride by launching an armed crusade against the progressive forces throughout the world, and Latin America in particular. The prospect of a nuclear war draws nearer by the hour.

The number of unemployed people in this country is now well over 4 million, and 25% of these innocent victims of Tory policies are aged between 18-25 years. These are in addition to another 1 million youngsters exploited as cheap labour under various Government schemes, for example, the Youth Opportunities Programme. This waste of a "forgotten generation" due to monetarist policies culminating in an unprecedented rise in unemployment has led to a dramatic increase in direct and indirect racialism. Black people are being subjected to daily abuse, the graffiti of Facism remains unerased on the walls of Britain, and the people who by appearance, name, identifiably distinct from the majority of the population, have become daily targets for shotgun attacks by the Nazi thugs.

The right reactionary Government persistantly attacks the basic rights of all working people, especially the Afro-Asians. The Tories have been responsible for strengthening institutionalised racism with the introduction of racist laws, such as the Immigration Act and the Nationality Act, and it's anti-people measures through the Employment (Tebbitt's) Bill, Police Bill, Public Spending cuts, etc.....

In order to fight back, we must have a united front for action with the rest of the youth, and see the future unfold with the enthusiasm and zest that young people alone are capable of.

ORGANISATION

The last few years have shown that it is absolutely necessary to have a scientific outlook to build a broad youth organisation. Therefore to develop the Youth Association among the Indian youth and on a wide scale, it is necessary on the one hand to avoid the building of the organisation as a political party, while on the other hand, it is also important to avoid building up the organisation with a limited range of objectives like a Club or certain voluntary organisations. In the past, the C.E.C. has been trying to take this correct understanding to every level of our organisation. We have to keep in mind that our organisation's aims, objectives and programme be discussed regularly to raise the level of consciousness of our activists.

In this context we can examine the achievements and shortcomings we have experienced so far. In our brief history the Association, following it's correct understanding, has achieved many a worth mentioning success, though we have advanced only a few steps in our long path of development. To have a correct understanding and to have it implemented are two things which are far off from each other.

The Association has branches at various stages of development in the following cities:-

- Birmingham
- Coventry
- Derby
- Leicester
- Nottingham
- Southall
- Swindon
- Wolverhampton

We have so far been unsuccessful, due to various reasons, in establishing the proposed branches at:-

- Bradford/Leeds
- Glasgow
- Leamington
- London
- Slough

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WAR AND PEACE ---- YOUTH AS A WEAPON

The Association believes that youth is the most powerful instrument in the struggle for peace and independence. While fighting for employment, culture, sports and expansion of basic human rights for the youth, we should not forget even for once the imperialist conspiracy going on endangering the world, military bases are being set up, the spread of cold war, the manufacture of Neutron Bombs, and the deployment of Cruise and Pershing 11 missiles in Western Europe etc., are posing challenges that threaten the very existence of humanity. The glorious struggles launched by the youth at various times in most parts of the world against Imperialism and for World Peace has to be kept in mind, and this struggle has to be carried forward realising its importance. In order to take up this propaganda on a mass level involving the vast masses of the youth, we attempt to unite young men and women on a broader platform in support of:

- C.N.D.
- Anti-Apartheid Movement
- Liberation Struggles in the Middle East (PLO)
- Liberation Struggles in Latin America
- Liberation Struggles in the Caribbean

etc. etc. etc.

The Association recognises the historical fact appertaining to youth movements throughout the world that, high idealism has great impact on the young minds. In the historical development of society and mankind, millions and billions of youth have got militantly united to fight for their ideals, and have played a very significant role in translating their great ideals into practice.

Therefore, the responsibility of any progressive Youth Movement does not end simply by uniting the youth and imparting democratic ideas amongst them, The logical conclusion of real democratic youth movement will be to raise the level of consciousness and ideology of the youth keeping pace with the rapid scientific and technological development of our civilisation.

-End to Communism and C.I.O. plots

-End to atrocities committed upon Palestinians

-End to Apartheidism

-End to the Soviet Regime

-Indian Ocean to be declared a Zone of Peace

INDIA AND THE SUB-CONTINENT

The Association has maintained and developed close links with India, which only a small minority of 'Indian Youth' can call their 'Motherland'. This essential link has been strengthened by the promotion of progressive Indian Culture, through songs, dances, and most recently dramas during Bhagat Singh day commemoration meetings. Furthermore, after years of struggle the teaching of 'Mother tongue' has been introduced in some schools but we must not be complacent because this should enhance the work being done by the Association.

This process of Indianisation has helped to provide the youth with parents of Indian origin, a sense of identity, which enables them to understand clearly the racism that surrounds them in British society.

The Association has strived to develop fraternal relations with the organisations representing the youth, workers and toiling masses in India. We have endeavoured to support their struggles, by organising and participating in demonstrations, pickets etc..

The Congress (I) which won the last elections on the slogan of Law and Order, has led the Country to the brink of disintegration and has Presided over the worst Communal and Caste riots, reminiscent of the post Independence years.

The Association has denounced publicly whenever the opportunity presented itself, the evil of 'Dowry system', in India as well as in Britain, which results in hundreds and thousands of innocent Indian women being killed every year. However this is an issue which merits a lot more attention than it has so far received.

Whilst recognising as well as supporting the genuine Punjabi grievances and the urgent need for an Independent review of Centre- State relations, the Association categorically denounces the 'Sikhs are a Nation' theory. We have and will continue, to expose the action of extremists being led by Bhindrawala in pursuit of Khalistan. The C.E.C. is of the firm belief that all the separatist movements whether in Punjab or Assam, are funded and designed by the C.I.A.

The threat of war, to destabilise the whole Indian sub-continent has been escalated due to the arms build up in Pakistan, which has been financed by U.S. Imperialism.

The Association will continue to press for the demands currently being raised by the Left and Democratic forces in India:

- End to Communal and Caste riots
 - End to atrocities committed upon Harijans
 - End to Authoritarianism
 - End to the Dowry system
 - Indian Ocean to be declared a Zone of Peace
- etc. etc....

EMPLOYMENT --UNEMPLOYMENT --TRADE UNIONS

There are now over 4 million unemployed working people, young and old, over a third of these being under 25 years of age. The financial cost of unemployment is over £4000 p.a. per person thrown on the scrap heap of Capitalist Waste, funded by the working people.

The Association firmly believes that this deliberate and systematic increase in unemployment must be opposed, but in order to carry out this task it is essential to have a correct understanding of major changes in industry and employment in Britain since the war;

Firstly, the major failure of British industry, compared with that of its competitors, has been the lack of investment. Profits of the 50's and 60's were not ploughed back into industrial modernisation, and therefore competitiveness was lost. Thus, at a time when unemployment is increasing throughout the Western Industrial World, Britain leads this race-assisted by monetarist policies.

Secondly, any investment in the last 20 years has been used for keeping costs down, usually labour costs. Having already lost most of the markets, investment has moved towards new technology, thereby reducing workforces. Increased automation and use of micro-processors in industry and offices, the growth of multi-national companies exploiting cheap labour of the Third World, the loss of previous colonial markets, and the advent of supermarkets and containers have all aimed at employing less labour.

Regional grants in recent years have been intended to subsidise capital equipment, and not create jobs-- the 1972 Industry Act stated that 'it is not necessary for the new investment to provide additional employment.' There will, in the future, generally be less people employed. Unfortunately the view that increased automation would result in increased leisure, (everybody working less than 20 hours a week and still receiving a full wage) has not materialised, with many people still working for long hours and others being unemployed.

Finally, during the times of world economic expansion in the 50's and 60's, these trends of automation were concealed by the increase in markets, coupled with increased Government spending. However, in the present climate of industrial contraction and Government cutbacks, many workers at the lower end of the wage scale have suddenly found themselves unwanted. In the event of an economic upturn, there may be work again for skilled and white collar workers, but under the present system there will never be work again for thousands of delivery boys, manual workers, unskilled labourers and general office workers. Among these workers, the first to be dispensed with are black people, the teenagers and women.

The Association has developed a closer working relationship with the Trade Union movement and takes pride in the knowledge that most of its members are active shop stewards of their respective Trade Union.

The Association has demonstrated solidarity in all respects with workers struggling for justice. We have backed, financially morally and physically most of the major strikes, wherever public support was called for. The most recent successful cases were that of the workers employed by S. & K. in the Midlands. Where the strikers with massive public support stayed out for five weeks, which enabled them to win their demands for union recognition and secured a 60% wage increase and this was closely followed by the renowned P.S. Raindi strike in Birmingham, which was successfully concluded after a long and difficult struggle.

The Multi-Nationals & Monopolists through their mouth-piece the Tory Government, have continued their onslaught upon the basic rights of working people. Not only by increasing unemployment, but also by enshrining upon the statute book anti-workers legislation, such as the Employment Act 1980 and the publication of a set of proposals for new Industrial Relations legislation (known as Tebbit's Bill), which if enacted will, restrict the right to strike, attack Trade Union funds, undermine the closed shop, reintroduce selective sackings, and outlaw 'Union labour only' sub contract clauses.

The Association was at the forefront in mobilising national support for :

- May Day demonstrations
- T.U.C. Days of Action
- N.H.S. Strike
- People's March for Jobs 1981
- Jobs for Youth Campaign
- People's March for Jobs 1983

RACIALISM

As we correctly stated at our previous conference in 1980 and which still holds true today, that;

"The crisis within the capitalist system has precipitated a dramatic increase in racialism and it is reaching dangerous proportions. Throughout history, the capitalist system has always looked for scape-goats to divert the attention of the working people from their exploitative deeds. Fascist organisations like the British Movement and the National Front are in the forefront of injecting the poison of racial prejudice into the bodypolitics of the multi-racial working class movement, thriving indeed, as organisations like these do, on the unfounded fears of people, high unemployment, inflation and other ills inherent in the system".

Racists, encouraged by the British Movement and the National Front, have been responsible for the attacks on black people such as the murders in East London, Coventry, etc. Britain's Nazis are known to have links with the European Fascists responsible for the atrocities in Bologna, Munich, and Paris. The organisations involved have encouraged their British counterparts to participate in similar acts and have provided advice on how to obtain and use arms. The fire in Deptford which resulted in the murder of 13 black youths was carried out by racists, as was the fire in Walthamstow, when Nazis poured petrol through a letter-box and set alight to the house resulting in the tragic deaths of a mother and her three young children--whom the police have yet to catch.

The Association has been constantly organising the local community, both black and white, to be more vigilant and vocal to safeguard their lives and property. We are proud of the fact that we mobilised and took an active part in most of the biggest demonstrations against fascism and racism ever seen in this Country, just a few of which are mentioned below.....

.....Anti Nazi League-National Demonstration held in London on 30th April, 1978. The Association were the sole representatives of the Indian Community in this massive rally.

.....Altab Ali was stabbed to death while returning home from work in East London. In the protest demonstration held on 14th May, 1978 the Association participated with it's full contingent.

.....Second Anti Nazi League Carnival held on 24th September, 1978, in which over 120,000 people participated, including strong representation from the Association, in the form of marchers and a colourful Bhangra Group from Leicester.

.....23rd April, 1979- The Association was actively involved in the build up and after-math of Community protest against the National Front, who held an election meeting in Southall Town Hall. 2750 police officers protected their right to do so, against an almost equal number of protesters. The central area of Southall around the Town Hall was cordoned off. In the conflict which followed between protesters and police, 700 people were arrested and 342 were subsequently charged. A large number of protesters were injured, one of them-namely Blair Peach- was murdered by the S.P.G. The Association collected £1125 towards the Blair Peach Memorial Fund.

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Net against Racial Discrimination of a Sikh boy in Wolverhampton (Urban Case).

.....8th April 1980 The Association imparted moral and physical support to Rudy Narayan in his fight against the 'Legal World'.

.....2nd August 1980 Demonstration against Racist attacks held in London.

.....Autumn 1980 Demonstrations against Fascism in the Midlands.

.....May 1981 Demonstration against Racist murder and rising racial attacks in Coventry.

.....July 1981 The C.E.C. after serious analysis of the eruption of the long simmering pot of racial attacks at the following conclusions that:-

a) This was a deliberate ploy of Mrs. Thatcher and the police to discredit and divide the community. Also to give further powers to the police for increasing the repression against the black people.

b) The disturbances have undermined the unity of the working people achieved through mass struggles (e.g. People's March, C.A.R.L. demonstration etc. etc.) against rising unemployment and legalized racism via proposed Nationality Act and Immigration Laws.

c) We sympathize with the frustrations of the black youth who have suffered the most under the increasing capitalist crisis, and who resorted to violence in defence, when attacked by the police and fascists as in Southall. However we must ensure that in future our organisation should help in channeling the energies of the youth towards mass socio-economic struggles.

d) We must be careful that the growing unity between the ethnic minorities and the indigenous population (working class) is not allowed to be destroyed.

In addition to this the Association supported the defence of the Bradford 12 and the very first Black People's Day of Action.

Some of the demands in this field, the Association has been pressing for, are:-

- Disband S.P.G.
- Full Public Accountability of the Police
- A Right to be Free from Harassment and Fear
- A Right not to be Racially Discriminated Against in any walk of Life
- A Right to be Treated as Respectable and Equal Human Being's
- End to Blanket Bans
- Removal of new S.U.S. Law
- Racially Prejudiced or Discriminatory Behaviour be made a Dismissible Offence

IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT

We once again re-iterate the fact that, though migration is strictly controlled under the racist Immigration Act of 1962, Fascists and other similar organisations as well as the Tory Government continue to play the numbers game. By non-stop hue and cry from these racist quarters the atmosphere of Britain is being made poisonous with race hysteria.

It is now a historical fact that during the rule of the first woman Prime Minister of Britain, the young women of the Indian Sub-Continent have been subjected to blatant sex-discrimination, due to the new regulations, they have lost the basic human right to live in this country with their husbands after marrying a man from the Indian Sub-Continent.

The Association mobilised the masses not only for the struggle against the racist Immigration Laws, but also against the sinister practices of Immigration Officers at Heathrow Airport, who conduct the most undignified tests on women who were coming to join their husbands already settled in Britain.

It is difficult to reconcile a Government, which claims to be a torch bearer of human rights, with the inhuman practice it administers. Since the last two years there has been a phenomenal increase in institutionalised racism, by this right-reactionary Tory Government.

For example:

Fishing Raids.....with the full blessing of the Home Office, black people have been "Hunted" like animals by the police, after which they have been held in Detention without trial.

Nationality Law....which affects people of all ages in this Country and abroad.

The Association joined hands with the Campaign Against Racist Laws (C.A.R.L.), in 1979, to begin the fight back against the Racist Immigration Law and the Nationality Act. This resulted in two massive demonstrations held in London by the ethnic minority organisations.

In our opinion these Demonstrations were lacking in support from the white working classes, on these extremely important issues of Immigration and Nationality. After the Demonstration in April 1981 the C.E.C. noted with genuine concern that this short-coming could strike a serious blow to the growing unity among the Working People.

Some of our current demands on this issue are:

- Repeal the Racist Immigration and Nationality Laws
- Stop all internal Immigration control (Fishing Raids)
- End detention without trial
- Immediate enquiry into the conduct of immigration clearance services
- Stop detention of children
- Etc.....-Etc.....

TEACHING OUT TO THE YOUTH

The C.E.C. firmly believes that the youth will not come to us, but we will have to approach them, we cannot do this either by sitting in the office and discussing bookish ideas or by taking bureaucratic decisions. We have to chalk out creative and imaginative plans to reach and involve those large sections of youth.

To fulfill this important task we the activists of the youth movement, should grow out of our own peripheral limitations. Because we are so much confined within our "developed consciousness", we tend to isolate ourselves and as a result are unable to integrate with the masses, and this acts as a chinese wall between them and us. We have to break this barrier. We have to understand what the vast masses of youth are thinking, and what they really want. We have to deeply analyse these problems and by regularly coming out with newer programmes consistent with the needs and desires of the youth will we be able to break the prevalent rigidity, create a fervour amongst them, and involve them in activities.

We have to plan out agitational programmes on the socio-economic problems that are facing the youth. Along with preparing such programmes as to develop the basic sense of unity and the democratic level of consciousness among the youth. Also we have to fight back the challenges posed to the healthy development of lives and minds of the youth such as, unemployment, racism, and degenerate culture etc.... For this purpose, our slogans should be short and consistent with the prevailing conditions. It has to be remembered that all the slogans cannot be implemented under present conditions. Along with the propagation of the causes behind these problems and slogans, and the solutions to them, we will have to focus more on "slogans for action" or slogans on day to day issues.

For example, by raising the slogan of 'Jobs for All', we were able to create a ferment among a large section of the organised youth and even a section of those unorganised during 'People's March' and 'Jobs for Youth' campaign. Now the task is to carry this struggle to the lowest levels. It has to be kept in mind that unless we organise the large masses of youth behind this slogan, we will not be able to achieve even our temporary demands, i.e. shorter working week, early retirement, higher unemployment benefit, etc. etc....

Similarly, when the poisonous influence of degenerate feudal and imperialist culture is conspiring to destroy the healthy development of consciousness, it's for us to launch large-scale cultural programmes under the leadership of our units consisting of plays, songs, sports and other activities, to attack these trends. Only this programme can raise the youth from a backward to an enlightened path of consciousness.

We believe that to exist one must learn to live unitedly. Armed with this understanding the Association must continue to organise the local community, (black and white), to be more vigilant and unite in order to safeguard their lives and property against rising racial attacks.