

COVENTRY

# Indian Workers Association (Great Britain)

*(Hindustani Mazdoor Sabha)*

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## Bi-ennial Report

Approved on 23rd June 85



REPORT OF THE INDIAN WORKERS ASSOCIATION GREAT BRITAIN PRESENTED  
BY PREM SINGH, THE NATIONAL SECRETARY, ON BEHALF OF THE CENTRE COMMITTEE  
AND PASSED BY THE BI-ENNIAL CONFERENCE AT COVENTRY ON 23rd JUNE, 1985.

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Dear Delegates,

Over a year has elapsed since we met at Wolverhampton at an interim Conference on 11th December, 1983. It was a unique occasion as there had not been many meetings of this type in the whole history of the Association; secondly it was a timely move undertaken by the C.C. in response to a galaxy of events which had happened during that period and which were of great concern to the people as a whole; thirdly, the conference provided the delegates and, through them, the other active workers with added encouragement and enthusiasm which enabled them to enhance further the cause of our organisation with more vigour and determination. It is not an exaggeration to say that after the conference, all the branches remained actively involved in the working class struggles—such as the miners strike. Moreover, there was a general consensus that such interim meetings were vital and should, therefore, be organised regularly.

Today, we have gathered here in Coventry for this bi-ennial conference. This conference being the highest organ of our association, will, no doubt review the work undertaken during the time under discussion, examine its multifarious aspects and decide on tactics suitable to the changed situation, to be pursued by the new leadership you are going to elect at this conference.

#### NUCLEAR WAR THREAT EXACERBATED

In the name of maintaining supremacy, Ronald Reagan has continued to take further measures designed to extend nuclear weaponry to space. Deployment of Pershing II cruise missiles on the soils of Western European countries does not seem to meet his satisfaction, though this programme was implemented at the expense of peace negotiations which were jeopardized as a result. From this it appears that all the earth at the disposal of American imperialists and their blind supporters is not considered to be sufficient enough to install nuclear weapons, which are massively stockpiled thereat—weapons if ever allowed to be used, will play havoc with human species and destroy life on this planet. In addition, research is now being launched

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in order to put these horrific weapons to be used from space. All these measures coupled with war hysteria, once again, unmask the real face of imperialism - American imperialism, in particular, policies of which cause war. It is all the more important for peace loving people to understand this. Otherwise the fight for peace will not produce the much needed results.

To treat both the camps - imperialist and socialist, on a par with each other is a travesty of all the realities that exist in the present-day-world. The people who, deliberately or otherwise, regard the Soviet Union equally as a war-mongering superpower, cause irreparable damage to the peace movement, because such a stand creates confusion and obliviousness among the people as to the real enemy. It is about time that these people should be able to abandon their absurd positions - absurd because they do not reflect the stances of the two camps which have adopted clear-cut policies concerning war and peace issue in contradiction to each other. Soviet Union stands for peace and American Imperialists are out to unleash war. One does not need to dig deep to find out why a socialist system is free from the conditions which lead to war. For it is very easy to substantiate this on the basis of a range of proposals suggested and unilateral steps taken by the U.S.S.R. since the inception of the socialist system there, on numerous occasions. The recent proposals presented by the Soviet Union at the Geneva arms reduction negotiations are vivid examples of its stand on war and peace question and these proposals speak for themselves. For example,

- (1) Moratorium on research, testing, deployment of space weapons.
- (2) Freeze on existing arsenals of offensive weapons - strategic nuclear launches and war-heads.
- (3) Halt to further deployments of medium range nuclear weapons.

Furthermore, on the basis of these proposals Com. Gurbachev, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union has taken unilateral steps by announcing moratorium on deployment of SS20s. This commitment to peace in practice, in turn demands reciprocal response from the U.S.A. to halt deployment of its Cruise and Pershing II missiles. So far, such a response is still pending.

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The peace movement, on the other hand is gaining strength. It is making its existence felt and making the people at large aware of the devastation war would cause. Whatever may be the controversies over the weaknesses of this movement, it is a fact of life that wherever American missiles are based, the protest marches have become a daily phenomenon. During this year's Easter peace marches, millions of people took to the streets, showing their anger against the war designs of Reagan, the arms race, his plans to put them in space and deployment of the missiles in Western Europe.

In Britain, the peace movement is being led by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, C.N.D. At Greenham Common, which is the first base of American nuclear missiles in this country, a day and night vigil is being sustained by a women section of the C.N.D. In addition, this place has seen extraordinarily big demonstrations since the missiles were installed there. Opposition to Molesworth being made a second base of such missiles has already begun. At Molesworth alone, over twenty five thousand people took part in a peace demonstration held at Easter this year.

Another aspect which the peace movement cannot afford to ignore is the opposition to Reagan's war programme coupled with his missile deployment policy, on the part of the Governments of some of Western European countries. This opposition has undoubtedly become rather more expressive during the recent years.

#### ECONOMIC CRISIS IN BRITAIN.

Like other capitalist countries, economy of Britain remains in acute crisis, rather more acute than it was two years back. Its industrial growth continues to be stagnant. Manufacturing output is 11% below its 1979 level. Under the nose of Margaret Thatcher who constantly boasts to be an inspirer of small businesses, as many as 21,904 companies have gone bust in 1984 - 1,466 more than the 1983 figure. Unemployment, in real terms is as high as five million and its upward trend continues.

Arguments being used by the ruling class to get away with the mess in the economy which is the culmination of their policies, are totally unconvincing and paradoxical. In the first place they carry on making



optimistic promises suggesting that the economy is moving in the right direction. The day is not far off when we see the required improvement in it. On the other hand we are being told that it is the fault of world economy. So nothing could be done.

This stance appears to have been adopted with a view to fooling the people. When the world economy is referred to, the ruling class attempts to conceal the real composition of the modern world which is no longer a homogenous entity. There exists a socialist camp consisting of many countries spread over one third of the whole population of the world. Such crises have become alien to these countries because of socialist mode of production therein. Even Mr. Edward Heath, the erstwhile prime minister had to admit in his recent pronouncements, that the world economy does not have as much impact on the unemployment situation in Britain as is being claimed by Thatcherites. Though he too, tends to ignore the socialist camp and its achievements.

Contrary to what Thatcherites say, their actions speak louder than the previous Tory Governments even. Never before have the people who are at the bottom of the ladder had to bear such an excessive burden of the crisis as they are now made to put up with. As a result, they are forced to lead their lives in poverty, misery and destitution. No other Governments have ever launched an attack on the welfare and health services, public education at all levels, independent local authorities and other such democratically elected institutions as ruthlessly as the present regime, in the recent history of this country. Never before has there been a programme <sup>of sale</sup> of profitable parts of the public sector economy on a scale this Government has undertaken. The working class and other strata of people at the receiving end such as the disabled, the women and the blacks have been declared as "enemies from within" with unprecedented vehemence and frankness.

In this situation, struggles of the working class are bound to increase and there is a considerable amount of resentment against Governments' onslaught on their livelihood. Despite unfavourable and very difficult situations stemming from a constant threat of being made redundant,



workers in many industries have struck work and thus displayed their anger. The miners strike was the hall-mark among them. The number of days lost in industrial disputes was 26,564,000 in 1984, far more in any year since 1979.

Above all, the scale of opposition attracted by her policies from a wide spectrum of the population, from church priests and from big guns of the Tory party, transcends the other Tory Governments of this era.

#### MINER'S STRIKE.

Mine workers' strike was a historic fight of this period as compared to all other struggles fought by various sections of the working class. It lasted for one year. Over one hundred thousand workers' remained solidly behind their leadership and stayed on strike in the wake of unimaginable odds until it was withdrawn without an agreement of any sort on 3rd March, 1985. They went back to work with their heads high in a mood to continue the fight against pit closures, to save their jobs and for a better future for their children. They also pledged to carry on their struggle for the safeguard of the hard won democratic rights to be free to belong to a trade union of their own choice, and to protect the right to strike for the fulfilment of these objectives, if and when these rights are threatened.

The importance of this strike lies in the fact that it went on that long despite a great many difficulties, hardships and unparalleled repression let loose on the strikers by the Thatcher government. Thousands of police were deployed at the collieries. First time in the history of such disputes, the police operations were directed from one centre, the National Recording Centre. Many workers on picket lines were beaten up and arrested by police and imprisoned with heavy fines by courts, use of which surpassed the previous records. Even wives, children, elderly faced constant harassment who were in their villages, no-where near the pickets. In order to starve the miners off, their social security benefits were drastically cut. All these barbaric measures were synchronized with an ideological crusade and smear campaign against the leadership of the National Union of Mine Workers. Personalisation of the dispute crossed all limites. However, the miners braved all this and the difficulties, hardships, repression, bribes and temptations failed to weaken their resolve.

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Another salient point with regard to this strike which needs to be mentioned here is that it is Margaret Thatcher who, as part of her union bashing programme, chose, on purpose, to throw the gauntlet on the NUM. After having completed, well before hand, all the preparations suggested by 'Ridley Plan', according to which huge stocks of coal to be built even by importing it, industries which use coal exclusively should devise ways and means to shift to oil and nuclear energy. Specially trained police force capable of dealing effectively with pickets etc., she made up her mind to 'have a go'. Added encouragement to her was provided by the lack of an organised resistance on the part of the T.U.C. leadership against anti-working class measures such as the ban on trade union membership at G.C.H.Q., no support to print unions fight against Eddie Shah and anti-trade union laws.

After having seen favourable conditions, she brought her tested 'champion' Mr. Ian MacGregor in the forefront and asked him to do what he did to the steel industry where, in the name of restructuring the production he reduced the work force drastically and closed many steel plants. Soon after becoming the chairman of the Coal Board, he drew a plan to close twenty pits out of the total one hundred and seventy four, with a loss of twenty thousand jobs and with further programme of reducing the workforce by seventy thousand. This plan was in violation of an agreement, called 'A Plan for Coal', signed by the N.U.M., the Coal Board and the government. It was again confirmed in 1981. But the "Iron Lady" was not bothered about the agreements. All she wanted was to create a situation whereby she would be able to crush the miners. Their insistence to implement the 'Ridley Plan' triggered off the strike.

Support from the general public for the miners' cause was widespread. Thousands of meetings were held up and down the country. Fund raising campaigns were launched, and thousands of leaflets explaining the miners' case were distributed. Response of the people was great. Hundreds of workers started paying regular levy towards the fund. One can feel satisfied from the support it got from a wider section of the population. However, there is a negative side which needs to be highlighted and that is, the role played by the T.U.C. leadership and the labour party's top personalities. Their activities remained confined to passing resolutions. Some of them paid only lip service to it. Had there been the much needed support coupled with industrial muscle, the culmination of the strike would have been different.

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At a time when workers are on strike, the Indian Workers' Association Great Britain, cannot remain passive. Nor did it remain so in regard to the miner's strike. As soon as the strike started, its Centre Committee met and decided to send fifty pounds donation. Though small, it was a gesture of our solidarity with their cause. With it a resolution was also sent. At a meeting in Southall, Com. H.S. Surjeet presented a sum of over two hundred pounds, collected thereat, to a miners leader from Kent area. In response to a circular sent to the branches by C.C., all the branches became actively involved in campaigns of all sorts launched in support of the strike.

### RACISM.

Growth in racism continues unabated in Britain. The deterioration in the economy is making the situation even worse. In every walk of life employment, education, housing etc. racism, overt or covert, is clearly visible. A report from the Swann Committee which has come out recently, points out unambiguously that it is the endemicity of racism in schools which is the major cause of under-achievement of black children in the field of education. The other spheres are also riddled with racism.

This is happening at a time when black immigration into this country has almost been halted. The notion that "the less the immigration the better the race relations" has, therefore been proved nonsensical. Institutionalisation of racism has taken place in its entirety. After putting an end to the primary immigration of heads of households from the new Commonwealth countries the government have resorted to the new phase, that is, to control the black people internally. As part of this process, practice of passport checks has been introduced and this practice has become so rampant that the black people will have to carry their passports in their pockets as a routine daily necessity. In addition, the internal control ploy of this government has resulted in deportation and repatriation of many black people who have been living in this country for years and thus settled.

Associated with the growing racism is the question of racial attacks which have increased manifold. The following examples show how, by using different methods, the racists cause harassment to the black people. It is difficult to assess the gravity of the situation because a majority of such attacks remain unreported.



1. A terrified family who were moved to a secret address after their home in Bermondsey, south London was fire bombed revealed that this was the second time they had been moved because of racial attacks. This time a petrol bomb was pushed through their letterbox setting their front door ablaze, and bricks hurled through the window where their children were sleeping. Two daughters have been kept away from school for over a year because of racial abuse. Police investigating the incident think there is no reason to believe it was a racist attack.  
(Deptford & Peackham Mercury 17.1.85.)
2. An east London family take it in turns to stay up all night in case of racial attacks. Already the Rebeiros' home is boarded up and they keep buckets of water handy in case of arson attacks. The family have been set upon in the street, their windows have been smashed, their door kicked in and their dustbins set alight. Most of their neighbours have been moved out and the family are wondering why it is taking Newham Council so long to rehouse them.  
(Newham Recorder 17.1.85.)
3. Molotov cocktail' bombs were hurled at an Indian Restaurant in Dudley causing several hundreds of pounds worth of damage.  
(Birmingham Evening Mail 7.1.85.)

#### MARRIAGE RULES TIGHTENED.

Despite the amendment to the marriage rules allowing all British Citizen girls to have their husbands or fiances with them from abroad, the Home Secretary, by shifting the onus of proof to the applicant to show that the primary purpose of the intended marriage is not immigration, has, in fact, tightened them further. In addition to the shift in the burden of proof, directives were sent to Immigration officers and Entry clearance officers overseas through the secret instructions. They were told to use the "primary purpose" as widely as possible in order to refuse entry certificates, not to facilitate the entry. For this purpose, a sample of questionnaire was supplied to the officers enabling them to formulate hypothetical questions,



rather on children in the U.K." By the time these instructions went to the British Commission overseas i.e. after one year, which is a long time for elderly people, for many, an opportunity to make use of this mitigation, will never arise.

APPEAL SYSTEM : A FACADE.

In theory, there exists a mechanism where an appellant can seek redress against the refusal of entry certificate. In practice, benefits to the victim are minimal as the whole set-up is unjust and farcical. Farcical because it is heard and decided upon in Britain in the absence of both the victim and the 'refusing' officer, thus eliminating any opportunity for cross-examination.

NATIONALITY FEE REDUCED.

Against the exorbitantly high fees which were required to be paid for nationality, there was a nationwide agitation. The culmination of this agitation was a reduction in the fees, which have now been brought down almost to the pre-increased level.

THE NEW FEES

	<u>NEW</u>	<u>OLD</u>
Adult Registration (entitlement)	£55	(£70)
Minor Registration (including multiple applications)	£55	(£35)
Naturalisation	£160	(£200)
Naturalisation (joint) - married couple	£160	(£270)
Naturalisation - Spouse of British Citizen	£55	(£70)

People who, being on the dole, are forced to live from hand to mouth, are not exempted from this payment. In our letter, attention of the Minister concerned was drawn to the plight of such people. But the government of the day appears to be so antipathetic towards the poor, it has become almost impossible to make it exemptable even on compassionate grounds.

Whereas, our position on this question remains unchanged, that there should not be any fees for nationality, we, alternately, suggested, again by writing to the Minister of Social Security, that nationality

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fee should be included in the items for which a lump sum payment is available under exceptional needs regulations. If it is not feasible under the existing rules, an amendment should be sought accordingly.

A paradox of the situation is that, under the Social Security Laws, a lump sum payment is made available for persons who wish to be deported from this country but for those who wish to acquire nationality after fulfilling legally required conditions, such a payment is absent.

#### SEPARATIST FORCES.

Soon after Bhindranwala was brought on the scene, the khalistan forces in Britain began to raise their heads. Prior to this, there has been a lonely voice of Dr. Jagjeet Singh in the wilderness, who kept on establishing the homeland for sikhs in Britain in complete isolation. The "Operation Blue Star" which led to the alienation of sikhs provided a suitable ground for the extremists to grow and enabled the ring leaders to exploit the injured feelings of ordinary sikhs for the intensification of their activities. In Britain, the well known anti-social elements were brought in the forefront. First and foremost target of their attacks became the sikh temples with a view to finally, wresting overall control of them and then using their stages and resources against the progressive movements which stand opposed to separatism and obscurantism such as the Indian Workers Association - the forces which are for India's integrity and stability. Their anti-socialist character and their link with American C.I.A. became rather more obvious after their demonstration in front of the Soviet Embassy and with the slogans displayed on the banners thereat and on other such occasions.

Not unexpectedly, these extremists tried to disrupt our meetings in Derby and Leicester. In Derby the meeting was organised by the local branch of the Indian Youth Association and in Leicester by the Indian Workers Association local branch. On both the occasions, they resorted to violence with a view to intimidating our workers. But I.W.A.'s preparedness for such eventualities succeeded in defeating their motives. In this respect, our branches had shown their readiness to be present wherever and whenever we had to face this element.

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It is a matter of great pride to our Association for remaining in the forefront in exposing their real face. At a time when their agitation was on the peak, we distributed a leaflet in thousands explaining how dangerous their moves were, and how important the unity of India is to the people of Indian origin.

Moreover, it is the Indian Workers Association which have been raising its voice in Britain, in support of the common demands of all Punjabis including sikhs. These demands include the issues such as more power to states, Chandigarh belongs to Punjab, solution of river water dispute through an independent commission and redemarcation of boundaries on the basis of language. For the fulfilment of these demands we have been pressurizing the Indian Government that these are democratic demands and their solution lie in accepting them. No other measures of administrative nature can provide any solution to this effect.

We believe that it is the Congress (I) Government at the centre which, by not accepting these legitimate demands and its adherence to anti-people economic policies which have in turn, created discontentment among the masses of India, have provided the necessary ammunition for the separatist forces to flourish as well as for the American imperialist to use this situation with a view to destabilizing India.

During that period, Comrade H.S. Surjeet paid a visit to Britain. In order to avail of his presence, we organised public meetings in various towns. Com. Surjeet, in his address explained to the people that a religious cannot become the basis of a nation as claimed by the Akali Party. He also emphasised that the Akali Party led by Sant Longowal should demarcate itself from the extremists before it is too late. Com. Surjeet while making distinction between demands of all punjabis and religious ones. He laid the responsibility on the Government for the present situation and exhorted the people to unitedly fight to defeat the game of separatists as well as to force the Government to give up the policy of drift. In this struggle, he went on to say, the role of American Imperialism which is out to destabilize and disintegrate India should not be minimised and must be exposed continuously.

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Coincidentally Com. Jyoti Basu also came to Britain for a short while. Two meetings were organised - one in Leicester and the other one in London. At both these meetings Com. Basu also touched on the Punjab issue along with the latest political situation in India as a whole. He also highlighted what the left front government in West Bengal was able to do for the well-being of the people within limited powers it had, and against the background of unfriendly attitude on the part of the Central Government.

#### INDIRA GANDHI'S ASSASSINATION.

On 31st October, 1984, the news of ghastly murder of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the prime minister of India, at the hands of her Sikh bodyguards, spread like wild fire all over the world. As soon as we came to know, statements to the press condemning the murder forthrightly were issued both on a local and national level. The branches were directed accordingly. We also indicated in the statements that American imperialism had its hand in the murder. There was no illusion whatsoever among our cadre .....

that the murder would, inevitably strengthen the hands of Congress (I) in the ensuing general elections. The Sikhs as a whole would be portrayed as traitors - enemies of India.

#### POST ASSASSINATION RIOTS.

In the wake of emotions and sympathies of the general public running high, some Congress (I) leaders lost no time to exploit the situation, emanated from Indira's assassination, for the enhancement of their narrow political designs. Riots of genocidal character were organised, first in Delhi and in other cities afterwards where Sikhs were residing. This situation continued for several days. No attempt was made to stop indiscriminate killings of Sikhs. The death toll ran as high as over five thousand in Delhi alone. Millions of rupees worth property, belonging to Sikhs was destroyed. Thousands of people were forced to seek shelter in Punjab where the situation was under control, perhaps due to the presence of army there. The Congress (I) Governments in the states did not do anything to stop

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the killing. In sharp contrast, the left front government of West Bengal, led by the C.P.I.(M), reacted quickly and halted the riot without much damage both in property and human terms. On this too, we were behind none in condemning the massacre and in demanding that a judicial enquiry be set up in order to find out the culprits and punish them, and to provide adequate redress in the form of compensation for the victims.

#### GENERAL ELECTIONS IN INDIA.

Mr. Rajib Gandhi who became the prime minister after his mother was assassinated, called the general elections. The Congress (I) won these elections with a massive majority—the majority which was beyond the expectations of many political pundits. What were the causes of such a big victory? What were the issues confronting the people? In the opinion of the Central Committee of the Indian Workers Association the victory of the Congress (I) is by no means an endorsement of the internal policies which it has been pursuing during the last five years.

The Indian electorate, swayed by emotion and accepting the credibility of the Congress (I) to defend national unity, has voted to keep in power the same bourgeois landlord party known for its scant regard for democratic norms, the same party which thrust the emergency on the country and established one-party dictatorship. The electorate has voted for the party which imposed the NSA and ESMA on the people which refused to part with the dictatorial powers of the centre vis-a-vis the states. It has installed in power a party whose record regarding national integration and national unity is a dismal record.

#### PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS IN INDIA.

Importance of these elections lies in the fact that the Congress (I) which won a massive victory in the general elections, in terms of seats, could not maintain that momentum. Within three months its support eroded considerably. As a result, opposition parties in some states formed their governments after defeating the Congress (I).

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VISA SYSTEM IMPOSED.

It is obvious that the need to promulgate the visa system on foreigners arose in the light of poisonous campaign unleashed by separatists and obscurantists overseas, in support of their accomplices in India, particularly in Punjab. Its main purpose claimed to be a mechanism brought into being in order to curb their activities. The Indian Workers' Association Great Britain has been opposing its imposition from the very outset, on the grounds that it is counter productive; its blanket implications will help the extremists; these implications will make the fight of the progressive movement which is, also, very courageously fighting the extremists, rather difficult, another argument which is being used in favour of visa that the extremists from abroad can go to India unnoticed with the intention of killing top leaders, falls short of convincing anybody because such persons have other ways at their disposal to enter India. Moreover, the Indians living abroad do not consider themselves as foreigners: they remain Indians regardless of the passports they hold. Our deputation had a meeting, at the Indian High Commission, London, with the High Commissioner to whom we conveyed our view point on this matter. During the discussions, we drew his attention to the likelihood of corruption for which the visa system would create a fertile ground.

Appreciating the High Commissioner agreed with us on almost all points and promised to recommend accordingly to the Indian Government. He told us there and then that children under eighteen would be issued the visa from his office in London without sending their applications to India for verification.

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POLICE BILL.

In the background of economic crisis and incessant growth in race the re-introduction of the Police Bill, now Act, needs to be reviewed. The government seeks the remedy of all the ills of society by passing the burden of the economic crisis on to the layman. The super structure is aware of the fact that the people are likely to resist. The black people will inevitably demand equal rights and for that matter, they will take part in the struggles of the working class being an inseparable part of it and in their fight they will seek cooperation from the fellow workers.

Being unable to correspond its policies to the needs of the masses, the government has begun to strengthen the instruments of repression at its disposal. The police Act is one of the many chains of this apparatus.

For the black people, this is an attempt on the part of the government to legalise what is already being practised. The black people are subjected to "stop and search" without any redress being made available. All the provisions enshrined in the Act are already in existence. Nothing is new to a black man.

It is our duty to give credit to the branches of our Association which took initiative to organise conferences against this barbaric Act and these branches are Leicester, and Derby.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE REGULATIONS ACT.

The promulgation of the FERA by the Government of India, which is supposed to protect the Indian interests from the interference of foreign capital is being used against those Indians who because of



racial discrimination have been forced to acquire British passports and have links, very close indeed, with their relations in India. They contribute to the foreign exchange through continuous remittances and it is these common people who are harassed and put to many difficulties under cover of FERA.

A deputation led by Comrade S.S. Mann, the National President of I.W.A.G.B. met the High Commissioner of India at London. After very hectic and rhetoric discussions, the High Commissioner agreed to convey our concern to the effect to the Government of India. Following this meeting a memorandum was sent to the High Commission and also to the M.P's. belonging to opposition parties in India.

Comrade Harkishan Singh Surgeet M.P. Polit Bureau member of CPI (M) once again as before raised this issue in the parliament and wrote letters to other personalities concerned with a view to having the provisions of the Act changed, specially the provisions which affect the people of this category adversely.

27th March, 1983, C.A.R.L. Demo.

From its very inception the Campaign against Racist Laws has made it known, in no uncertain terms, that it will keep on fighting as long as the racist laws remain on the Statute Book. The demonstration on 27th March, at London was one of the major initiatives taken in this respect as part of the prolonged struggle.

It is not an exaggeration to say that, in this demonstration, the contingent belonging to our Association was the largest one as compared to other participant organisations. Spread over from the front and to the back were our workers clearly discernable shouting slogans. Such a display of huge strength was the culmination of the hard work our branches had put in. For this the branches do deserve our sincere appreciation.

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### MARX WITH SPARX.

To commemorate the death centenary of Karl Marx, the Communist Party of Great Britain had organised a function, on a national level called Marx with Sparx (sparks). At that function, rallies of national and international nature were held. In addition, there was a main rally - an open meeting - where over four thousand audience were present.

In the main rally I.W.A.G.B. was honoured by providing an opportunity to be one of the main speakers including Mr. Arthur Scargill, Tony Benn and Gordon McLennan. Contents of the speech made by the National General Secretary of I.W.A.G.B. were printed in the Morning Star and Asian Times.

### PEOPLES' MARCH FOR JOBS.

As part of the concerted campaign against the virus of unemployment the trade union movement of this country embarked upon having a long march for jobs. The main theme of the march was to create awareness among the people that unemployment is not a natural phenomenon; it is not the creation of God - it is the product of the Capitalist system and its solution lies in changing this system and replacing it with socialist mode of production.

After starting from Glasgow on 23rd April 1983, the march ended in London with a final rally on 5th June, 1983. Our association was among the main speakers at the final rally.

Our branches have done a commendable job by gathering at the reception points and by remaining with the marchers as long as they stayed in the respective towns.

Another point which needs to be highlighted is that the then president of Indian Workers Association Derby Comrade Ajit Singh joined the marchers along with Comrade Sadhu Ram and Resham Singh Johal and played a formidable role in maintaining political integrity among the fellow marchers.

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### LOCAL AND GENERAL ELECTIONS.

In the local elections held in May 1983, two branches of our Association put four candidates. Leicester branch contested three seats and Birmingham one. Votes obtained by these contestants were beyond our expectations. This venture undoubtedly helped broaden our base in these towns. The experience and political lessons learnt during the canvassing and from the outcome are of great value.

Given the political situation that existed in this country at that time, we urged our members to support the Labour Party candidates in the general elections.

### 22nd OCTOBER, 1983, CND DEMONSTRATION.

Over half a million people gathered and marched on the streets of London, in addition to other Western European countries where an even greater number of the masses participated, on 22nd of October 1983, in the demonstrations held simultaneously.

The purpose of these demonstrations was to express total opposition against the proposed deployment of cruise missiles in Western Europe and to show anger and abhorrence against the war-phobia of American Imperialist forces.

Our organisation, as ever, gave a call to all the branches to do whatever possible with a view to making the demonstration a grand success. The response from the branches was satisfactory. Four thousand copies of a leaflet entitled "Nuclear Catastrophe emanating from Imperialism" were distributed at the demonstration.

### DEMONSTRATION AT MOLESWORTH.

During this year's Easter peace marches millions of people in Western Europe took to the streets protesting against the deployment of American Pershing II missiles in their respective countries. In Britain, too, over twenty five thousand people gathered at Molesworth alone, to oppose this place being made the second base of such missiles, after Greenham Common. Derby and Leicester branches of our association took part in this demonstration. In Leicester, at a rally organised to welcome the marchers, Com. Avtar Sadiq was one of the main speakers.

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### INVASION OF GRENADA.

To save "democracy" and for the sake of "law and order", was the justification given to the world by Reagan in favour of the invasion of Grenada. But this justification failed to befool the people of the world. The question arises - how can democracy be saved by attacking an independent country - Grenada - which was at that time a member of the Commonwealth as an independent nation.

However this despicable action did not surprise any student of politics. For them the invasion was not an isolated phenomenon. It was part and parcel of the policies being pursued all over the world with a view to destabilising the regimes which wished to get rid of the anomalies stemming from the Capitalist system.

Let alone the countries which are in the process of ending the out-moded capitalist system, even those which adopted a capitalist path of development but on some issues do not see eye to eye with America, cannot escape themselves from being bullied.

One can rationalize oneself very easily by questioning the so-called champion of "democracy." Is there any dictatorship, repressive or reactionary regime in the world which is not being supported by the U.S.A. ? Is "democracy" being safeguarded in Chile, Pakistan, El Salvador, Lebanon etc. ?

Despite some groaning and moaning, the role of the Tory government remained fully supportive to this invasion. The remarks made by the leader of the Labour Party Mr. Neil Kinnock in the House of Commons that Margaret Thatcher acted as a poodle of Reagan, went even further to explain Margaret Thatcher's role to this effect.

By writing a letter to the American Embassy in London, I.W.A.G.B. added its voice to the protests lodged on a world scale. Content of the letter appeared in the Morning Star.

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## BOTHA IN BRITAIN.

On 2nd June, 1984, a racist came to Britain to meet his fellow racist. It was Botha who heads the apartheid regime in South Africa, who has unleashed a spate of relentless killings, arrests and detentions of the black people whom South Africa really belongs. His host was Mrs. Margaret Thatcher whose racist views are well known. This invitation to Botha had further exposed the hypocrisy of Mrs. Thatcher - outwardly showing opposition to apartheidism and, in practice, providing respectability to it by sitting together dining and wining. Contrary to it, the Anti-apartheid movement in Britain succeeded in having tens of thousands of people marching with black flags on the streets of London at a time when he was chatting with Thatcher. In this demonstration, all the branches of I.W.A.G.B. participated in good strength and thus expressed our solidarity with the oppressed people of South Africa. Com. Mushtaq Singh spoke at the rally on behalf of the Association.



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## BRANCH REPORTS

### BIRMINGHAM BRANCH

The branch has shown considerable improvement in its functioning. Some of its major activities are being given as under:-

1. Four public meetings were held. In addition, on the present situation in Punjab two public meetings were also organised. The branch had to confront the separatist on a greater scale as Birmingham is the centre of their activities. At present, the branch is promoting the unity among Hindus and Sikhs.
2. Fight against racism is being pursued in conjunction with S.C.A.R.F. and A.B.C.A.R.F. On 13th April, a strong contingent from the branch had participated in the C.A.R.L. National Conference.
3. On the trade union front, its work is commendable. The branch have established trade unions in Cosmic Fashion Rattoo Textiles, T. C. Neville Aldridge and Kewal Brothers. Two of its comrades hold senior shop steward positions. Comrade Dardi is leading a strike which has been going on for the last 19 weeks.
4. In addition to attending many meetings, the branch has collected £600.00 towards miners strike fighting fund.
5. Comrade Dardi has contested local elections in May 1983.

Birmingham being an arena of politics of various brands, the branch need to increase its activities. In its report the branch took note of its weaknesses and admitted that for about a year no public meeting could be held.

### COVENTRY BRANCH

For a variety of reasons, this branch is not making any progress. However, it is trying its utmost to be able to cope with the new challenges. It is actively involved in the campaigns of manifold nature ranging from fighting racism to working class struggles in Britain and abroad. It had played its part in support of miners strike. Influence-wise, it is still the biggest organisation of all other black organisations in the City. At present it is playing a predominant role in having a community centre established in Coventry. To make it an active branch hard work is needed and responsibility of this lies on the shoulders of the senior comrades.



### DERBY BRANCH

Given underneath is a list of important activities undertaken by this branch during the period under review:-

1. In 1983, three comrades marched in the long Peoples March for Jobs.
2. The branch is consistently involved in the fight against racism. It also participates in Anti-Apartheid Movement.
3. To support the miners strike, the branch collected over £400 and attended many meetings in this regard. It has also helped in mass collections of funds.
4. At the time when David Waddington visited Derby, the branch protested against racist Immigration Rules.
5. In almost all demonstrations organised by the C.N.D. for Peace, Derby branch were present, Molesworth demo being the latest one.
6. A meeting of different organisations concerning Foreign Exchange Law was organised.
7. At the C.A.R.L. National Conference, the branch was able to send a strong contingent.
8. It was the Derby branch which had to confront the separatists who came to disrupt a meeting of the Indian Youth Association Derby branch.
9. The branch succeeded in enrolling the membership as much as it was previously.

### GLASGOW BRANCH

This branch is one of the active branches. It remains in the forefront in the fight against racism, in opposition to the racist laws. The branch is consistent in holding two public meetings a year. Recently, it had organised a meeting on Hindu-Sikh unity involving other groups opposed to Khalistan. This meeting was a great success. Its activities with regard to the miners strike were enviously a remarkable contribution. It had a collection of over Three Thousand Pounds towards the fighting fund in addition to other articles such as clothes, food, etc.

### LEAMINGTON SPA. BRANCH

Anti-racist struggle is being carried out through an umbrella organisation composed of both white and black organisations. According to its capacity, the branch had extended its support to the miners strike like other branches. This branch, too, have put up stiff resistance against Khalistani factions in the city. By the time this report is written, the branch leaders were busy in recruiting membership. The leadership should endeavour to enthuse a new life in the branch performance.

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### LEICESTER BRANCH

Leicester branch completed membership drive in September 1984 and election was held on 30th September, 1984.

The branch has been active on Punjab issues, C.N.D., Miners strike and other local issues. We have been taking regular part in all national activities. Activities in brief are:-

1. Regularly two public meetings every year - one on Independence Day and the other either on Republic Day or Shaheed Bhagat Singh day.
2. Organised two extra meetings on Punjab issue.
3. Actively involved in all local activities.
4. Run office surgery two days a week.
5. Hold regular executive committee meetings.
6. During miners strike donated about £600. Helped to collect money from people apart from the £600.
7. Actively involved in C.N.D. and other issues.

### LONDON (NORTH AND NORTH WEST) BRANCHES

For the last two years our main activity has been concentrated concerning the establishment and management of the Asian Centre in the Borough of Haringey, North London. The substantial amount of energy has been spent for the Centre's organisation. The Centre has now been a place of attraction for the Asians and other ethnic minority in and around the Borough of Haringey. I.W.A. (G.B.) is known throughout the Borough for our activities at the Centre. We had been organising many seminars, meetings, political and non-political, at the Centre. I.W.A. (G.B.) North London branch organised meetings of Comrades Joyti Basu and H. S. Surjeet, when they were in London. Many of our Central Committee members were also present. We also, organised a meeting against rate capping and participated in the demonstration organised by the Labour Party, Trade Unions and other political parties.

We attended the C.N.D. march in London together with all other left organisations in which I.W.A. (G.B.) with other branches who mobilised their forces. We participated in local demonstration and marches organised by Anti-racist groups.

Our members have been involved in giving legal advice to the community and helping them in solving their problems, e.g. housing, employment, etc. We organise annual cultural events in the Centre and sports, where I.W.A. (G.B.) members participated.



• also collected funds in support of the miners during their strike, in addition to our normal contribution through our respective trade unions and participated in their march and rallies.

• have collected funds for the elections held in India from time to time.

• contributed towards the Bhopal disaster fund, Ethiopian famine, and Bangladeshi national disaster funds.

• organised a demonstration with Southall and South-East London branches in front of the U.S. Embassy in London, protesting against the man-made Bhopal disaster and demanded proper compensation for the victims.

At the moment we are trying to increase our I.W.A. membership, but because of the absence of some of our members and of our activity at the Asian Centre we have not been successful in enlisting substantial number of new members for I.W.A., North London Branch. We are hoping to increase our membership to a moderate number before our conference of I.W.A. (G.B.). North London Branch.

#### NOTTINGHAM BRANCH

We are in the process of restarting the branch in this town as the previous one has become defunct. Some comrades who owe allegiance to the I.W.A. G.B., are trying hard to keep up to the time and carry on supporting anti-racist movement and working class struggles in the town.

During the miners strike these comrades collected funds and identified themselves with the miners cause.

#### READING AND SLOUGH

These branches need to be restructured.

#### SOUTHALL BRANCH

The branch undertook the following campaigns since the last conference.

(a) Unemployment - many of the branch members are active in their respective trade unions. The branch was in the forefront of mobilising the support for the Peoples March For Jobs. We held public meetings and social evenings to collect funds for the Miners on strike. A successful fight to save jobs in a local factory was led by our branch secretary.

(b) Peace - The branch participated locally and nationally in the demonstrations for peace and Nuclear Disarmament. Our experience shows that to mobilise Indians in and around Southall is still an uphill task and it needs a lot of leg-work.

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- (c) Racism - Racist policies being introduced through the legislation e.g. Immigration and Nationality laws; our branch has continued to play its role in exposing them. We mobilised people to demonstrate against P. Botha's visit to England.
- (d) Civil Liberties - The branch members actively participated in seminars and demonstrations against the Police Bill.
- (e) Indian Situation - The branch has continued to promote progressive, democratic and cultural ties with the working class of India. The branch was in the forefront in exposing the undemocratic policies of the Central Government as well as divisive forces of Imperialist stooges of Khalistan. We continued our efforts in distributing literature and organising public meetings, inspite of threats. Two such meetings were addressed by Com. Surjeet.

We picketed outside U.S. Embassy to show our anger after the Union Carbide gas leak in Bhopal. It was our expression of sympathy with thousands of families who suffered owing to the negligence as well as the greed of the capitalist factory owners.

The branch is busy in its membership campaign which is facing many difficulties and a lot of opposition.

With the opening of new office, some problems have been solved; but still more co-ordination and co-operation is desired both locally and nationally.

#### SWINDON

This branch held two public meetings a year regularly. The branch have lost a very active member, Comrade Jarnail Singh who died suddenly recently. Activities and influence wise this branch is well known among both the indigenous population and immigrants. It has working relationship with the C.R.C. Though the branch workers are less mobile outside Swindon, its activities at a local level are up to the mark.

#### WOLVERHAMPTON

Since N. S. Noor was thrown out of the branch, its active members have been working hard to replenish the damage done by Noor because of his anti-people activities. The branch deserve the due credit for not letting Noor occupy our office. The branch executive members remain fairly mobile and supported the miners strike in a big way. Some of the comrades have done exceptionally a good job to this effect. The branch also supported all other working class struggles. Khalistani forces are also active in this town. The branch, therefore have to encounter them as well. Given the present situation, this branch do need a great deal of assistance from the Central leadership.



LONDON S.E. BRANCH

We celebrated the India's Republic Day on 11th February 1984 at the Lee Centre in which 150 people took part. On 19th August 1984 we conducted a coach tour to Clackton-on-sea for 160 members of our Association. On 28th October 1984 we organised a social evening to promote Anti-Racist Day, in which the Leader of the London Borough of Lewisham was the Chief guest. In which about 200 people took part.

Indian Workers' Association's Bi-annual Conference was held in January 1984 in which 90 delegates participated. We from South East London had four delegates.

We continued our affiliation with Lee Centre, Lewisham Council for Community Relations, Federation of Ethnic Minorities, Joint Council for the Welfare of the Immigrants and Campaign Against Racist Laws. We are also members of Multi-Ethnic Education Advisory Committee of Division 7 of the ILEA.

Mr Joginder Singh, our Joint Secretary is in the Executive Committee of L.C.C.R. and attends its meetings with regularity. Two of our members represented our Association in the open meeting of L.C.C.R. where Immigration Officers from the Home Office answered questions explaining that they are not 'Faceless Bureaucrates'. Like every year we attended the A.G.M. of L.C.C.R.

We take part in the Race Relations Committee of the Lewisham Council a few meetings over the year and we have almost attended every meeting of the council. And attend all their meetings every month. On 23rd February 1985 at a social we collected donations for Ethiopian Relief fund.

In the end of last year we participated in the one-day conference of the Joint Council for the Welfare of the Immigrants. On 8th December 1984 C.A.R.L. (Campaign Against Racist Laws) held a half day conference. 35 organisation in it decided to launch a national campaign in 1985 linking long standing demands for the repeal of the 1971 Immigration Act and 1981 Nationality Act for the devastating effects that these Laws have on our family life. Ten of I.W.A. delegates from the different Branches of the country joined in this conference.



## FUTURE TASKS

### FIGHT FOR PEACE A PRIORITY

Never before was there so great a danger of nuclear war on this earth. The only source from which this threat to peace emanates is the American Imperialism, though it is being supported in its war designs by other imperialist powers as well. Ronald Reagan's plans to put nuclear weaponry in space i.e. over our heads, exposes further its real characteristics. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, unashamed, keeps on rendering her support to these insidious plans of Reagan.

On the other side, the peace-loving people are also on the move. Here, in Britain, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, C.N.D., is heading this fight and have become an organisation of popular support. The Indian Workers Association Great Britain has been co-ordinating its activities in this field with the C.N.D. Given an unimaginable devastation the war would bring, if allowed to break out, the fight for peace has become a priority. The I.W.A. G.B., therefore, should increase its mobilisation and ensure its participation in this struggle at every stage.

### SOLIDARITY WITH OTHER PEOPLES

The people of Asia, Africa and Latin America have been engaged in a very severe battle for peace, freedom and defence of independence in their respective countries. Simultaneously, their struggle is also directed against the machinations of American imperialism with Reagan as its head, whose interference, direct or indirect, is spearheaded to crush these movements. Ironically, he does so in the name of saving democracy. What is being done in Nicaragua, El Salvador, West Asia and other countries all over the world, speaks for itself. We will continue to take solidarity actions with these peoples' cause as ever.

### BRITISH WORKING CLASS FIGHT IS OUR FIGHT

✓ *solidarity*

Britain is a developed capitalist country. Like other such countries, it is engulfed in an acute economic crisis. The ruling class keeps on putting more and more burden of the crisis on the people at the receiving end. Under these circumstances, very difficult indeed, the working class has to increase the level of its resistance against these measures. The Indian Workers Association Great Britain, being part and parcel of the working class, is duty bound to take part in these struggles with rather more vigour and determination than had been displayed earlier.



### FIGHT AGAINST RACISM

While identifying ourselves with the constant struggles of our class brethren, any passivity in the fight against the virus of racism will prove fatal. With the deterioration in the economy, racism gets accentuated. And it is used to create a wedge among the people as a whole. At this moment in time, with the completion of its institutionalisation the situation has become rather more complex and complicated. We therefore have to continue this fight in accordance with the requirements of our time. In this process, whereas we have to gain maximum possible support from a wide spectrum of people, we must put up resistance against deviations of sectarian nature such as all whites are born racists and blacks alone could fight it properly.

### SOLIDARITY WITH THE FIGHTING PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA.

Fight against racism in Britain is closely linked with the on going fight of the black peoples of South Africa who have been making unprecedented sacrifices to end Apartheidism and to establish real democracy there, based on one person one vote system, as a first step to socialism. We have always lent our full support to the heroic people of Namibia under the leadership of SWAPO, as their sole representative.

### FIGHT AGAINST SEPARATISM AND SUPPORT TO THE WORKING CLASS STRUGGLES IN INDIA

Extremists are active in strengthening the separatist movement in the country. They are utilising the discontentment among the people arising from the economic policies of the Government as well as its handling of the Punjab situation. The situation in Punjab continues to deteriorate. It benefits the divisive forces and imperialism and threatens the unity of the country. It is our job to isolate and expose the extremists so that their game is defeated and the situation in Punjab normalised. Simultaneously, we will keep on extending our support as ever, to the struggles of the working class in India which is under severe attack because of the anti-people socio-economic policies of Indian Government.

### OPPOSITION TO VISA SYSTEM

Regardless of their passports, the Indian people living abroad remain Indians and India remains their own country. The imposition of visa on its own people does not make any sense. Basing our stand on this principle, we opposed it at the very outset and will keep on doing so until the people of Indian origin are exempt.



### THE LOKTA

The second issue of the Lokta is in your hands. So far it is being brought out as a monthly journal. The organising committee of the journal include almost all the active workers of our association. Therefore, it is definite that the policy and programme of the association will be disseminated through it. Our activities, local as well as national, will be given a prominent place in it. We, in turn, are duty bound to extend our fully-fledged support to make it a very successful magazine and to create a favourable situation for it to become a weekly paper.

### CENTRE COMMITTEE AND BRANCH LIAISON

Although there has been an improvement in the communication from the centre to the branches and vice versa, yet there is no room for complacency. Shortcomings of serious nature in this respect have yet to be overcome. Further, there has not been any headway in the creation of a mobile leadership. Much of the work has been carried out by a few Centre Committee members. This situation is not a healthy one. Considering the responsibilities our organisation has been fulfilling and are entrusted upon it for the future, we must not allow this situation to continue. Moreover, at each and every conference, decisions to extend its branches to new towns had been taken but not much was done to implement them; this time too, it is being proposed that at least two new branches should be set up in the period of next two years, only two with a view to seeing this decision implemented.

### SUPPORT TO OTHER MASS ORGANISATIONS

Indian Youth Association Great Britain and Association of Indian Women are two mass organisations closely associated with the I.W.A. G.B. The former has some branches in existence, some are active and some need to be re-activated. Despite all this, the I.Y.A. has become known as a progressive organisation of Indian Youth to other such organisations. The latter is still in initial stages. There is a possibility to set up two more branches, in Birmingham and Southall. We must provide the needed help to both the organisations.



RESOLUTION ON PEACE

This bi-ennial conference of the Indian Workers Association Great Britain condemns the American Imperialists, headed by Ronald Reagan as President of the U.S. Government who in the name of maintaining supremacy over the Soviet Union has been amassing weapons of nuclear, neutron and chemical nature. In doing so, treaties to limit armaments such as N.P.T. and Salt II are being trampled under foot. In addition to the stockpiling of such nuclear missiles on the ground and on the sea-bed, a research programme to put these weapons into space has been unleashed. This means that all humankind will be surrounded by nuclear weapons which, if allowed to be used, will cause unimaginable devastation to the extent that not many people will survive to imagine it.

The conference expresses its abhorrence at the British Government's continued support for the war designs of Ronald Reagan and at the installation of Cruise and Pershing II missiles in Britain.

The campaign for peace and against nuclear weapons is of fundamental importance to all the people and the I.W.A. G.B. congratulates the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament on its work over the past period in keeping the issue to the forefront of the political scene.

We pledge to raise the level of participation of Indian workers in Britain in the work of C.N.D. in particular, and the peace movement in general. Whilst at the same time offering to work with all and any organisations aiming to have elected in this country a Government which will alter the present disastrous policies on 'peace' being pursued by the Thatcher Government.



### RESOLUTION ON PUNJAB SITUATION

The biennial conference of I.W.A. G.B. expresses its deep concern over the deteriorating situation in Punjab. The continuous activities of the extremists are disruptive of the unity of the working class and the democratic movement and poses a threat to the unity of the country itself.

There is no use of laying the responsibility for this situation at this stage - though it is well known that the Akali party by mixing religion with politics on the one hand and the Congress (I) Government by refusing to accede even the democratic demands of the Punjabi people have contributed a lot. This situation has been utilised by the imperialist forces to destabilize the country by backing the separatist forces.

Utilising the alienation of Sikhs after the 'Operation of Blue Star' and the post-assassination riots, the extremists, backed by imperialism, intensified their activities. In the beginning of the last month, they even made a bid to capture the leadership of the Akali Dal. The draconian laws adopted by the Central Government in the name of handling the situation had its adverse effects on the situation itself. The Government decision to impose visa system on foreign passport holders of Indian origin has led to tremendous harassment of Indians and has provided a fertile ground for the extremists in foreign countries.

The conference takes note that the Central Government has recently taken certain steps which can help in easing the situation. It welcomes the present stand of the Akali leadership in demarcating itself from the extremists by making categorical statements that they stand for the unity of the country, are opposed to the slogan of Khalistan, that they stand for Hindu-Sikh unity and are opposed to terrorism.

The conference demands of the Central Government to withdraw the draconian laws, and to take immediate steps in finding a political solution of the Punjab problem. It appeals to the people to isolate the extremists and defeat their disruptive game.



RESOLUTION ON BRITISH ECONOMY

This Conference denounces the economic policies of the Thatcher Government, as a result of which industrial growth continues to be stagnant. Manufacturing output remains far lower than the 1979 level. Unemployment has gone up alarmingly high. The number of people on the dole register is nearing five million and is increasing day by day.

The much vaunted inflation control has become uncontrable and has begun to shoot up again.

Instead of admitting that the mess in which the whole economy is, is the culmination of the capitalist system, the Tory regime is trying hard to gerrymander the situation by blaming workers struggles for appropriate wages being responsible for all this. Furthermore, it is passing on the burden of the crisis to the people who are already over-burdened and are at the bottom of the scale. Its attack on public expenditure, abolition of the wages council, cuts in Social Security benefits are some of the vivid examples in this regard. It is the fact that the black people are the worst sufferers of this economic climate.

The Conference notes with satisfaction that the working class, despite unfavourable circumstances, despite repressive anti-trade unions laws and unlimited powers given to police have continued to put up resistance against these policies of Margaret Thatcher's Government. The Indian Workers Association pledges its fully-fledged support to the struggles of the working class.



RESOLUTION ON WITHDRAWAL OF VISA SYSTEM

The visa system introduced by the government of India on the foreign passport holders of Indian origin has led to a lot of harassment of the common people and has created tremendous difficulties even in providing timely aid to their ailing parents.

This probably is done to restrict the entry of the extremists into the country. But in reality it has helped the extremists to exploit the feelings of the Sikhs to intensify their activities. It has also resulted in a lot of corrupt practices in the name of helping the people visiting their country.

I.W.A. G.B. strongly condemns this policy of the government and demands immediate withdrawal of the visa system.

Letters to be addressed to all opposition M.P.s.

RESOLUTION ON SOUTH AFRICA

This bi-ennial conference of the Indian Workers Association Great Britain strongly condemns the racist and apartheid regime of South Africa for the continuous suppression of the majority of the people of the country, and the policy of murders, arrests, detentions and tortures against black people of South Africa and their leaders.

This conference also condemns the brutal attack on Botswana, recently launched by the apartheid forces of South Africa backed by its imperialist patrons, which has killed many innocent Botswana citizens and unarmed refugees.

Indian Workers Association Great Britain whole heartedly support the heroic and courageous struggle of the Namibian people fighting for the liberation of their father land and condemns the setting up of a so-called government of Namibia in violation of the U.N. resolutions.

It considers the S.W.A.P.O. as the sole representatives of the people of Namibia and lends its full support to its cause.



RESOLUTION ON RACISM AND RACIST AND SEXIST LAWS

is Conference denounces the Tory Governments racist and sexist immigration laws such as the Immigration Act of 1971, the 1981 Nationality Act and the Migration Rules against which the European Human Rights Court has given judgement though on sexist grounds alone, against which even Commission of Racial Equality - the Government funded body has voiced its opinion in its latest reports, against which C.A.R.L. Conference in April and at a national lobby in the Parliament House, spoke loudly.

These laws have intensified the institutionalisation of racism. The rate of deportation of black people have gone up all times high. Passport checks on black people are becoming a routine.

is conference urges all the progressive and anti-racist forces to unite and fight for the repeal of all racist and sexist immigration laws.

is conference resolves to launch a vigorous campaign in opposition to these laws in general and to the marriage rules in particular.



INDIAN WORKERS ASSOCIATION GREAT BRITAIN BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

P R E S S   R E L E A S E

The biennial conference of the Indian Workers Association Great Britain, the premier organisation of Indian workers in Great Britain, was held in Coventry on 23rd June, 1985.

More than 100 delegates representing 21 branches all over the country attended the conference. It was presided over by its national President, Comrade Surjit Singh Mann.

The conference began with paying homage to the prominent Communist leader of India, P. Sundarayya, who passed away last month. Dalip Singh Johal, leader of the Punjab Kissan Sabha greeted the conference.

This was followed by the presentation of the Centre Executive Committee report by the National General Secretary, Comrade Prem Singh. In his report he highlighted the danger to world peace and the necessity of mobilising the Indian workers in the struggle for peace; the problem of endemic racism in Great Britain; the racist immigration laws; the acuteness of the economic crisis and ruthless steps the Thatcher government took to suppress the heroic strike of the miners.

In reference to India he put special emphasis on the defence of the unity of the country and the necessity of fighting the extremists who are posing a threat to the unity of the country. It (the report) criticised the Government of India for relying on administrative measures in dealing with the Punjab situation and in imposing the visa system on foreign passport holders of Indian origin.

He also dealt with the activities of the Association undertaken during the last two years. He emphasised the necessity to increase the Association's activities with added vehemence in the coming period. Over 19 delegates participated in the discussion after which the report was unanimously endorsed.

The conference adopted six resolutions - the Threat to Peace, the Economic Crisis in Britain, Racism and Racial Discrimination, South Africa, Punjab Situation, and for the withdrawal of the visa system.

Addressing the conference Comrade H. S. Surjeet dealt with the national and international situation, in particular reference to the Punjab situation. He emphasised the necessity of isolating the divisive forces. He advised the Indian workers to join hands with the working class in fighting the offensive of the ruling classes, to join the forces struggling for peace and to struggle against racism.

In the end the conference elected a new committee consisting of office bearers - Prem Singh (Derby) as National President, Gokal Charnch (London S.E.) Senior Vice-President, Avtar Sadiq (Leicester) National General Secretary. M. S. Farma (Leicester) Assistant Secretary, Harbhajan Singh Dardi (Birmingham) Cultural Secretary and Joginder Singh (Coventry) Financial Secretary.



List of the newly elected office bearers and Central C.T.C. Committee members

Prem Singh	Derby	National President
Gokal Chand	London	National Senior Vice-President
Mushtaq Singh	Southall	National Vice-President
Avtar Sadiq	Leicester	National Secretary
M. S. Farma	Leicester	National Assistant Secretary
H. S. Dardi	Birmingham	National Cultural Secretary
Joginder Singh	Coventry	National Financial Secretary

C.E.C. Members

Harbhajan Singh Johal	Derby
Rajinder Singh Bains	Derby
Mehar Singh Kang	Coventry
Sarwan Singh	London
Dr. S. C. Bhaduri	London
*Dr. Roy	London E.
Kashmir Singh	Dudley
Sarwan Singh Sahota	Birmingham
Sohan Singh Sandhu	Birmingham
Gurmel Singh	Wolverhampton
Harbhajan Singh	Wolverhampton
Avtar Singh Khan	Swindon
Kirpal Singh Atwal	Leamington
Harbhajan Singh Dooley	Leamington
*Inderjeet	London S. W.
(Name to given later)	Glasgow

\* Will become fully-fledged C.E.C. members after elections of their respective branches.



I.W.A. FINANCES 1983-85

(on 30.4.85.)

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Date		Date	
22.8.83.	Amount transferred from old to new a/c	9.10.83.	Printing of Membership Cards
22.8.83.	$\frac{1}{3}$ Membership Fee from Swindon Branch	13.11.83.	Printing of Peace Leaflets for CND March
22.8.83.	Contributions to National Conference by Glasgow & Nottingham Branches (through Secretary)	8.1.84.	Expenses to Prem Singh (Secretary)
22.8.83.	$\frac{1}{3}$ Membership Fee from Glasgow Branch	15.4.84.	Miners Strike Support Fund
27.4.84.	From Gokal Chand, IWA, London Branch contribution for Miners Strike	13.5.84.	Expenses to PremSingh (Secretary)
30.4.84.	$\frac{1}{3}$ Membership Fees of Leicester Branch	13.5.84.	Bill to Des Perdes for Advertisement
25.9.84.	Donation to IWA through Leicester Branch	10.8.84.	Bill to Des Perdes for Advertisement & Leaflets
25.9.84.	Sale of CARL paper at Birmingham	18.8.84.	Expenses to Prem Singh (Secretary)
11.12.84.	Part Payment of $\frac{1}{3}$ Membership Fee from Leicester Branch (1984-86)	19.12.84.	Printing of Leaflets thro' Mushtaq
18.4.85.	$\frac{1}{3}$ Membership Fee for London Branch	30.3.85.	Postage expenses to Jagdeep Singh (Treas)
	TOTAL		TOTAL
	885.45		754.13
			885.45
			754.13
			131.32

BALANCE AS AT 30.4.85.

Jagdeep Singh



## AIMS AND OBJECTS

organise Indians to:-

- i) safeguard their interests;
- ii) fight to improve their conditions of life and work;
- iii) encourage them to join the trade unions and to promote co-operation and unity with trade union and labour movement in G.B.;
- iv) strengthen friendship with British and all other peoples in G.B. and co-operate with all progressive organisations to this end;
- v) fight against all forms of discrimination based on race, colour, creed or sex, for equal human rights and social and economic opportunities, and co-operate with other organisations for the same;
- vi) express solidarity with the people fighting for national salvation and promote the cause of friendship, peace and freedom of all countries and co-operate with other organisations, national and international, striving for the same;
- vii) keep its members in particular, and people in G.B. generally informed of political, economic and social developments in India; and to strengthen the democratic forces there;
- viii) undertake social, welfare and cultural activities.

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