

LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS

FINAL AGENDA

**FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD NATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS**

Spa Royal Hall, South Marine Drive, Bridlington

**SATURDAY, SUNDAY AND MONDAY
21, 22 and 23 APRIL 1984**

NAME OF DELEGATE

BRANCH

ADDRESS

NOTICES

The Conference will assemble on the morning of Saturday 21 April at 9.00 am and will conclude on Monday 23 April at 4.00 pm. Conference sessions will start prompt at 9.00 am and 2.00 pm each day.

Credentials

The delegate's fee and pooled fare quota must be paid by an organisation appointing a delegate before credentials can be issued. The delegation fee also entitles the delegate to free admission to Conference social facilities.

Accommodation

A copy of the accommodation list has already been sent to branches and bookings should be made urgently.

Compositing Meetings

Compositing instructions will be sent to branch secretaries concerned. Some branches will be involved in compositing by post, others will need to be represented by their delegates at a compositing meeting held on the afternoon of Friday 20 April. Those delegates who do not have Good Friday as a bank holiday and therefore will not be able to get to Bridlington for Friday afternoon may, if they state this situation in writing, have their resolution considered at the appropriate compositing meeting.

All communications dealing with the Conference should be addressed to:

The Conference Officer,
General Secretary's Department,
The Labour Party,
150 Walworth Road,
London SE17 1JT
Tel: 01-703 0833

PROVISIONAL TIME-TABLE

Saturday 21 April	Chairman's remarks Standing Orders Committee Report HOME POLICY HOME POLICY	9.00 pm 9.30 pm - 1.00 pm 2.00 pm - 6.00 pm
Sunday 22 April	HOME POLICY and IRELAND YOUTH AFFAIRS and ORGANISATION	9.00 am - 1.00 pm 2.00 pm - 6.00 pm
Monday 23 April	INTERNATIONAL HOME POLICY	9.00 am - 1.00 pm 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Standing Orders Committee for the Twenty-third National Conference of the LPYS has arranged the Agenda with the resolutions under the following main sections:

HOME POLICY

Defence Policy
Economy
Homosexuals' Civil Rights
Housing
Industry
Liberal/SDP Alliance
Local Democracy
Mass Media
NHS
Nuclear Power
Police
Privatisation
Racialism
Trade Union Rights
Transport
Triple Alliance
Women's Rights
Miscellaneous

INTERNATIONAL

IRELAND

ORGANISATION

Campaigns
Expulsions
Organising the Unemployed
Party Finances
'Socialist Youth'
Votes at 16
Young Women's Conference
Youth Organisation

YOUTH AFFAIRS

Drug Abuse
Education
Leisure
Trade Union Youth
YTS

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION

The following have been nominated for positions as indicated and, provided that all requirements are met, will appear on the ballot papers for election at the 23rd LPYS National Conference.

1. LPYS Place on Labour Party National Executive Committee

BONNER, Judith	Halifax, Islington North, Manchester Central, Northampton South LPYS	39
CROOK, Edgar	Finchley LPYS	0
CURRAN, Frances	Glasgow Provan, Liverpool Riverside, Liverpool Walton, Nottingham East, Southwark and Bermondsey, Walthamstow LPYS	190
FRANCE, Lindsey	Morley LPYS	
SMITH, Martin	Brighton LPYS	40
WEDLAKE, Anthony	Cardiff West, Cardiff Central LPYS	
WILDE, Bernadette	Birmingham Selly Oak LPYS	30

2. Standing Orders Committee for 1985

ANDERSON, Tim	Harrogate LPYS	6
BRADLEY, Clive	Manchester Central LPYS	66
CHURCHER, Louise	Southwark and Bermondsey LPYS	217
DALE, Tony	Islington North LPYS	60
HUDSON, Richard	Solihull LPYS	
LEWIS, David	Vauxhall LPYS	
McKAY, Anne	Basildon LPYS	215
MORGAN, John	Carshalton and Wallington LPYS	21
MORRISON, Mary	Halifax, Northampton South LPYS	85
STERN, Martin	Finchley LPYS	8
WRACK, Matt	Bow and Poplar LPYS	216

HOME POLICY

Defence Policy

1 This Conference is totally opposed to the Tory Government Defence Policy which has resulted in massive job losses in the armaments industry despite increasing spending.

This policy contributes to the rundown in genuine defence provisions of civilian areas and industrial plants whilst increasing spending on strategic nuclear arms.

It also recognises that vast profits continue to be made from public funds by private firms, many of whom contribute to Tory party funds and have military advisers on their boards.

Therefore this Conference adopts the policy of nationalisation of the armaments industry under genuine workers' control and participation, to bring this industry into producing alternative socially useful products and also safeguarding jobs.

GLASGOW CATHCART LPYS

2 This Conference condemns this Tory Government's increased expenditure on armaments at a time when vital public services are being cut. The siting of Cruise missiles in Britain and the massive build-up of nuclear weapons, both East and West, are of no benefit whatsoever to working people and threaten the very existence of mankind.

We call upon the LPYS to fight around the following demands:

1. Unilateral nuclear disarmament and the withdrawal of all US bases from Britain.
2. A massive cut in expenditure on armaments and the transfer of resources to socially useful production.
3. The nationalisation of the armaments industry under workers' control and management.
4. Full trade union rights for the armed forces.

Conference supports the valiant efforts of the peace movement, while pointing out that only the struggle for socialism can disarm the bosses permanently. As the capitalist crisis deepens and while society is run by a handful of monopolies in the interest of profit, the threat of the war looms ever nearer. Only through the socialist transformation of society can the causes of war be ended once and for all, and a lasting peace be guaranteed.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH WEST LPYS

Amendment

Delete all after "very existence of mankind" and insert:

We call upon the LPYS to:

1. Actively build YCND and CND.
2. Support the present demand within YCND to hold a mass demonstration in London when Reagan visits in June.
3. Organise delegations to visit Greenham Common.
4. Ensure that speakers from YCND are invited to speak at regional and national YS Conferences.
5. Campaign for Britain's withdrawal from NATO.

HASTINGS AND RYE LPYS

recession has exacerbated the contradictions inherent in the nation state. Trade barriers and tariffs are now the norm.

Indicative of the crisis of European capitalism are the increasing number of disputes between member countries. The failure of the Common Agricultural Policy leads French farmers to 'hijack' British lamb consignments. Countries fail to reach agreement on fishing rights whilst Hull's trawler fleet shrinks from 120 vessels to just two in the space of a decade.

However, we oppose those who seek to sow nationalist dissension within the Labour movement. The EEC is a class question and therefore can only be answered on the basis of a class approach. Withdrawal from the EEC will not solve the problems of British capitalism, which would still be in crisis even if Britain had not joined the community. In fact, after a decade in which British and European capitalism has been interlinked, pulling out could even result in an even worse economic situation.

The only answer lies in the building of a Socialist United States of Europe. To this end Conference demands:

1. Labour MEPs utilise their position to launch a campaign amongst European workers' parties for a Socialist United Europe.
2. Wide committees of shop stewards in firms and fellow industries to be organised by the European TUC with the aim of leading common international struggles for a minimum wage, shorter working week, etc.
3. Demands for withdrawal from the EEC must be linked to a campaign exposing the bureaucracy, the scandal of food surpluses and that protectionism is opposed to the interests of working people.

KINGSTON-UPON-HULL WEST LPYS

124 This Conference recognises that there are approximately 800 million people in the world who live in absolute poverty. UK government aid accounts for only 0.4% of GNP and, in addition, tends to be tied to political and commercial agreements.

Given these facts, this Conference urges the next Labour Government, as a minimum requirement, to meet the UN's prescribed aid target of 0.7% of GNP. Furthermore, this aid should be directed towards primary schemes in an effort to assist development upwards from below, rather than to trickle down from the elites above.

DERBY SOUTH LPYS

IRELAND

125 This Conference condemns the use of individual terrorism by both Republican and Unionist sectarian groups in Northern Ireland.

Individual terrorism is incapable of inflicting defeat on the armed force of the police and military. It is incapable of solving the problems of unemployment, poverty and slum housing facing working class people, both Protestant and Catholic, and helps to stir up support for reactionary measures by the Government to increase police powers and restrict the rights of Irish workers.

Conference also deplores the stance of those groups in and around the Labour movement, who liaised with self-confessed Nationalist Parties while ignoring the achievements of the Trade Union Movement and Young Socialists.

Conference also deplores the stance of those groups in and around the Labour movement, who hand the bosses' kept press a gift to use against the Labour movement by association with terrorist groups.

Conference realises the only way forward for Northern Irish workers is the formation of a Labour Party based on the Trade Union Movement with socialist policies, and sees the importance of the British Labour movement in the achievement of this aim. Only a united working class is capable of expelling the sectarians, the troops and the big business leeches who are making their profits off the backs of the Irish working class.

This Conference therefore calls for:

1. An end to sectarianism and an end of support for sectarian groups.
2. Support for the Northern Ireland Labour and Trade Union Group and Young Socialists.

3. The establishment of a Labour Party based upon the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.
4. Trade union organised workers defence committees to protect working class homes against sectarian and state violence.
5. The withdrawal of the troops.

SUNDERLAND NORTH LPYS

126 This Conference expresses its total opposition to the recent bombings in London and the continued sectarian attacks in Northern Ireland.

Conference believes that terrorism can provide no solutions to the problems of the people of Ireland.

The Trade Union Movement represents the only force organised on non-sectarian lines which is capable of bringing about the social change necessary to eliminate the mass unemployment, low wages and homelessness.

Conference recalls the statement approved by the 1981 Labour Party Conference, that trade unions in Northern Ireland should support a Conference of trade unions, trade councils, shop stewards committees and other Labour movement organisations in Northern Ireland, to discuss whether it is possible to form a Labour Party.

This LPYS regrets that the Labour Party appears to have taken little or no action on this question.

Conference therefore calls on the NEC to recognise the urgency of the situation in Northern Ireland and to begin immediate action to build support through the trade unions for a party of Labour in Northern Ireland.

CHATHAM LPYS

127 This Conference recognises that British Imperialism, through its policy of 'divide and rule', is responsible for the current situation in Northern Ireland. There is no solution to the problems of repression, poverty and sectarianism on the basis of capitalism.

We re-affirm our opposition to the use of troops in Northern Ireland and call for their immediate withdrawal, recognising however that this will only be possible with a mobilised, united working class fighting for socialism and with the creation of a trade union defence force to protect workers.

We reject all forms of sectarianism and terrorism, recognising that this only serves to further divide the working class and gives the British ruling class the excuse to increase repression.

The only lasting solution to the problems in Northern Ireland will be on the basis of workers unity and socialism. We therefore call for the formation of a non-sectarian party of Labour, based on the trade unions in Ireland, to lead a united fight back against the Tories and the ruling class.

It will be only such a party, committed to the socialist transformation of society that would be capable of providing an alternative to the sectarian political parties and paramilitary groups.

SOUTHAMPTON LPYS

128 This Conference recognises and utterly condemns the horrors of mass poverty, unemployment, repression and sectarianism that is thrust upon the working class of Ireland. We fully understand that British capitalism must bear total responsibility for the present appalling situation in Ireland, due to the partition of that country in the early part of this century. Further than this, Conference believes that it is not solely the policies and the Thatcher Government that are the cause of the mass poverty and horrors we see in Northern Ireland. The present appalling situation is due to the serious and irretrievable decline of British capitalism that is heavily aggravated by the policies of the Irish and British Tory Government. Conference understands that British capitalism and its representatives in the Conservative Party have absolutely no solutions to the problems of Ireland in either the short, medium or long-term.

The ideas of independence for Northern Ireland, or of a capitalist unification of the country, are no answers and would only succeed in heightening the sectarian division originally created by British imperialism in their previous strategy of 'divide and rule'.

Consequently this Conference fully realises that only the Irish working class, the mass of the Irish people, can eradicate Ireland of the mass poverty and repression that is now suffered. This can only be done by uniting the whole of the Irish working class, workers of every area and of Protestant and Catholic beliefs, and mobilising them around a true, bold, socialist programme, a programme which would unite all workers and enable them to clearly visualise and understand that the only way their troubles and mass poverty could be abolished is by the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of a socialist united Ireland. Conference recognises that this is the only way forward.

Consequently, Conference does not give one iota of support to individual terrorism, represented by the sectarian organisation of the IRA, INLA, UDA, etc. We see that the military campaign by the Provisionals, UDA loyalists, and the INLA underline the absolute futility of the methods of individual terrorism, methods which only deepen the division within the working class and only drive Protestant and Catholic workers further against each other.

Conference recognises that the leaders of these organisations are wholly middle class, they have very little in common with Irish workers, and that their policies will drive workers into an absolute dead end because they ignore the real issue, that of the irreversible decline of capitalism and the need to unite all workers around bold socialist policies.

Consequently, on this basis, Conference condemns not only sectarian repression, but also the continual British military occupation of Ireland, and we call for the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Ireland. On the basis of workers' unity around socialist policies Conference supports the setting up of a trades union defence force to protect workers, their homes and factories from sectarian attacks. This would receive tremendous support from all workers, as they see that it is the capitalist system that creates their misery and that only socialist policies can eradicate it.

Consequently we feel that for socialist policies, such as a 35-hour week, £90 minimum wages and nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies, etc, to be effectively put forward, there must be a mass party of Labour established in Northern Ireland and Ireland generally. A mass socialist Labour Party is desperately needed. This would be in direct support of a trade union defence force, would put forward proper, bold, socialist policies, attracting mass working class support and would point to a socialist united Ireland as the only answer for Irish workers.

Conference urges the Labour Party to take up these suggestions, particularly considering the growing class unity of workers and their families, expressed in strikes, occupations, and the united movements of workers, show the potential for a mass party of Labour, fighting on class issues with socialist policies. The LP should translate this potential into immediate action. Such a Labour Party could transform the present situation by uniting Protestant and Catholic workers around a struggle for a 35-hour week, a £100 minimum wage for all workers, massive schemes of useful public works, nationalisation of the top 200 largest and most powerful monopolies and all money lending organisations to be run under democratic workers' control.

So this Conference and all young socialists everywhere consider it of utmost important to campaign for, and establish, an Irish Party of Labour, built around these socialist policies, and demands that will unite all workers in a common struggle against the real enemy, on the one hand that of British and Irish capitalism, and on the other hand the middle class lead, sectarian influences who only succeed in turning workers against workers.

This Conference urges the British Labour Party to take on all these arguments and demands, and to advance them within the Trade Union Movement, the Labour movement and the working classes generally. The building of a united working class movement armed with socialist policies is vital if the horrific problems facing the Irish working class are to be solved.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS LPYS

129 This Conference condemns the role of British Imperialism in Northern Ireland and places full responsibility on the ruling class for the horrific conditions facing working class people in that country. The present Tory Government offers no solution to the problems of working people in the North of Ireland, and the recently established Assembly offers no solution, being merely a talking shop and institutionalising sectarianism.

Recent events demonstrate the urgent necessity for a non-sectarian party of Labour. Conference demands that the Labour Party carries out its policy immediately, calling a Conference of delegates from trades councils, shop stewards committees, and any bona fide labour movement organisations in Northern Ireland, to bring about the formation of a trade union based party of Labour in the North.

Conference fully supports the efforts of the Labour and Trade Union Group and Young Socialists and believes that the demonstrations held by the YS in Dublin and Belfast, and the election campaign in East Belfast, show the massive potential for uniting Protestant and Catholic workers around class, socialist demands and the struggle against the common enemy. Conference believes that this potential would be rapidly realised as the vacuum created by the current lack of socialist alternatives to sectarian strife and the political bankruptcy of the SDLP green Tories and Sinn Fein, will be filled by a campaigning socialist party.

The recent outbursts of sectarian killings must ring alarm bells to the Labour movement over the

urgent need to cut across sectarianism and bigotry, with a campaign on the class issues of: 35-hour week, £100 minimum wage, a massive programme of housebuilding.

Conference reaffirms its opposition to all aspects of repression in Northern Ireland. We condemn totally the use of supergrasses as forming, as does the Prevention of Terrorism Act and the use of Northern Ireland as a massive training ground for the British Army, a threat to the Labour movement.

The use of supergrasses is a form of internment without trial when combined with long periods in custody and the use of non-jury courts.

We therefore demand:

1. The immediate return to trial by jury, the abolition of the Diplock courts.
2. The end of the use of supergrasses.

Conference condemns the use of British troops in Northern Ireland and calls for their immediate withdrawal, and a Labour movement campaign to unite workers and defend themselves from attacks from para military gunmen.

Conference opposes the methods of the Provos, which have widened the sectarian divide, giving the ruling class an excuse for further repression.

Conference reaffirms its belief that a united Ireland on a capitalist basis is totally impossible. The only way forward is by uniting Protestant and Catholic workers in the North, building links between a mass Labour movement in the North and the Labour Party in the South, along with the all Ireland Congress of Trade Unions in a struggle for a socialist united Ireland.

LIVERPOOL WALTON LPYS

130 This Conference believes that capitalism does not and can never offer a solution to the problems facing the working class in Northern Ireland. The horrors of an unemployment rate of almost one in four, of chronic housing and low pay, coupled with the repression and sectarian violence will only be faced and beaten by a united working class and a mass party of Labour.

Conference recognises that the present situation in the North of Ireland is the sole responsibility of British imperialism. Through its policy of 'divide and rule', the British ruling class have intentionally bred sectarianism to divide the working class in order that they could exploit this region to the full and achieve maximum profits.

Conference also realises that the Provisional IRA and INLA and their use of individual terror will neither defeat British imperialism, nor solve the problems facing the Northern Irish working class. Only a united working class fighting for socialism can rid Ireland of capitalism and unite the country.

The LPYS congratulates the Labour and Trade Union Group and the Young Socialists on their continued work and growth and applauds their decision to stand a Labour and trade union candidate in East Belfast in the general election. The LPYS will do all in its power to help the YS in the North of Ireland to win the youth to socialism.

Conference also calls on the British Labour Party to implement its Conference decision to encourage the Trade Union Movement in Northern Ireland to set up a mass party of Labour. Such a party armed with socialist policies can provide the only alternative to Toryism, both green and orange. The LPYS believes the united working class, under such a leadership, can carry through the socialist transformation of society and achieve a socialist united Ireland.

SHEFFIELD HALLAM LPYS

131 This Conference recognises that the central political question facing the working class in Northern Ireland is the border. It sees that the division of the northern working class is wholly reactionary and is the major stumbling block to the development of the class struggle in Ireland and that the central task for socialists is to devise a programme that can unify the working class North and South. For socialists in Britain, the major task is to achieve immediate British withdrawal from the North, so as to remove the fundamental political cause of this division, ie, partition. It believes in the right of the Irish people to self-determination, a democratic right always upheld by socialists. Conference resolves to propagandise for and solidarise with those fighting in Ireland for the right of self-determination. It therefore resolves to:

1. Supply and promote contacts between the LPYS and the Labour Party with Sin Fein.
2. Oppose all reactionary legislation aimed at Republicans in the North, ie, PTA, Diplock courts, supergrass trials, etc.
3. To mobilise the membership for Irish solidarity marches.
4. To affiliate to the Labour Committee on Ireland.

Conference acknowledges that the Catholic revolt in the North is a just revolt and must be supported by socialists and to do otherwise is in essence anti-democratic, and merely assists the British ruling class in alliance with the orange ruling class in the North in their continued division of the Irish working class.

BLANTYRE LPYS

132 This Conference recognises the need for working class unity in Northern Ireland, and believes that so long as capitalism remains, the Protestant and Catholic working class of Northern Ireland will continue to suffer from mass poverty, repression and sectarianism.

Conference therefore rejects all forms of sectarianism and recognises that the responsibility for poverty and sectarianism rests firmly with the British ruling class.

Capitalism can offer no solution to the problems of Northern Ireland. The IRA and INLA cannot offer any solution either, and whose persistent terrorist methods only succeed in dividing the working class and strengthening sectarianism.

We condemn acts such as the Harrods bombing, which only serve to further alienate the whole of the British working class.

Conference fully supports the work of the Northern Ireland Trade Union Movement in combating sectarianism. We also further support the Northern Ireland Labour and Trade Union Group and the Young Socialists in their fight for socialist ideas within the Irish Labour movement.

Conference believes that the only way forward for the working class of Northern Ireland is through class unity and socialism. Only a mass party of Labour, armed with a programme of socialist policies can provide a real alternative to the Tory orange and green bigots.

We believe such a party would be the only force capable of carrying through the socialist transformation of society in Northern Ireland and achieving a socialist united Ireland.

CAERPHILLY LPYS

133 This Conference, whilst welcoming attempts at establishing a dialogue with Sinn Fein, calls for all Labour Party members to remember that any progress to be made towards a solution in Ireland will only come from a united working class fighting behind the banner of a socialist Labour Party. We thus call upon the NEC to promote the creation of a trade union based Labour Party in Ireland.

We condemn totally all terrorist action as applied by any paramilitary group, of either side of the sectarian divide, as the tactic of bombing merely divides the working class and gives the Tories the excuse to oppose, further, the rights of Irish workers.

BARKING LPYS

134 This Conference declares that, for a British socialist youth movement, the issue of Ireland must be central to its task of winning the mass of youth to working class socialist politics. Britain has dominated Ireland for centuries. Britain partitioned Ireland in 1921. Britain created the Northern Irish state against the wish of the Irish people.

A system of sectarian discrimination favouring the Protestants had developed in Ireland. Partition institutionalised this discrimination with the creation of the Orange sectarian state. The partition was a denial of the basic right of the Irish nation – the right to national self-determination.

Britain continues to prop up and support that state on the basis of beating down the Catholics. The Catholic community are terrorised by the British Army, the RUC and especially the UDR, which is riddled with Protestant sectarianism.

In the 1960's a mass civil rights movement emerged demanding an end to the discrimination against Catholics. The sectarian state reacted with all the violence and hatred it could muster. But the failure to crush the Catholic resistance pushed the Orange state close to collapse. The Army was sent in, supposedly to prevent a bloodbath. In fact the troops were sent in to prop up the reactionary Orange state.

The experience of the 1960's proves that Northern Ireland cannot be reformed. The Catholics realised that the Northern Irish state was undemocratic and gerrymandered. The fight in the 1960's for civil rights became the struggle for a united Ireland in the 1970's and 1980's.

The LPYS must support the just struggle of the Catholics against the existence of the border and the Northern Irish state. The LPYS must commit itself to fight for the immediate British military and political withdrawal from Ireland.

While supporting the fight for a united Ireland we should not have any illusions in the leadership of that struggle. Sinn Fein does not base itself on working class socialist politics. The new more political leadership of Gerry Adams is limited, as much as the old leadership, by Republican petty bourgeois nationalism.

We do not agree with the overall strategy of the Republican movement. The military struggle is not based on the mass self activity of the working class. It tends to substitute the military actions of a few for the mass self activity of the class. It limits the struggle to the goal of a united Ireland while we support the fight of Irish socialists for a workers republic.

Despite our criticisms of the Republican movement, we as socialists have a duty to defend and support the struggle for a united Ireland. This struggle is a just democratic struggle and must be supported.

The Republican movement has mass support, the election of Gerry Adams in the general election proves this. This support shows that they are not individual terrorists. The Republican prisoners are prisoners of war and should be treated as such. The British state recognises them as such by trying them in the special 'Diplock' courts. We support their fight for political status.

We are opposed to the whole system of British injustice, used to try to defeat the Republican. The recent 'show trials' are the latest tactic used by the British state to try to intimidate the nationalist population. The 'supergrass' have been intimidated and bribed into giving information decided on in advance by the RUC.

We also recognise the specific struggle of women Republican prisoners who face the daily humiliation of strip searches. We called on the YS to fully support the Stop the Strip Search Campaign.

The PTA is used to intimidate the whole Irish community, both in Ireland and Britain and must be opposed.

Alongside the use of judicial terror the continued use of plastic bullets is designed to force the nationalist community off the streets. The 'shoot to kill' policy is aimed at eliminating Republican militants.

The starting point for British socialists must be the fight for British withdrawal from Ireland. The LPYS must affiliate to and build the Labour Committee on Ireland. We must fight to oppose the whole apparatus of British repression used to drive down the Catholics.

MANCHESTER CENTRAL LPYS

Amendment

Delete word "Catholics" in paragraph 6 and insert word "Republicans."

Delete all paragraphs 7 and 8 and all words before "we as socialists" in paragraph 9.

Insert before last paragraph:

"The LPYS also recognises that Labour Party support for the loyalist veto is a major obstacle to achieving a united Ireland, and resolves to campaign against it.

Furthermore, Conference welcomes the dialogue begun by Ken Livingstone with Sinn Fein and understands its importance in developing the anti imperialist current in the Labour Party. Therefore the LPYS promotes this initiative by organising a tour of Sinn Fein youth in this country."

DUNDEE EAST LPYS

135 This Conference notes the failure of capitalism to solve the social conditions of Northern Ireland and realises that while capitalism remains in that area poverty will be an every-day occurrence.

Conference recognises that the policies of the Provisionals, INLA, etc., or terrorist activity against not only military, but civilian targets can only further the divisions between the Protestant and Catholic communities, also giving ammunition to Protestant para-militaries.

Conference believes the only solution to the situation is a Socialist United Ireland, and as a first step to this call on the NEC to act on National Conference policy, calling a conference of trade unions and other Labour organisations interested in setting up a Socialist Party of Labour in Northern Ireland to transcend the sectarian divide.

KEIGHLEY LPYS

136 This Conference believes:

1. The war is caused by the British presence in Ireland and the British imposed partition.
2. That there can be no British solution to the situation, other than to get out. In the period before withdrawal there is no progressive role for British forces to play, so the sooner they leave the better for the Irish people.
3. That it is for the Irish people as a whole to decide their own future, in particular how they resolve their problems. These problems include not just the British imposed divisions between Protestant and Catholic workers but also the British imposed division between the Northern and Southern working class.

4. That the LPYS should link up with those forces in Ireland struggling against partition and the British presence, against reactionary legislation and social values this has generated north and south, and for the jobs and living standards of workers North and South.
5. That as Socialists we have a duty to defend the right of Sinn Fein to organise publicly and to defend anti-imperialist militants that are harrassed and imprisoned due to their opposition to the British presence.

This Conference instructs the National Committee to:

1. Affiliate the LPYS to the Labour Committee on Ireland, actively building it, supporting its activities and distributing its literature.
2. Seek the participation of LPYS representatives in any future talks with Sinn Fein to invite a representative of Sinn Fein to address next year's LPYS Conference, and to call on the LP NEC to open up talks with Sinn Fein regarding a solution to the Irish war.
3. Organise a youth delegation to the North of Ireland to meet up with young militants in Sinn Fein, other anti-imperialist organisations and the workers' movement.
4. Defend Ken Livingstone and other Socialists when they are witch-hunted for their views on Ireland.
5. Organise a tour of Sinn Fein youth in this country.
6. Actively campaign against plastic bullets and the PTA and for an unconditional British withdrawal involving meetings, leaflets and active support for demonstrations and conferences in line with this policy.
7. Highlight and condemn Britain's repressive policies and actions in Ireland as a regular feature in Socialist Youth.

HORNSEY AND WOOD GREEN LPYS

137 This Conference believes that British imperialism is directly to blame for the current situation which exists in Northern Ireland through a policy of deliberately fostering sectarian division as a means of 'divide and rule'. Now, however, the sectarian monster which British imperialism created has now gone out of control.

Conference notes that capitalism offers nothing to Northern Irish workers today, other than poverty, misery, unemployment and atrocious housing conditions. Northern Ireland is today one of the poorest and most deprived regions in Western Europe. Conference recognises the way in which these social conditions have paved the way for a united fight-back by ordinary working people, as has been shown by the NHS strike and other incidents in the past.

Conference also condemns the monstrous repressive regime which imperialism has assembled in Northern Ireland. We note how the troops and the RUC have been incapable of protecting the lives of ordinary working people. We condemn draconian laws such as the Prevention of Terrorism Act, the Special Powers Act and the Repayment of Debt Act. We also condemn the use of non-jury 'Diplock' courts and the brutality meted out at police interrogation centres such as Castlereagh. We oppose the State's use of 'supergrasses' and their use as a means of holding people in detention and recognise it as a way of introducing internment through the back door. Conference is also implacably opposed to the use of rubber and plastic bullets used by the authorities. We realise that this repressive regime will in future be used against the Labour movement.

Conference believes that the power of the Labour movement has a key role to play in offering a solution to the problems of Northern Ireland. It is only the Labour movement which can unite workers through the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU), and which can defeat sectarianism and repression.

Conference notes that whilst united industrially, Northern Irish workers do not have a political party which adequately represents their interests. All existing political parties are either sectarian or Tory or both. We believe that despite its electoral success, Sinn Fein still remains a narrow sectarian, nationalist organisation, incapable of offering a viable alternative to Protestant workers.

We believe that the tactics of individual terror as practised by the Provisional IRA and the INLA are totally incapable of defeating imperialism and only serve to give the ruling class an excuse to step up repression. It is only the Labour movement which can offer an alternative to poverty, repression and sectarianism by basing itself on a socialist programme, including the following demands:

1. The convening of a Conference of Labour inviting trade unions, trade councils, tenants and community organisations and all genuine non-sectarian socialist groups to set up a Labour party based on the trade unions. Such a party would then form links with the Southern Irish Labour Party through an all-Ireland Council of Labour.

2. The launching of a mass campaign against sectarianism aimed at uniting working people.
3. The repeal of all repressive laws, the scrapping of non-jury 'Diplock' courts, the closure of police interrogation centres and the banning of rubber and plastic bullets.
4. An end to the use of the 'supergrass' system, an end to the internment by remand of those accused. A return to trial by jury with full rights to cross-examine witnesses with full access to all evidence and the release of those prisoners convicted solely on the evidence of a 'supergrass'.

We reaffirm our support for the Labour and Trade Union Group and the Young Socialists in Northern Ireland and welcome the work they have done inside the Irish labour and trade union movement in the fight for workers' unity and socialism. We pledge to give every possible assistance to the Irish Labour movement in its quest for workers unity and a socialist united Ireland.

CARDIFF WEST LPYS

Amendment

Insert in paragraph 3, line 8 after "used by the authorities" and before "we realise":

"We oppose the 'shoot to kill' policy carried out by the RUC, UDR and the British Army. We condemn the sectarian killings carried out by individuals within the state forces. This makes the situation not dissimilar to the existence of police and army murder squads in Central and Latin America. Conference notes the number of UDR and RUC men held in custody for sectarian killings. This highlights the sectarian nature of these organisations and Conference therefore calls for their disbandment."

Add to paragraph 5 after "viable alternative to Protestant workers":

"Even if it won a majority of the Catholic vote (not an immediate prospect) Sinn Fein can only hope to win another one or two seats. A strategy of sectarian headcounting means that 11 of the 17 Northern Irish seats will remain in Tory/Unionist hands, and can offer no solution to the problems faced by workers. Sectarianism, therefore, means permanent Tory rule in Ireland, both North and South."

Add to paragraph 6 after "repression" in line 3: "and further divides the working class."

BRENT EAST LPYS

ORGANISATION

Campaigns

138 This Conference resolves to get as many Labour Euro-MP's elected as possible. However, we recognise that this will only be achieved if the Labour Party can maximise its youth vote.

Conference believes that this will be best achieved if the following measures are adopted:

1. The production of a youth leaflet on the theme of 'No to the Bosses' EEC, Youth for a Socialist Europe'.
2. The organisation of youth rallies in every Euro-constituency.
3. A youth speaker on every election platform.
4. LPYS canvasses in key marginal seats.

FAREHAM LPYS

139 This Conference believes that last year's general election was a clear indication of the mammoth job the Labour Party and the LPYS has in winning youth to the banner of Labour.

No longer, as in the past can Labour rely on the 'traditional' support of young people. Therefore, never since the War has the need to campaign amongst young people been so great.

Conference recognises that it is the Labour movement as a whole, as well as the LPYS which has a duty to win youth to Labour. However, the role of the LPYS in this task is vital and therefore the resources available to the LPYS are of utmost importance.

Despite the financial problems the party faces at the moment, Conference feels that enough resources should be available for campaigns amongst youth to be conducted by the LPYS.

Conference therefore calls for:

1. A full restoration of the LPYS budgets, as well as an increase of at least the rate of inflation.
2. A full-time NEC member, national chairperson and 'Socialist Youth' editor, to develop the LPYS's campaigning ability.

Title: Final Agenda For the Twenty Third National Conference of the Labour Party Young Socialists

Organisation: Labour Party Young Socialists

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