

Conference is June 30-July 1

TIME: Registration starts 10.30am Saturday June 30, and the Saturday session ends at 6.30pm.

The Sunday session will be 10am to 4.30pm.

The agenda is very tight, so it is essential that comrades turn up on time both days.

PLACE: In North London. We have different meeting places on the two days. To get the details of the meeting places, phone 01-609 7459 on Friday evening or Saturday morning.

'FRINGE' EVENTS: There is a student commission meeting on Friday (details in this bulletin).

We have booked the 'Prince Albert' pub in Wharfedale Road (between York Way and Caledonian Rd, near Kings Cross) on Friday evening, and comrades arriving on Friday evening should go there.

On Saturday evening there will be an informal session for comrades to exchange reports of local work, especially round the miners' strike. This will be at the 'Prince Albert'.

Sunday dinnertime there will be a meeting for comrades involved in work round the 'women against pit closures' groups.

FINANCE: To participate in the conference comrades must be paid up to a reasonable level. on dues and paper money. Detailed individual registration forms will be sent out in the next few days.

There will also be a conference fee of £3 waged, £1 unwaged, to cover hire of meeting halls; creche expenses; and travel subsidy for comrades coming specially long distances.

FOOD: Will be available at the conference hall, Saturday and Sunday dinnertimes.

ACCOMMODATION: Will be allocated at the conference hall on Saturday, or at the 'Prince Albert' on Friday evening for comrades arriving earlier.

CRECHE: Every comrade bringing children who will want to use the creche is asked to let us know, in writing:

- a) children's names and ages;
- b) dietary requirements;
- c) any special needs.

Please bring swimming things if the children are old enough and can swim, and favourite toys, labelled with the child's name.

DOCUMENTS: Please be sure to bring your IBs with you, since we're very short on spare copies of some numbers. You will need at least the following:

IBs 74, 92, 107, 114, 116; WSR2 supplement; paper no.173; and this IB.

CONTENTS OF THIS INTERNAL BULLETIN:

Student commission circular - Joplin

Amended/revised version of 'Some immediate tasks' - Kinnell. Amendments by

Joplin; by Coventry, Nick D, and Keith; by Edinburgh WSL; by Coventry & Nick D.

Proposed redrafting of Palestine section in 'International Report' - Keith

NC minutes June 17 1984

STUDENT COMMISSION. FRIDAY 29th JUNE. 1:00pm LSE

The student commission will be looking at the following problems. The agenda is by no means rigid - ring in suggested additions if you like but we should have plenty of time to add things on the Friday itself.

After the meeting there will be a room booked for a 'social' where we will be able to either carry on the discussion or serve as a central point for comrades coming down to conference the day before.

Although the room is only booked from 1:30 new students and new comrades should aim to be in LSE bar by 12, so we can go through the basics of what we're trying to do in our student work.

ALL CURRENT STUDENTS AND NEXT YEARS STUDENTS SHOULD TRY TO COME.

AGENDA

12-1. Introduction for new students/new comrades and comrades who feel they still don't really know how to get to grips with their SU.

1:30 What are we trying to do with SXXN?. How should we be organising?
What should we prioritise for next term and NUS conf.?

2:30 N.S - what happened at NXXS conference. How do we cope with the Dec conference. Who do we run for the one winnable place on the NC.

3:30 NXXS who do we want to put in control? This is a long running argument which must be settled. The issue is, in brief, whether we are in favour of using our votes to give M a total control on the NC or for a split NC, which means in an ideal situation us holding the balance. Both positions accept that C4 should be removed from control and both accept that there is a lot of room for negotiations with the other slates to ensure our maximum advantage.

4:30 LCs and SX campaigns at the start of the year.
Area reports and good ideas. Area problems.

LSE: nearest tube is Holborn. Head to Aldwych, down Kingsway. LSE is just off to the left and ask for the bar.

SOME IMMEDIATE TASKS

Amended/ revised version of the March 10 NC resolution (IB 86). Rather than write out the amendments individually, which would be difficult to follow, I have typed out the text as amended. The notes in the right-hand margin indicate the amendments or points for discussion.

Four other amendments have been received, and are indicated in the appropriate places in the text.

Kinnell

1. INDUSTRIAL

A. The general level of strikes is still low. The slight economic upturn since 1981 remains slight; manufacturing investment is still falling.

B. Thus sullen, weary resentment remains the dominant mood in the working class. But the miners' strike and the tremendous turnout on February 28 - after a weak call from the TUC, so late that it gave almost no time to organise - show that this sullen, weary resentment can very quickly change into angry action.

C. After the June 1983 election, the top TUC leaders decided that the Tories were now entrenched for a whole period, and that their (the leaders') role must be not to fight the Tories but to act as bargainers between the Tories and the working class. The Blackpool TUC decisions and the TUC's betrayal of the NGA followed.

But bargainers need something to bargain with and something to bargain about: and the Tories are not always ready to grant these to the TUC leaders. Thus explosions like February 28.

TUC leaders moved quickly to minimise the impact of their breach with the Tories over GCHQ. But Britain's (and the capitalist world's) social crisis, the tenseness of class relations, and the inherently contradictory position of the trade union leaders themselves, make more such explosions likely.

Thus it is not contradictory for us to combine a sober assessment of the generally low level of strikes with our call for a general strike with the miners.

(added)

D. Another factor for instability is the state of the Tories. The decay of the 'Falklands Factor', the repeated scandals, and their internal divisions all make the government look far less formidable.

D2. The miners' strike has already - so far as we are able to make an informed judgment - shifted the mood in the working class, reviving confidence in the possibilities of direct action. A clear victory for the miners would transform that shift into a major turnout. All assessments of the industrial/political situation are now conditional on the outcome of the miners' strike.

(added)

E. Up to June 1983 employers had been very cautious about using the law, but now they are much bolder. These laws are now, and so far as we can predict will continue to be, a central issue in the class struggle.

Thousands of militants are aware of this. Yet there is no coordinated labour movement campaign against the

of local industrial action taken in particular authorities: otherwise, workers in particularly hard-hit authorities, e.g. those selected for rate-capping, will be isolated.

The building of joint shop stewards' committees - and, where possible, stewards' committees extending across several authorities, e.g. across London - is also important. So are links between those stewards' committees and tenants' and community groups.

2. POLITICAL SLOGANS

A. 'Break collaboration' remains a very apt slogan, in the form 'Break collaboration, fight the Tories'.

During the miners' strike it has been replaced as a central slogan by the more positive demand 'Organise for a general strike'.

(Added. I have not included the NC decision on the precise form of the general strike slogan - ie. not 'general strike to kick the Tories out' - because the conference timetable does not permit an adequate discussion on this.)

C. The 'workers government' can hardly be used as a slogan in the present period. The basic perspective of transforming the labour movement which it expresses remains valid, but the immediate task is to reorient the Left towards a new drive for such transformation: the emphasis in this sphere is more on propaganda than on agitation. We should step up such propaganda.

(Point B on 'recall the TUC' deleted)

D. While maintaining political criticism of the Kinnock/Hattersley centre-right leadership, we must however put more stress on placing demands on them.

3. TRADE UNIONS

A. The POEU Broad Left has recently led itself into a fiasco.

Just before the beginning of the miners' strike we wrote: "The left wing leadership of the NUM is in the process of doing the same". That was not as far off the mark as it appears. The NUM leadership had failed on a whole series of tests - Lewis Merthyr, Polmaise, Bogside... Pits were closing at a rapid rate. It was that situation which encouraged the Government to choose the present showdown.

(Added).

The failures of the NUM leadership - the lack of a rank and file movement in the NUM or on a broader cross-union basis - are still making themselves felt. But reformism does not always and everywhere equal lack of fight. The NUM leadership, and Scargill in particular, has responded to this showdown with a bold class stand.

On the same general principle, the weaknesses of the new Broad Lefts should not lead us to dismiss them. They are an important, maybe even a growing, factor in the labour movement.

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B. We should seek to build the Broad Lefts and to argue within them for:

* Open and democratic political debate (within which we advocate our politics) - in contrast to the consensus method practised by the POEU Broad Left.

* An orientation towards direct struggles and to the rank and file generally (as we have fought for in the UCW over Basingstoke) - in contrast to trade union electoralism.

C. The BLOC conference on March 24 signalled the emergence of Militant as the dominant left-of-CP force in the unions - a development which starkly exposes the nonsense of those who counterpose trade union work to Labour Party work. As Militant increases in size, it will become less monolithic: there are signs of this already. We should devote some attention to propaganda specifically designed to win over Militant supporters.

In the miners' strike since March 24, however, BLOC has had no profile at all - i.e. it is still in no sense a campaigning force in the unions. We should argue within Broad Lefts for a campaigning BLOC.

D. While O workplace branches are unlikely to grow rapidly into a major force in the unions, their role in an individual workplace for drawing a group of activists around us and as a means to take our propaganda directly into workplaces makes them important for our potential to grow.

We should wherever possible initiate WPBs and turn them to agitation on general issues confronting the unions and use them as a 'back-up' to our union work on issues within the workplaces.

4. WOMEN

A. The most important development for us to relate to now is the 'women against pit closures' groups. The work done by WF so far - e.g. the broadsheet - has been quite fruitful. We should support an extension of this work - trying to get a link-up between the 'women against pit closures' groups, taking up issues such as sexist slogans, working towards a continuation of the women's groups after the strike and relating them to WF and its perspectives on the labour movement.

B. In view of the above priority, and of the fact that other groups have taken up the local government issues, WF has cancelled the conference it planned on women and local government cuts. The possibility still remains open of an event called in collaboration with other groups working on this issue, rather than a straight WF conference.

C. The central resources available for this work are slight, and have been taken up by getting the WF paper regular and re-establishing the beginnings of a network of local groups. More resources for this should be a priority.

In the branches comrades should establish orders for the paper (and payment for them) and seek WF

(Addition. There has been some discussion of possibilities of local BLOCs, but on balance these possibilities seem very limited. We cannot change the whole nature of BLOC by such initiatives, so we would end up operating with an artificial formula which 'belongs' to someone else).

(Added. This whole section rewritten).

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members and affiliations.

5. YOUTH

Youth work has been our major area of recruitment over recent months, and is likely to continue to be so.

For J. campaigning activity our main priorities should be YCND (see below), YTS, and tech students. Student work more generally must also be seen as important.

We need to devote more consistent effort to education of our youth, with regular schools, etc.

6. LABOUR PARTY

A. The Labour Left is still in retreat. But this must not be overestimated or presented as a uniform process. The Left is not dead - the response to the miners' strike shows that - and while sections like the LCC have moved to the centre-right, others have moved closer to our politics.

B. There are no very clear signs at present of a new broad organisation of the left: any such developments look like coming slowly rather than soon.

What could change these calculations, and provide a spur to a more rapid reassembling of the Left, is a move by the centre-right to gut mandatory reselection.

Until then, broad Left fronts like LAW and CLPD are 'ticking over', and our main job is to reorient and re-educate the more serious Left.

C. This must not be interpreted as an inward-looking orientation. Turning the O. outwards, and especially building workplace branches, is vital: they can provide new recruits to replace the jaded leftists who are now moving to the centre-right.

There are at present no other organised forces in these branches. Because there are few bureaucratic pressures on such branches and they are a new form of organisation looking for a role, they are very open to our ideas on the activity and direction they should have.

We have the opportunity to build support very rapidly out of a drive towards the formation of branches and the creation of a national network.

D. A major factor in the Left's retreat has been the activity of the 'local government Left'. A whole segment of leftists, who could have become an educating, organising, inspiring force for broader sections of the labour movement, have allowed themselves to be captured by the bourgeois structures of local government.

Their political inadequacies, rather than being remedied through the enlightening effects of experience and the educational efforts of the most conscious revolutionaries, have been consolidated, and have become a spreading infection. The left, having got into council positions, has adapted itself to the limits of the established structures (because it had no clear idea of how to fight them), and then become a force trying to educate the rest of the labour movement to accept those limits.

Some of our own comrades in local government have not been immune to this process. We must tighten up our integration of such comrades into the organisation, and approach any new nominations for local government positions with caution. Decisions on such nominations should be taken by the EC.

The job of socialist councillors is to use the council as a platform to advance working class claims, not to select the most deserving of those claims to be fitted within the limits of balancing the budget of the 'local state'.

E. Our broad groups are generally speaking no longer broad groups, but an ideologically defined Trotskyist current. This is no bad thing in itself, though

(This whole section severely chopped down. A separate youth report will be presented as an addition to this document).

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it must be recognised that we have done much less with this tactic than we could have done.

At the same time the B. network has established itself as a voice of the Left.

This is not entirely positive. B was launched by people who split from the broad groups over the question of rate rises. They have consistently maintained their opportunist attitude to the local government Left since. That the central B people garnish their opportunism by 'revolutionary' phrase-mongering like 'Labour Take The Power' only makes it worse.

B has been popular with the O Left because it has pandered to them. Rather than educating its readers as a Marxist publication should, it has flattered them. Correspondingly it has shown little ability to organise rather than reflect developments: the number of actual 'B activists' is tiny.

Bs often have big circulations: they are rarely able to organise regular activist meetings of any size.

B's political weakness is not the weakness of naivety or immaturity, but the politics of a tiny but entrenched centrist sect.

But the influence of B is a fact. To boycott B would isolate us needlessly (and hand over the whole thing to SA). To go for a full national-scale confrontation with the central B people would at best leave us with a shell and a bad odour around us. We should therefore focus on building local B groups, on our politics as far as possible; gradually crystallising a left wing in the B network through these local groups; and getting more political input into the national B.

In local B groups we must press for:

- * An all-round, rather than narrowly O, activist orientation;
- * Regular meetings;
- * Our politics on issues like outs/rate rises, the AES, the EEC, LP work-place branches, etc.

If we use local B groups to organise a broader Left, then we must correspondingly tighten up our local 'broad groups'. Alongside the B group meetings we must have regular advertised 'broad group' meetings. Obviously these should be designed so as to fulfill a different specific function from B group meetings, e.g. with more educational content, more organising in areas other than O work, etc. But the basic essential is to maintain our own profile.

The aim of our activity in B groups must be to organise people, not to produce local competitors to our paper, to divert our resources into producing such competitors, or to use local Bs as a soft-option alternative to our paper. Our financial and human-resources commitments to producing local bulletins must be checked and discussed with the EC, which after consulting with branches should have powers to decide in such matters.

Better active B groups with skimpy duplicated bulletins than thick printed bulletins and little real organising activity beyond producing and circulating those bulletins.

7. CND/PEACE MOVEMENT

A. The CND leadership have a 'long haul' strategy which effectively means accepting Cruise as an accomplished fact and watering down unilateralism. This strategy can only demobilise CND. Yet CND as yet shows no sign of fading away. And the constant threats of war in the international situation provide stimulus enough to keep a large number of people active in CND.

B. We have begun to develop a collective intervention in CND over the last year or so: it is still weak and needs more resources.

C. The main lines of our intervention are: no equivocation on unilateralism; for CND to campaign for withdrawal from NATC; a labour movement/LP orientation (especially TU boycotts); democracy in CND and YCND. Our propaganda should also seek to draw people towards us from CND by pointing out the connections between war and capitalism.

C2. We should increase our emphasis on the European dimension of the nuclear disarmament movement. In

(Added)

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particular we should raise the call for a Europe-wide protest strike against the missiles.

D. We should continue support for the Greenham Common peace camp and the women's peace movement, and reject ignorant blanket criticism of them as 'opposed to all politics', 'relying on pacifist opposition of the individual to war', etc. At the same time we should try to help these women build for labour movement action (especially trade union boycotts), and try to encourage them to join the fight inside CND.

8. INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

Every League branch must undertake active involvement in at least one field of international solidarity work. Small branches should focus attention on one campaign, and doing the work well. Larger branches should endeavour to cover more than one, but with emphasis on active, organising work rather than just 'going to meetings'.

Amendment from Coventry, Nick D, Keith:
read instead -

This Conference recognises that the international solidarity work of the League is in urgent need of development. This conference also recognises, however, that to insist that every League branch undertake active involvement in at least one field of international solidarity work would:

- a) not be practicable given current necessary commitments;
- b) be disruptive of branch work;

This conference therefore instructs the NC:

- a) to identify priority campaigns;
- b) to identify those branches which could and should carry out international solidarity work;
- c) if necessary to direct individual comrades to international solidarity work, making it their priority area of work if necessary;
- d) to coordinate the activities of those branches and individuals already active in solidarity work;
- e) to ensure that other branches play their role by inviting speakers from solidarity movements to address their labour movement branches and by holding public meetings at appropriate times on the basis of our politics;
- f) ensure that members are kept well abreast of international developments.

Priority campaigns - to be selected according to local opportunities and problems - should be:

1. Ireland (LCI); 2. Palestine (LMCFP); 3. Turkey (TSC); 4. South Africa (Anti-Apartheid); 5. Central America.

AMENDMENT FROM EDINBURGH WSL: add
6. Poland.

Occasional briefing papers should be issued to keep branch members informed of developments and issues in solidarity work.

9. BUILDING THE LEAGUE

A. We need a turn away from too much ('going-to-meetings' activity, and towards both 'Wiganisation' (mass campaigning activity) and more intensive education and propaganda work.

This does not mean reversing the turn towards more positive involvement in the official labour movement associated with such tactics as the broad groups. It means (a) a conscious correction of a noticeable tendency in the organisation to drift into labour movement routinism with a very limited political content and very marginal attention to 'party-building'; (b) a recognition that political life in the O, in particular, is for the moment at a lower ebb than in 1979-81, and that we must avoid getting trapped in a stale and limited circle of contacts.

& Nick D.

A2..... AMENDMENT (Coventry).

As part of the process of inculcating our programme in the minds of all members and contacts, of rooting it within the class, this conference instructs the NC to ensure:

1. that the 'Where We Stand' pamphlet is periodically updated with constant reserves available to the branches;
2. that the 'Broad Lefts' pamphlet is periodically updated and reprinted;
3. that to complement the 'Broad Lefts' pamphlet a pamphlet is produced outlining our theory of the trade union bureaucracy, this pamphlet to draw heavily upon the historical experience under Thatcher;
4. a pamphlet outlining our position on women;
5. a pamphlet outlining our position on Ireland.

All the above pamphlets to be published in the name of the broad groups or WF before the next annual WSL conference.

B. The main areas for 'Wiganisation' (meaning mass campaigning work) - after, of course, the miners' strike - should be NHS, YTS, YCND. (Not necessarily in that order: local priorities will have to be decided in consultation between branches and the EC).

We need a national drive to build O. WPBs. The OSC will determine the possibilities all branches have to form them and set targets for each branch on how many WPBs to initiate within a given time limit. Each branch shall ensure that one comrade is responsible for overseeing this work.

C. As part of this political turn, we need a drive on paper sales. This is also necessary financially.

It should include estate sales. Properly organised, estate sales would not be a strain on the resources of any but the smallest branches; they would increase our sales; and they would probably benefit us further by being a branch activity, and one which it is easy to integrate new recruits or contacts into.

(This para. is an addition).

D. We should organise a recruitment drive especially among youth. We need more resources for the centre (especially on the paper) to free the Youth Organiser for such work.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE JUNE 17 1984

1. METHOD OF ELECTING N.C.

Hughes proposed a motion from the East London branch for the STV system (see resolutions sheet).

Kinnell proposed: (1) A nominating commission to be elected from the floor of the conference; (2) The nominating commission to have a majority of non-NC members; an EC member to be on it with voice but no vote; (3) The new NC to be elected by the 'multi-X-vote' system.

Parsons proposed that the new NC be elected by the 'list' system: i.e. that a nominating commission should produce a recommended list, and the conference should then vote on proposals to amend the list.

'List' system rejected, 4 for, 6 against, 1 abst.

STV rejected, 3 for, 5 against, 3 abst.

Multi-X-vote agreed, 5 for, 3 against, 3 abst.

Proposal to elect a nominating commission from the floor of the conference -- agreed 6 for, 1 against, 4 abst.

Collins moved deletion of the clause "with voice but no vote" on EC member on the nominating commission - motion fell, 4 for, 4 against.

Kinnell's proposal on a nominating commission (1) and (2) above, as a whole -- carried, 5 for, 1 against, 5 abst.

2. MINERS

Hill introduced a discussion.

Kinnell: We should press for meetings of NUM branches etc on the negotiations and demands, and on dispensations. We should raise the call for picket defence squads.

Gunther: We have not done enough to push for the regional days of strike action.

Levy: The prospects for solidarity are better after the Coal Board's failure in its effort to split the NUM. We should call for NUM to make a drive towards TUC. CP has swung behind Scargill on dispensations. Problems with developing women's involvement in dispute - deep-seated sexism even among best miners, sexist slogans only a minor part of it.

Cunliffe: The betrayal at Longbridge is very important - shows up role of CP, both wings. NUPE has called action for Barking hospital on 26th - important.

Hill summed up: Defence squads? Yes, but we have to be very careful about the way we argue it - raise it through historical articles in paper etc. CP and dispensations? Not sure Levy is right. Sexism? Levy is right about the depth of it, but the sexist slogans are an important focus.

3. MOTION OF CENSURE

Gunther moved the motion of censure on Hill from Brent (see resolution sheet).

Levy moved an amendment: censure should be on OSC. Gunther accepted this amendment.

Parkinson moved that the resolution not be put and that EC/OSC discuss arrangements for organising O. conference work while Hill is working on the miners' strike.

Parkinson's motion that resolution not be put: lost, 6 votes to 6.

After further discussion, the censure motion was lost, 5 votes to 5.

It was agreed to take up Parkinson's proposal about alternative arrangements for O. conference work.

4. CONFERENCE AGENDA

- a) Brent motion - see resolution sheet. Gunther reported that Brent branch would instead put it directly to conference.
- b) EC motion for a session on miners' strike - see resolution sheet. Agreed, with the following amendments - that the conference session should be on Sunday (not necessarily Sunday morning), and that an informal Saturday evening session be arranged for comrades to exchange experiences on miners' strike work.
- c) Two motions from DCF (submitted late)

A. Conference opposes the NC decision to expel the former Faction members and calls for their full reinstatement to WSL membership.

B. The Control Commission, elected from the previous WSL conference, has considered and reported to the NC on grievances put to them by former Faction members prior to their expulsion. Conference therefore calls on the Control Commission to present a brief report of its findings in the section of the agenda dealing with matters affecting the NC expulsion decision and the former Faction's appeal.

Levy moved that NC should recommend motion B. This was carried by 7 votes to 4.

Hill moved that there should also be a formal NC reply. This was also agreed.

- d) Basingstoke motion (submitted late)

We call on the NC to reopen the debate on 'convergence'. The convergence issue is central to the whole broad groups tactic and at such a critical time for the League it is unacceptable that the broad groups which is probably the best building tactic that we have ever devised should not be open for discussion in a preconference period.

Motion was lost, with 1 vote for.

5. CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS

It was noted that the Scott document (in IB 117) contains resolutions submitted before the deadline date.

Parsons moved that in conference material the term "expelled faction" should be used rather than "Oxford faction". Agreed.

Organisation report

Hill moved that the OSC/EC dues increase plan be endorsed by NC. Agreed after some discussion.

Cunliffe: We should also appeal to people on the minimum dues rate to pay more.

Immediate tasks, IB 86

Agreed Kinnell to move on behalf of NC.

International report

Agreed Wolf to be asked to draft amendments to section on Ireland.

NC elections: Agreed to hold hustings, and to ask nominating commission to put a definite number for NC to conference. Recommend to nominating commission that this number should be about 20.

6. MINUTES

EC 12.5.84: Agreed to circulate correspondence between Kinnell and Smith on practical collaboration by expelled faction.

Gunther moved that NC reverse EC decision not to give Christel a key to mortice lock at centre. Motion lost, 6 votes to 6.

NC/3

Levy raised the question of pay arrears to full-timers. After discussion Callaghan moved that EC be asked to do a full report to next NC. Agreed unanimously.

Last NC minutes:

On local government discussion, it had been omitted that we also decided to call for councils not to pay police contributions, and to try connect this with the miners' strike issue.

SL pamphlet: Collins to do on a longer time-scale.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN KINNELL AND SMITH

Kinnell to Smith, 17.4.84.

In line with the resolutions passed at the WSL NC on March 31 and April 14, I am writing to propose discussions on possible practical collaboration between your group and the WSL. Please let us know when would be a convenient time for a meeting.

Smith to Kinnell, 2.5.84.

I have received your letter of April 17th proposing discussion on possible practical collaboration with us.

Can I say that your proposal seems to be based on a misunderstanding. We are 36 expelled members of the WSL who have elected to exercise our right of appeal against the expulsions to conference. The first thing therefore is for this process to be carried out - hopefully with more democracy than has been evident up to now.

This being the case there are two points: Firstly could you answer the question I asked at the disciplinary hearing as to whether each expelled member will have the right to defend himself or herself at the conference or whether this will be restricted as it was at the NC? Secondly we would be please if you would notify us as soon as possible of the times, dates and avenues of the pre-conference meetings in order that we can attend^{and} make a statement in line with your commitment to that effect.

Kinnell to Smith, 13.5.84.

Thank you for your letter of May 2, received May 9.

I understand you to be saying that your group does not wish to collaborate practically with the WSL in the period between now and the forthcoming WSL conference. That's up to you, of course, but I would point out that some demonstrated will for practical collaboration would improve the chances for a sympathetic hearing for your appeal.

I have been informed that at the Labour Committee on Ireland AGM on April 14 a number of members of your group were present and voted for the Socialist Action candidate for LCI youth officer against the Socialist Organiser candidate. This - not merely no practical collaboration with us, but practical collaboration with our opponents against us - would seem to me to reduce the credibility of your appeal severely.

As regards the procedure for your appeal, I can inform you of the decisions of our latest National Committee meeting. One representative of your group and one witness will be admitted to the conference to hear the NC's case, to speak (for half an hour), to ask and to answer questions. You will then be asked to leave while the conference considers the matter further.

We would appreciate an assurance from you that you will respect this decision and not attempt to mount a 'demonstration' of the sort staged at the April 14 NC.

Finally, I take note that you write on behalf of your group as a group, and I take that - like your speech during the 'demonstration' at the April 14 NC - as confirmation that the dissolution of your faction was in fact a formality, with the faction continuing to function as a group.

PROPOSED REDRAFTING OF SECTION ON PALESTINE IN INTERNATIONAL REPORT (8.6.84) IN INTERNAL BULLETIN No. 116 (PAGE 4)

The situation in the Middle East is bleak: in Lebanon the Left forces have declined and the communal-sectarian trends now monopolise the political scene on both sides of the Christian/Muslim divide; with no force powerful enough to impose its solution, there seems no immediate prospect other than a series of fragile agreements of fleeting duration, each collapsing into more communal warfare and the virtual disappearance of Lebanon as a political entity; the split in the PLO has been an extremely debilitating event for the Palestinian people, but the survival of the Arafat wing of the PLO is a testimony to its "strength in depth" and to the degree to which the Abu Musa faction is widely regarded by Palestinians as a Syrian puppet - and resented as such.

The most likely outcome of the forthcoming Israeli elections is a Labour victory and a Labour-dominated coalition government. This government will not dismantle the West Bank and other settlements.

Taken together this situation is not particularly favourable for pro-Palestinian/anti-Zionist campaigning work in this country. Nevertheless, past events and recent campaigning have created a larger than ever audience for such work.

The victory in the wake of the Sabra and Shatilah massacres of a radical pro-Palestinian resolution at the 1982 Labour Party Conference should not conceal from us that support for the existence of a Jewish state within pre-1967 borders (at least) is a part of the "common sense" of the British Labour Movement. Last year's Conference shows in addition that, as far as winning the ideological battle against this "common sense" is concerned, not only are the Labour Middle East Council and its supporters an obstacle but so is the PLO.

The Labour Movement Campaign for Palestine has emerged as the principled pro-Palestinian/anti-Zionist campaign in the Labour Movement (the LCP has all but disappeared and SA, after pulling out, moved into the PSC). But, unlike PSC which is composed of activists with little or no base in the Labour Movement but a priority commitment to the Palestine question, the LMCfP is still very small numerically. Despite its small size it showed in the recent Labour Movement Conference on Palestine (organised jointly with PSC) that it was capable of mobilising a serious gathering of Labour Movement activists.

The League should put more energy and resources into the LMCfP. The best way is by comrades setting up campaign groups in various areas. Recognising....(as last para.)

Our basic policy on Palestine was set out in the TILC resolution of August 1982 (WSR 2). It is not clear whether the terminological differences not settled by the resolution (specifically: is it right to use the term self-determination in connection with the Palestinian people's struggle?) really correspond to substantive political differences between those who support a single-state solution.

Keith