

May 15 am

Chair: Privacy
 Minutes:

1. Standing Orders read by SO Committee. Amendment to rule no. 9; that there must be support from 3 delegates (other than the mover) before any challenge to the Chair will be taken. Passed: 17 for; 13 against. Clarification of SO that transference of delegate votes is a matter for individual branches to decide. SO carried nem. con.
2. Agenda for the day proposed by SO: Standing Orders Report; Secretariat Report; National Officers Reports (with motions pertaining to literature taken after Literature Committee Report); Lunch Break. Afternoon: Branch Reports; Proposives documents. Agenda adopted, nem.con.
3. Standing Orders Report: ROC document allowed agenda time despite lateness of arrival, due to a mistake. Motions from Greater Manchester Branch also accepted for Agenda inclusion, although not sent in sufficient copies for prior circulation, as Branch concerned had supplied number of copies later. Motions from Brighton Branch not allowed because no copies made available, despite Secretariat requests.

Recommendation by SO Committee that date of next NDC be fixed at this Conference, as well as deadline for acceptance of documents and motions. (See minutes for Sunday pm).

Letter from 6 members of Bristol Branch concerned with non-representation of minority position in Bristol delegates. SOG suggested it come up on the Sunday as item under Constitution at which time authors of Bristol letter be allowed to table emergency motion. Voting on SOG proposal 18 for; 18 against. Proposal falls. Proposal by P that Bristol minority be allowed 1 delegate to the NDC. Passed: 24 for; 16 against. Acceptance of SOG report carried, nem.con.

4. Secretariat Report: RE, Convenor, reported. Chair moved acceptance. Accepted nem.con.
5. Finance Report: P reported (Treasurer). Report accepted nem.con.
6. Labour Party Organiser's Report: P. Accepted nem.con.
7. Student Organiser's Report: P. Accepted nem.con.
8. Press Committee Report: P. Accepted nem.con.
9. Literature Organiser's Report: P. Accepted, 36 for, 4 against.

Motions: 'That TCM sponsors the ROC Pamphlet 'Ireland: British Labour and British Imperialism' and encourages branches to take copies for sale and to organise discussions of the ideas contained in it.' (Composite from Colchester, Bristol, G. Manchester Branches.)
 Falls: 8 for; 32 against; 3 abstentions

'That the (Greater) Manchester TCM Labour Movement Bulletin No.2 be taken as the model for TCM bulletins. Their aim should be to counter the arguments on Ireland dominant in the labour movement. They should be directed towards those sections of workers who are looking for a clear anti-imperialist strategy. (Bristol/G. Manchester Branches Composite)
 Falls: 6 for, 36 against, no abstentions

SO Office refused to accept motion from Bristol as not being emergency. Will challenge later.

1. Branch Reports

Branches present and reporting:

Bristol, Cardiff, Cambridge, Colchester, Doncaster, Hemel Hempstead, East London, Haringey, North London, North West London, South London, South East London, West London, Central Manchester, Greater Manchester, Oxford, Sheffield, Teeside, Leeds asked for ratification as a branch. Accepted, nem.con.

Discussion of branch reports.

2. Perspective Documents

1. RCG Document motivation. P.

2. IMG Activists in TOM Document 'Balance Sheet' motivation. P

3. Document signed by some members of N. London, NE London, W & SE London Branches, 'Next Steps for TOM'. Motivation. P.

10 minutes each allowed for debate on papers. (General feeling not enough time)

Documents discussed this session were not put as motions for voting on.

3. Motions pertaining to Perspectives

1. 'That the TOM set up an investigation into the position and role of British Trade Unions in the North East of Ireland, but also in Ireland as a whole, with a view to the TOM taking a position on whether British Trade Unions have any right to have sections in Ireland.' (West London Branch)

Carried: 34 for, 5 against, 7 abstentions

2. 'Recognising that social chauvinist arguments for Troops Out Now (such as the War in Ireland tainting British democracy or costing the British taxpayer too much), can only lead to the growth of a reactionary movement, we call on TOM to disassociate itself from such views, and affirm the genuinely anti-imperialist nature of the two demands. (Bristol Branch)

Falls: 17 for, 21 against, 8 abstentions

3. 'This NDC resolves that:

i) The TOM will be built nationally through intensive and systematic work amongst different sections of the working class conducted primarily through the local branches of TOM.

ii) National events must therefore be built in such a way as to promote and consolidate this work.

iii) The building of the Labour Movement Delegation should be carried through thoroughly. At the moment this means that any intervening events between now and the delegation must be small and not use up branch resources.

iv) The decline of TOM will be halted by clearly grasping these political and organisational necessities and taking account of them in future strategic planning. (East London Branch Motion)

Carried: 23 for, 1 against, 22 abstentions

It was decided to write into the minutes a statement by the signers of the document 'Next Steps for the Troops Out Movement' in view of the large number of abstentions: 'We abstained on the E London motion because, although it appears to simply restate present TOM policy, we think it is based on certain political conceptions which are not elaborated in documentary form and that, if passed, it may lead to confusion over its exact implications in the future'.

(Perspective motions, cont.)

4. This NDC recognises that:

- 1) As the crisis deepens, workers will seek radical answers to the political problems they face. On the Irish question, they will be particularly attracted by the left reformist idea that the British state can democratically reform the Northern Ireland statelet.
- 2) The policy of the Communist Party provides the clearest and most sophisticated formulation of reformist attitudes on the Irish question.
- 3) That such a policy, despite its declarations to the contrary, constitutes a denial of the right of the Irish people to self-determination.
- 4) That an anti-imperialist movement cannot be built therefore without a systematic struggle against these ideas. (G. Manchester Branch)

Carried (after recount)

First vote: 17 for, 17 against, 11 abst.

Recount: 19 for, 17 against, 10 abst.

end of first day of NDC

Reconvenes 10am Sunday