

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING 2 December, 1979

Present: Williams, Snads, Adair, Strawson, Oswald, Ellis, Harlow, Manzano, Clynes, Bigg, Brown, Dennis, Savage, Cannon, Hudson, Larkin

Late: Howard, Jones, Danner, Drake

Apologies: Inglefield (working on SC), Larkin (2pm-4pm POEU fraction), Brown (Rev.)

Seated: Luff, Mann, Matthews, Tettadorro (all from Central Committee), Shevek, Marston (Control Commission), Andre (full-timer) Dale

Chairperson: Dennis / Oswald      Minutes: Harlow

1. Agenda: Ellis reported

Strawson: PC agrees to seat cde Andre at all PC meetings with voice. Agreed.

2. Report on World Congress: Marston

Questions: Matthews, Manzano, Larkin

Contribution: Strawson, Clynes, Howard, Cannon, Adair, Jones, Harlow, Andre, Ellis, Manzano, Williams, Banner

Summary: Marston

Procedure for report-backs to branches:

Manzano amendment to Biggs:

a. Add Nicaragua to report back, b. The Marston report and summary be the basis of an extended report for Socialist Challenge      7/1/7      CARRIED

Biggs resolution:

a. That we circulate as soon as possible the factual material from the World Congress, including the minutes      b. That we circulate a discussion bulletin with different written assessments of the World Congress from the cdes present at it.

c. That the leadership tour the whole organisation on the question of the split in the FI      10-5-2      CARRIED

Ellis: resolution:

That comrade Marston's report, including the assessment of the World Congress discussion be taken as the basis of leadership reports to all branches      2/12/2      DEFEATED

Williams resolution:

That the report back should take the form of the circulation of the written record of the World Congress as soon as it is produced, and the leadership should organise discussions throughout the organisation, allocating all the necessary resources, as it decides necessary      4-7-5      DEFEATED

Jones resolution (withdrawn, and moved again by Howard)

To write up cde Marston's report on the World Congress for distribution as a report back in the branches      7-2-6      CARRIED

Strawson resolution (withdrawn in light of above resolutions being carried)

a. Marston report back be written up-      b. circulation of key texts eg. Nicaragua and Kampuchea in order to encourage to have reports on the position contained in these texts      c. reports on the split in the FI

Williams:

All points other than point 3 in Biggs resolution be referred back to the PB for further discussion and report to the next CC      7-5-2      CARRIED

Strawson: withdrawn

That reports on Nicaragua should take the form of reports on the different positions represented at the World Congress

Manzano: withdrawn

That the reports on Nicaragua be postponed until after the CC. The reports to be based on positions taken by the CC

3. Hearing of Charges against cde Monica, Sligo, IH

Procedure by Ellis: That the comrades are invited to the meeting. That cde Manzano presents charges. The comrades have the right of report and time given to the PB to ask the comrades questions. That the cdes leave the meeting until the PC decides on the charges, and that the motions are put to the PC for voting

3. Agenda: Inglefield/Howard

That we take discussion on carrying Asahn's article in SC for 30 minutes

5-14-0 DEFEATED

Ellis: That we move immediately to the report on disciplinary charges 10-7 CARRIED

Clynes: That we take discussion on the IEC elections after hearing charges AGREED

4. Situation in the IMG following the split in the FI: Manzano

Information item on security: Shevek

Contribution: Biggs, Howard, Strawson, Jones, Harlow, Jenkins, Clynes, Adair, Matthews

Summary: Manzano

Biggs amendment: The putting of this resolution in the branches should be in the context of the report backs from the leadership to the branches on the split in the FI 14-0-2-1

Strawson amendment: to delete last sentence of Jones resolution 2-8-0-1

Resolution from Jones: To implement the decision of the World Congress concerning members of the FI the following procedure should be adopted. The resolution adopted at the World Congress shall be voted in each branch. All those who do not vote FOR cease to be, by resolution of the World Congress, members of the FI and of the IMG. All those branches and members wish have already voted for the resolution sent out by the special leadership meeting, shall be deemed to have complied with the decision of the World Congress vote and need not revoice. 13-4-1-1

Manzano resolution: The PC reaffirms the decision of the SLM to recommend all branches vote on the resolution contained in the circular "Decisions of the Leadership concerning the split in the FI" 11-5-2-1

Strawson resolution: To refer the problem of LCC cdes to the PB 14-0-0-1

Harlow resolution: Branches should be informed that attendance at meetings taking a report on the split in the FI, and where the PC motion is being put is mandatory. This means that all reasons for non-attendance should be agreed in advance by the branch and apologies have to be accepted by vote of the branch. Written votes are acceptable where apologies have been accepted by the branch. Comrades who feel unable to vote without discussion should be given opportunity to be informed and vote at a later stage. It is the responsibility of the branch leadership to ensure this happens as rapidly as possible. 13-0-2- CARRIED

5. Hearing of disciplinary charges (see bottom of previous page for beginning of item)

Seated: Monica, Sligo, IH

Manzano: Charges presented

Reply: Sligo, Monica, IH

Questions: Strawson, Clynes, Shevek, Luff

Three comrades requested to leave meeting, and left

Jones: That the cdes are invited to remain during the discussion without speaking rights AGREED non con.

The three comrades were accordingly invited, but declined to attend.

Summary: Manzano

Resolution of the PC

The Political Committee has found the following charges placed against the following comrades:

1. That cde Monica:

a. organised a meeting between cde Moreno and the WSL, outside the framework of the IMG. The aim of the meeting was to organise to destroy the FI.

b. publically attacked the IMG and the FI at meetings of the ICL and the Socialist Labour Group (OCRFI)

These actions are contrary to section 2 of the IMG constitution.

2. That cdes Monica, Sligo and IH have:

a. organised the public distribution of the Bolshevik Faction Information Bulletin No.3 outside the framework of the IMG

Manzano (continued)

- b. have rejected the organisational framework of the IMG by making clear through their actions that they only accept the discipline of the Bolshevik Faction.
- c. attended a Bolshevik Faction meeting with a comrade outside the FI.

That these actions are contrary to sections 2 and 8 of the IMG constitution. The IMG PC therefore resolves that given the seriousness of these charges that cde Monica, Sligo and IH are expelled from the IMG. 20-0-0-0

Manzano on procedure:

1. That the Nat Sec produce an amended form of the Document "Concerning the charges Against Monica, Sligo, and IH" based on the discussion at the PC
2. That cde Strawson motivate these expulsions to the Colchester branch on Tuesday, 4/12/79. This to take priority over other matters and the branch meeting. CARRIED

Biggs Addendum to procedure:

That a letter box sent to each branch from which the cdes expelled come from, making clear that they have been expelled from the IMG, they have no rights to attend branch meetings, but do have the right to appeal to the CC and IMG conference. AGREED

Note: For the voting on the charges, cde Inglefield was present, but had not been present during the hearing and discussion on the charges and therefore did not cast a vote.

n/c That cde Strawson leave the meeting to inform the cdes of the decision.

6. Agenda:

Manzano: Discussion on the IEC is not taken today 8-7 carried

Manzano: 8-9 defeated

Jones: continue with 5 minute break 6-6 falls

Williams: Break for 1 hour 6-6 falls

Strawson: Break for -40 minutes falls

Biggs: Continue with no break: falls

Williams: meeting adjourns now: fell in light of Strawson resolution

Strawson: Continue after 35 minutes break 8-1 carried

The meeting reconvered with apologies from Dennis and Savage and the arrival of Brown and Ingelfield

Chairperson: Manzano

7. Elections to IEC: Ellis reported

Extended contribution: Luff

Questions: Biggs, Larkin, Inglefield, Williams, Brown, Banner

Contributions: Jones, Larkin, Cannon, Adair, Williams, Ingelfield, Harlow, Strawson, Banner, Manzano, Marston.

Summaries: Luff, Ellis

On the ITC: Cannon amendment to Jones

That all in point two following "at IEC meetings with voice..." be deleted 10-2-3-0

Final resolution:

1. The IMG PC considers that an important mistake was made at the World Congress in not electing a member of the LTT loyal to the FI to the IEC. If there was any doubt concerning the status of any particular individual or grouping this could have been resolved by allocating a place on the IEC and filling it if following the meeting of LTT members who rejected the split in January. By that time, the status of all cdes would have been clear.
2. The PC urges the IEC to overcome this situation by seating a member of the LTT at IEC meetings with voice, or alternatively for the section to remedy the situation by substituting a member of the LTT for a place of the IEC.