

17

REPORT AND AGENDA FOR THE INDIAN PROGRESSIVE YOUTH ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING
to be held at 7.15 p.m. on the 13th October 1977 at Pollard Park Middle School,
Byron Road, Bradford 3. (turning off Barkerend Road).

Membership :

As of the 18th September, membership of the IPYA stood at 71, of which 12 were honorary members.

Activities to date :

At the General Meeting of 29th May 1977, an interim Committee which had prepared that meeting, was mandated to continue functioning till the next General Meeting and guide the day to day work of the IPYA. Mr Joginder Singh was proposed for co-option to the Committee in order to liaise with Sports activities. Tarlochan Singh was appointed Organiser and Kewal Singh Jagpal as Treasurer. Up to the time of preparation of this report, the Committee has met on the following dates : 7-7-77; 20-7-77; 3-8-77; 10-8-77; 18-8-77; 1-9-77; and 26-9-77. During this time, a number of Committee members, for reasons of work, personal and other commitments, have been unable to fulfill their obligations.

To date, activities of the IPYA, as implemented by the Committee have included the following. It should be pointed out that the Committee, and its individual members, are responsible for their actions to the General Body of the IPYA :

(i) affiliation to the Bradford Community Relations Council;

(ii) participation in the work of the Bradford Community Relations Council (BCRC) Education Panel through Kewal Singh;

(iii) organising public meeting on the theme of "Youth against Racism" on 12th August 1977, and which attracted 70 people. It was addressed by Marsha Singh for the IPYA, M. Ajeeb for the BCRC, and Kamlesh Gandhi for the Grunwick Strike Committee. The collection, totalling £13-17²p, was donated to the Grunwick Strike Committee, to help cover the costs of their speaker.

(iv) monitoring the local and national press : press cuttings of articles and letters devoted to racialism and race relations are being filed. Letters in reply to published articles and letters have been written from time to time.

(v) racial harassment in Bradford : recently there have been two confrontations of a very serious character. The first was at the Ring Bar in Rawson's Hotel on Friday 15th July, and mainly involved West Indian and White youth. The next evening, the NF threatened to go to the "Sun", a pub used by many Asian youths and anti-racists in general. The IPYA in conjunction with the IWA (Amberley St) organised late night transportation, in case of violence and racial harassment. The second was on Friday 22nd July in the Duchess of Kent in which anti-racists and some supporters of the IPYA were involved. In general, the increase in racial harassment seems to be co-inciding with the re-emergence of the Teddy Boys.

(vi) On 13th August, the NF organised a march through Lewisham on the theme of opposing "Black muggers". In response, there were attempts to get the NF march banned, when these failed, a counter-demonstration was organised. Although the IPYA was not represented there as a collective body, individual members went along. The Police reacted extremely brutally against anti-racists and anti-fascists. The IPYA has written to :

(a) the Home Secretary, criticising him for not banning the NF demo, and for supporting the Metropolitan Police Commissioner McNee. Furthermore, we pointed out that a Labour Home Secretary condoning racist marches would only estrange Black Labour voters.

(b) Bradford MPs : we proposed a meeting with them and representatives of local Black organisations to discuss the best ways of fighting the influence of racism and fascism in the area.

(c) local anti-racist and anti-fascist organisations, proposing a defence fund for victims of racial and Police harassment, and an independent inquiry of Black, Labour and Trade Union organisations into the brutal Police behaviour in Lewisham.