

THE SECRET HISTORY OF LSE.

LSE students have a long history of struggle. The most recent events are the logical outcome of developments internally and nationally of the student movement. LSE is a paradigm. The large mass of LSE students have opposed the Adams administration from the appointment of Adams onwards. Their opposition has been expressed in many forms, from the investment of businessmen involved in Viet Nam at LSE (and the capital interests of the Board of Governors) to the demand for democratisation of the educational process. Basically the demands, as at other colleges engaged in struggle, resolve into the increasing struggle against authoritarianism in the universities and attacks on the working class.

The iron gates installed at LSE after the October 27th Occupation symbolise the essential unity of the struggle against the forces of repression. The gates are both symbols of the whole repressive apparatus and real physical instruments of repression. The October 27th Occupation was an integral part of the political struggle against US imperialism in Viet Nam but the gates were installed directly against the students within LSE as part of the repressive strategy towards the internal struggle of students there.

The original decision of the Union to set a deadline for the removal of the gates and to take direct action if the Administration failed to do this was passed by a large majority. Initiative and demands have often come from the broad mass of the students and not always from the established left groupings. In an atmosphere of rumours (well-documented) that Adams was planning the closure of the school and the introduction of new repressive discipline measures, (staff identification of critical students), the students union voted for negotiations by a majority of about 30 with over 300 still demanding direct action. Preliminary negotiation took place with Adams offering the ludicrous compromise of removing one gate! At the General Meeting on Friday the demand for direct action to remove the gates was passed by a majority of six, on a recount with double tellers and systematic counting the majority was revealed to be in fact 52 (abstentions and against remaining virtually the same). The gates were duly removed in an orderly manner despite harassment by certain professors. After a large general meeting in the Old Theatre the students dispersed. Later that night large numbers of police, invited in by Adams, cordoned off a Bar Social and systematically combed the students attending and with the enthusiastic support and aid of a number of faculty 'identified' a few individuals. The close assistance of university administration with the police and their encouragement to place 'conspiracy' charges reveal quite clearly the political nature of this victimisation and the desire to totally suppress student militants. Following this attack and the closure of the school over 200 students spontaneously demonstrated in a march and a sit down outside Bow Street police station with the result that many further arrests were made.

It is essential to note that whenever democracy is practised by the active democrats of the school (and they are the only people who have a claim to be called democrats) the official Union Democracy is placed in an untenable situation. Unable to fulfil its normal function as agent of social control in alliance with the administration and unwilling to reveal their antipathy to real democracy resignations are inevitable, first Crouch and now Keohane. Throughout the recent history of LSE the Union President has failed to represent the democratic demands of the students and has acted as mediator for the Administration. When the student Body decides to act as a body his role is usurped.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE RSSF.

To date:RSSF mailing to all base units sent out on 22nd and 23rd to provide initial information on new LSE struggle. Both the NC of RSSF and the LSE Action Committee met Sat and Sun. Reports were received from Lancaster, Essex, Cambridge, Bradford, Sussex, SOAS, Oxford, Leicester, Chelsea, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Kent, and both Manchester IET and University. Warwick acted swiftly on Thurs, and before the school closed declared 'You occupy:we occupy.'

The mood is buoyant, the mobilisation for major decision making is under way. A mass meeting of LSE comrades is organised for Monday.

RSSF NC decided to call for solidarity. We are clearly in a new situation, faced with systematic repression by the nationally organised vice-chancellors. Firm positions need to be adopted which go beyond traditional forms of solidarity: to attack is the best form of defence. It was clear from reports received and from the discussions on Sat and Sun that in the initial phase of struggle our real power base is in our own institutions. The question, then, is how to attack from our own bases. Immediate meetings of RSSF militants must be called. Contact with the centre and other student institutions must be maintained.

DEMANDS: Confront VC's by demanding outright condemnation of the Adams' regime at the LSE. This demand will link, in most cases, with your own struggles; demands for student power and control over disciplinary procedures. RSSF has already distributed the dates of campus recruitment by firms involved in Viet Nam, Rhodesia and South Africa. Many colleges challenging the big business connections of governors. All these demands are a challenge to the VC's power.

The length of the LSE closure is uncertain; our solidarity must be sustainable. Sporadic protests often achieve success without systematic organisation. In this situation, organisational coherence is at a premium. Contact with the centre is the only way to respond with speed to the changing pattern of the struggle.

ACTION: Meet. Discuss the documents. Produce leaflets and posters, vote funds from union meeting etc. Where VC's persist in collaboration with Adams the mode of solidarity must be to escalate to confrontation. Local action is necessary in the initial phase--that much is clear. At a later stage numerical strength may be required in London, comrades should be prepared to bring contingents at short notice.

PHONE NUMBERS: RSSF NC Office (manned until late at night) 01 -FLE-5735. Information on the LSE situation from 01-FIT-1585 and 01-267-0291.

LSE'S STRUGGLE IS YOUR STRUGGLE.