

## RSSF MANIFESTO and CONSTITUTION (draft)

The students and youth of Europe and America are awakening to a new revolutionary consciousness. They are challenging the old reactionary social order and fighting for a new society free from exploitation and oppression. Their powerful militant actions in support of the national liberation movements of Asia, Africa and Latin America, and particularly in support of the heroic people of Vietnam against U.S. imperialist aggression, have brought them face to face with the state power of the capitalist class in their own countries. This state power confronts them also in their struggle against the decadent bourgeois educational system. As a result they are growing steadily more aware of the need to unite with the working class against the common enemy. This unity of students and workers, deepening from day to day, is bringing about a new high tide of mass revolutionary struggles in the very heartland of capitalism and is ensuring its doom.

In the world-wide struggle for freedom and social advance students and youth, indeed all revolutionary peoples, are pitted against two main enemies: the imperialist forces of the United States and the Soviet Union, which are closely collaborating to redivide and dominate the world.

In Britain the revolutionary students and youth have been in the vanguard of the forces opposing imperialism. Their indomitable spirit and courageous defiance of the brutal state machine have created panic in the hearts of the ruling class and its agents in the working class movement. Their militant actions are leading to the rapid development of a broad revolutionary movement of the British people.

British students are realising more and more that the capitalist system of education is designed only to turn them into tools for the exploitation and oppression of the working class at home and for plunder and war abroad. This system denies real opportunities of education to the majority of working class children. It promotes selfish careerism and ambitions for personal wealth and social prestige among a small elite. The training of this small elite of scientists, technologists, managers and skilled personnel has the aim of increasing the efficiency and productivity of the working class. As a result it leads to greater profits for the bosses and more intense exploitation of the vast majority of workers.

Under the capitalist system, the function of the social sciences and humanities is to perpetuate the concepts and ideology of the exploiters, to corrupt and benumb the consciousness of the masses. As for the graphic arts, architecture and design, literature, the stage, the cinema, journalism, radio and television--all are used for sales promotion, to dupe the masses and reap richer profits for the capitalists. The church in its modern garb injects its own dope of capitalist morality. "Whiter than white", commercialised sex and LSD--these are the hallmarks of decadent bourgeois culture.

The administrative control and management of schools, research centres and institutions of "higher learning" are all in the stranglehold of big business and of armaments manufacturers, the purveyors of mass starvation, death and destruction. The suffocating stench of the decaying social order stifles all initiative, all creative talent that should be used to serve the people, not oppress them. To join the imperialist army and become cannon fodder--such is the bright prospect the ruling class offers to British youth.

The revolutionary storms of the national liberation movements of Asia, Africa and Latin America have shaken and weakened the very foundations of the world capitalist system. Decadent, dying British imperialism is gripped with ever deepening crisis. The British ruling class, whether represented by the Tory or the Labour Party, has become more and more dependent upon and subservient to U.S. imperialism. In order to protect its overseas imperialist interests it aids and abets the U.S. policies of war and aggression. At home, to maintain its profits, it has launched vicious attacks on the working class,

frozen their wages and created mass unemployment. It incites racialism to divide the working class, to disrupt their unity, and attacks their hard-won democratic and trade union rights. Sell-out of the independence and sovereignty of Britain to the U.S. and Continental monopolists, and the iron heel of fascism for the British people--this is the policy of the British ruling class in its present impasse. It is against this imperialist system of exploitation and oppression that the revolutionary students of Britain have raised the banner of revolt. Their battle cry is socialist revolution.

It is only with the British working class as the main force and leader that all the revolutionary forces can be mobilised to overthrow the rule of capitalism and establish working class power. Revolutionary students, teachers and intellectuals must wholeheartedly unite with the working class, not only to oppose the onslaught of the ruling class and defend their economic interests and democratic liberties, but above all to struggle for the victory of the socialist revolution.

Revolutionary students, teachers and workers must wage a united struggle for the overthrow of the capitalist system of education. The courses and syllabuses of study must serve the working class and not the bosses and their profits. Only a powerful people's movement, with the revolutionary students in the forefront, can establish a democratic system of education, which serves the working class and is run under the democratic control of the workers', students' and teachers' representatives. In order to bring about this fundamental change in society all revolutionaries must master and defend the principles of scientific socialism, Marxism-Leninism.

It is with the following noble aims that the Revolutionary Socialist Student Federation (RSSF) is established.

Workers, students and teachers unite:

1. To overthrow the capitalist system of education and society in order to construct a democratic system of education to serve the working class and socialist revolution.
2. To overthrow imperialism and support national liberation movements.
3. To eradicate all forms of racial, national and cultural oppression.
4. With workers, students, teachers and revolutionary people of all countries to overthrow the system of imperialist exploitation and oppression and to struggle for workers' power and the victory of socialism all over the world.

PART II

STRUCTURE and CONSTITUTION of R.S.S.F.

ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP

1. Individual membership: any student, teacher, or worker, who accepts the aims and objectives as contained in the Manifesto of the RSSF shall become a member upon paying the quarterly subscription of five shillings on application.
2. Organizational membership: (a) A local group with a minimum membership of twenty, who accept the Manifesto and pay an annual fee of £2. 0. 0. can become an affiliated member; (b) National organizations which accept the Manifesto and pay £5. 0. 0. can become an affiliated member.
3. Half the subscriptions shall be remitted to the Central Executive Committee (see below), the remainder being retained by the branches.

ARTICLE II: NATIONAL COUNCIL

1. There shall be a National Council (NC) as follows:
  - (a) Any branch of the RSSF in any educational institution, factory or community is entitled to have one representative on the NC for every ten individual members.
  - (b) The local affiliated groups shall be entitled to have two representatives on the NC.
  - (c) The national affiliated organizations shall be entitled to have four representatives on the NC.
2. The NC shall meet at least three times a year, the quorum being one fourth of its membership.

ARTICLE III: CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Each year, following the national conference (see below), the NC shall elect a Central Executive Committee (CEC) as follows:
  - (a) President
  - (b) Three Vice-Presidents
  - (c) General secretary
  - (d) Eight joint secretaries, one for each region according to the following: Wales, Scotland, Ireland, North East England, North West, Midlands, London and Home Counties, and South West.
  - (e) Treasurer
  - (f) Fifteen ordinary members.
2. The CEC shall implement the decisions of the NC and the national conference and will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the RSSF.
3. The CEC shall meet at least once a month, the quorum being ten members.
4. The CEC shall make its own bye-laws and shall allocate various responsibilities to its members.

ARTICLE IV: ANNUAL NATIONAL DELEGATE CONFERENCE

1. The CEC shall convene the Annual National Delegate Conference (ANDC) of the RSSF in November.
2. The CEC shall make all the arrangements for, and decide the basis for participation in, the ANDC.
3. All proposals for the ANDC shall be forwarded to the General Secretary not later than October 1st.
4. The ANDC shall be the highest organ of the RSSF, both with regard to

policy and organization.

ARTICLE V: THE GENERAL SECRETARY

1. The general secretary shall convene the meetings of the NC and CEC at clear notice of three weeks along with a written agenda.
2. The general secretary shall call extraordinary meetings of the NC at a written requisition by one-tenth of the NC members or by 30 branches of the RSSF.
3. The general secretary can call an emergency meeting of the CEC or NC at a notice of one week or a fortnight respectively.
4. The general secretary shall have responsibility for keeping all records, including membership, which shall be available to any member at written request given one week notice.

ARTICLE VI: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

1. The Constitution shall be amended at the Annual National Delegate Conference on the initiative of the CEC, or on the proposal from any branch, affiliated group or organization; or at a special national conference requisitioned by at least 30 branches or affiliated groups, or one tenth of the total membership.
2. All proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the general secretary four weeks in advance of the special conference.
3. The amendments shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present at the conference.

ARTICLE VII: DECISION MAKING

All decisions but for those regarding the Constitution shall be taken by a simple majority vote.

ARTICLE VIII: LOCAL AND REGIONAL STRUCTURE

Wherever regional committees are set up the joint secretary shall be responsible for convening the regional meetings for the purpose of coordination with national RSSF. The local branches and regional committees shall draft their own rules in accordance with the Manifesto and Constitution of RSSF.

---

submitted by:-

E.M. Davoren (Regent St. Polytechnic)	Bob Wilkinson (Sussex)
Fawzi Ibrahim (Regent St. Polytechnic)	Keith Turner (Sussex)
Marion J. Bennett (West London College)	Michael Klein (Sussex)
Chris Mackinnon (Norwood Girls School)	Gillian Parker (Sussex)
David Mackinnon (Courage brewery)	Barbara Davoren (L.S.E.)
Mike Child (Archway Secondary School)	Sam Mauger (Goldsmiths College)
J.H. Ritson (Cambridge)	H. Brooks (Coventry Corporation)
M.L. Coulouris (Sir John Cass College)	M. Heath (Coventry Tech)
C.M. Bueno del Carpio (Woolwich Polytechnic)	C. Heath (Coventry Tech)
D.W.T. Chen (London Hospital)	M. Faulkner (GLC Parks Dept.)
Adolfo Olaechea (Westminster College)	G. Lee (G.E.C.)
	S.A. Islam (N.W. Polytechnic)