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25th Anniversary of the Death of Comrade Hardial Bains
August 24, 1997

Tribute of the Youth

- Youth for Democratic Renewal -



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Funeral of Comrade Hardial Bains
August 30, 1997

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Every year, on August 24, party youth join representatives of the Central Committee and, together with members of the local party organization, they pay respects at the Party Memorial in Beechwood Cemetery. The Tribute of the Youth to Comrade Bains, delivered on August 24, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his loss, on August 24, 1997, follows.

Today's youth organized under the leadership of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), pay profound tribute to their ever-present leader, teacher and guide, Comrade Hardial Bains who passed away on this day, 25 years ago. We are joined in this salute by the youth of the '90s generation who are now educating us in the conditions of today as Comrade Bains taught them to do.

The youth of the '90s had the good fortune to work with Comrade Bains directly at a young age. He taught them to unite the people in action on the basis of consciously participating in individual acts of finding out to open society's path to progress on that basis. This is the example we follow and learn from. It is by acting consciously, working as a collective, learning together and taking up social responsibility that the revolutionary youth of today are guided to acquire a world outlook consistent with the demands of the times, as Comrade Bains always guided them to do. To humanize the natural and social environment, our fidelity is to the relations between humans and humans and humans and nature and to what they reveal, which is how to empower ourselves each step of the road we have taken.

Comrade Bains was himself schooled and disciplined by the mass struggle of the people of his native Punjab at the young age of eight or nine when he engaged in revolutionary actions of the people striving for Indian independence. He experienced the treachery of the British and their servants in India who made sure the people could not fulfill their aspirations for liberation, freedom and democracy based on a system of rule which empowered them, not those who took over the mantle of the British Raj in 1947 when they partitioned India and in 1950 when they imposed a Constitution on India designed to keep the people out of power.



Disciplined by the movement and its inherent demands, first in India and then Canada where he arrived in 1959, Comrade Bains profoundly understood the need for a revolutionary political party capable of educating the educators and winning the working class and people to bring about their own emancipation. The necessity to build such a Party and the kind of Party which is needed, we also learn from Comrade Bains. We therefore carry out all our actions on the basis of organization and the mass ideological and political mobilization required to achieve success.

On this occasion, we reiterate what the communist youth said to Comrade Bains in the Farewell Message they delivered at his funeral, held on August 30, 1997 at the Convention Centre in Gatineau, Quebec, the city he resided in and where he worked with the youth during the last decade of his life. The Tribute of the Youth addressed Comrade Bains directly, pledging that the youth would follow his lead by dedicating their greatest energies to the struggle of the younger generation for the world which is striving to come into being, as he did throughout his life.

Farewell Message of the Youth

*Funeral of Comrade Hardial Bains
August 30, 1997*



Comrade Bains, we had the great honour of closely working with you and although only for a short time, it seems as if we have known you for all our lives. Such was your intense passion for the youth! Such was your patience, generosity and warmth! Such was your dedication to assisting the youth and all those who shared your resolve to open the door for the progress of society!

Comrade Bains, you are gone but your words and deeds live on and comfort us in our profound grief. "Do not shed a tear," you said shortly before you were to fall asleep forever. "March on!" Let us follow this advice and turn our sorrow into strength. Comrade Bains, we will march on!

"The past only has beauty if it exists in the form of the present, and the revolution only has relevance if it finds its adherents from one generation to the next." We will never forget your inspirational words, dear Comrade Bains. You will always be remembered as the founder of *The Internationalists* and the Canadian Youth and Student Movement in the sixties. It is true, the struggles that lie ahead will be momentous, but thanks to the revolutionary traditions that you founded in Canada, the future of the youth shines brighter than ever. Step by step, under the experienced leadership of the Party, we are preparing for the revolutionary storms that glimmer on the horizon.

Comrade Bains, your life and work will live on forever. Today we are a small force in the same way that you and your comrades were a small force in 1962-63. But this is still the epoch of imperialism and proletarian revolution and the retreat of revolution is as certain to turn into flow as the sun will rise tomorrow. This is what dialectics teaches us. Your life and work will live on forever and your name will be spoken by millions of workers, women and youth who will come to know of your immeasurable contribution to humanity's forward march. In 1967 you declared: *"This great humanity has said enough and has started to move forward!"* Today, we are marching forward; tomorrow humanity will join in.

You can be sure that in the struggles to come your spirit will always be with us. We will carry on the glorious struggle for socialism and communism, guided by the proletarian world outlook, and transform the success of revolution in the 20th century into its final victory.

As you told us in January, "As young people, let everyone know your stand through your revolutionary actions. Already, you have made great headway. You did not have your study groups before. Now you have them. You did not have your *Voice of Youth* before. Now you have it. Go on like this until the time you have revolution. It is at that time that you will speak out with utmost happiness and joy -- Hurrah! We have now acquired our world outlook! And you will declare to the world: The world is ours."

***All Glory to the Life and Work of Comrade Hardial Bains!
We Will March On!
Long Live the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist)!***

(CPC(M-L) Archives)

The Work of Comrade Hardial Bains with the Youth of the '90s

- Enver Villamizar -

The work of Hardial Bains, founder and leader of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), with the youth of the '90s generation was considerable. He always made it a priority to speak with the youth, mobilize them and provide them with the kind of education which helped them cope with their reality.



An afternoon with the youth, Toronto, August 30, 1992

As part of the generation of youth of the 1990s who had the honour of joining the work to organize youth and students under the leadership of Hardial, I have many fond memories. One of them is the work we did when Comrade Bains led us on how to organize an important conference on the theme: *The Future Belongs to the Youth*. A preparatory meeting was held in the Party offices in Gatineau. Youth attended from different parts of Canada and Quebec. That meeting which set the organizing work for the conference was a turning point in my own life and the lives of many others who attended or who joined the work it set. Comrade Bains inspired us to be in the forefront of the struggle to open the door for the progress of society.



Comrade Bains addressed the Preparatory Meeting to organize the Conference: *The Future Belongs to the Youth* December 1996.

He made it clear that the problems we faced as youth were not ours or of our own making, but were inherent to the existing society. Therefore, to address these problems, he pointed out that we had to address the society itself. It is in the changing of the society that these problems can be solved, Comrade Bains explained. This, he said, would give rise to new problems. Without problems to solve there is no life, he used to say, but make sure the problems are of your own making, not those which are dumped on you and stifle you.

Putting things in this way it was clear to us that it was vital that we put our energies towards

changing the society itself rather than just railing against this or that person or bad policy and the practice of those who govern over us which we didn't agree with. This meant that as youth we had to take up building a bright future for ourselves by empowering ourselves in the present.

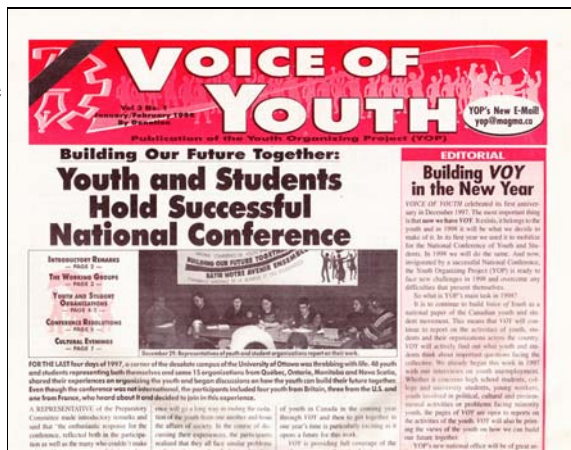
Looking back, the title of that conference we organized was very important: ***The Future Belongs to the Youth*** -- and it is up to us to make it a future of our own making. It is not a matter of just taking over what already exists and trying to tweak it or just fit in to a status quo that we know is unjust. This is huge when one considers what we were taught in school -- that *the youth are the future* which means they have to make the right choices in high school or else their future will suck and they only have themselves to blame. It might be the right courses, the right career, the right sports, volunteering activities, etc., but the aim is to fit in and find a place within the structures which exist "if you want to amount to anything."

Comrade Bains and the Party set us straight -- we are not the problem and it's not a matter of fixing ourselves so our future is good. ***We must change the society itself so that our future is ours.***

At that meeting, we set out with Comrade Bains and the Party on a path to hold a National Conference of Youth and Students the following year by establishing a preparatory committee which would take charge of the organizing. All kinds of things arose out of that decision such as how do we popularize the conference, what will its agenda be, who should be invited, who will speak, and so on. It was in the solving of these problems in the course of being in the forefront of the political battles at that time that we learned together. Comrade Bains gave us the framework so that we could work as a collective, learn together and take up our social responsibility. These are the principles of the Youth Organizing Project (YOP) adopted by Youth for Democratic Renewal which are inscribed on their banner today.

When Comrade Bains passed away a year later it was a tremendous loss to us the youth, to the Party, to the country and for the revolutionary movement. However, he gave us this Party, these principles and an outlook which has as its central aim the flourishing of the human person to its fullest potential under all conditions and circumstances, no matter how difficult or bleak they may seem at the time.

We held the national conference as decided, bringing together youth from all over Canada and Quebec and even internationally. From there the Youth Organizing Project started organizing YOP camps, many in the Gatineau Hills, as regular convergences of youth and students from across Canada and with contingents of youth from countries with which we had established bonds of friendship and common work. Today we have many projects and even important infrastructure to build on. We are now defining new projects consistent with the needs of the youth and students today as they strive to build a bright future for themselves by humanizing the natural and social environment.







Youth camps were organized in the Gatineau hills by the Youth Organizing Project.

I would like to end with a quote from that meeting held to establish the preparatory committee for the National Conference, from the keynote speech that Comrade Bains delivered. He said:

The past only has beauty if it exists in the form of the present, and the revolution only has relevance if it finds its adherents from one generation to the next. Our getting together here today is the coming together of the generation of the nineties along the sure footsteps of the generation of the sixties, on the basis of the great exploits of the peoples who rose against imperialism, fascism and all reaction and on the road of the Great October Revolution. We have gathered here today to make one decision, a decision which seems so ordinary and simple. Yet, this decision to establish the Preparatory Committee for the National Youth and Students' Conference will have far-reaching consequences for decades to come. This decision will have in its fold all the decisions which will be made to pave the road of revolution for the next generation.



To the new generation of youth who are taking up this work on their own terms under today's conditions, we trust that our experiences inspired by Comrade Bains and the Party can assist you as together we take up the cause of creating a new society where you don't have to "fit in" but, instead, it is the society which is made fit for all human beings without exception.



The Work of Youth for Democratic Renewal

- *Alexandre Cubaynes* -

One of the most important features of the work of Youth for Democratic Renewal (YDR) is how we deal with the fact that the youth and students are presented with a very definite situation. The question is posed: What must the youth and students do to secure their future at this time? In other words, the youth are organized by the very task emerging out of the concrete conditions. They are not organized according to some sectarian principles imposed on the situation by some would-be revolutionaries or reformers.

By dealing with the actual conditions of the youth and students, and by posing the question "What Next?" young people are expressing their opinions to one another. There are some youth and students who are already organized with very definite ideas guiding their work. There are other young people who are looking towards the YDR for leadership and organization. There are those who just want to participate in work or actions. What brings them together and unites them

is their resolve to deal with the concrete conditions facing the youth and students and to find ways to open the path for their work.

Sectarianism in modern times is the most reactionary thing there is. Every sectarian cares only about the well-being of their own sect, and subordinates the well-being of all to it. The real world tells the youth that what is needed is to subordinate all organizations and their work to the success of the work to open the path forward for the youth and students. The Youth Organizing Project (YOP) Camps and other activities linked to the work of Youth for Democratic Renewal, including the participation in political affairs during elections, have only one consideration: to involve all youth and students to open a path for themselves in order to secure their future. This imparts to this work its most progressive character.



Youth and students who participate in YDR work and activities and YOP camps are called on to work out their own opinions beforehand. This means that events are used to deal with the problems of organizing to achieve success, and not whether this person's or that group's opinion is right or wrong. The youth cannot afford to lose their focus, their aim in getting together which is to organize the events they decide to carry out. All participants are called on to contribute their creative energies to the success of this work.



Youth for Democratic Renewal is not just an organization. It is also a way of looking at things and doing them. All participants are called upon not only to implement the decisions, but also to participate in arriving at them. The entire work of arriving at decisions and implementing them places the participants in the position of being both decision-makers and decision-implementers. YDR and the YOP principles and methods of work truly place everyone in a position of equality and leadership. These are:

Learning Together Working As a Collective Taking Up Social Responsibility

The youth face conditions that are most destructive to their economic and spiritual well-being. Managers regularly demand that the youth speed up at work, yet all the while they must remain eternally grateful to have jobs! In other words, they are forced to submit not only to economic exploitation but also to the capitalist dictate: Do not think of anything else except "life" within this system. For all intents and purposes, these youth feel as if they are on the margins of society and life, which is materially and spiritually devastating.



Youth organize picket against the glorification of Nazism, Ottawa, August 21, 2021.

As if this were not enough, their concerns are trivialized by those who speak about their oppression not as an occasion to work for the creation of a new society, which would guarantee a secure future for them, but to harp at them to aspire to having a bourgeois life minus all the inconveniences that go along with it.

For the youth to secure a future, they must fashion a profound life for themselves by being fully involved in creating that new life. It is this life of struggle and organizing that will place them at the centre-stage of all developments and provide them with the wherewithal to change the situation.

Youth for Democratic Renewal is one such prospect. The working class youth must be in the forefront along with the student youth in building Youth for Democratic Renewal as an indispensable tool for the success of their work.

In 1996, Hardial Bains, with comradely affection, wrote a letter to the youth who took up the project of publishing *Voice of Youth*. Congratulating them on their initiative under the leadership of the Party, he wrote:

"Every new generation of youth has to learn to take hold of the affairs of the society from the older generation. This is certainly the case with the present generation of young people. But what will they learn and from whom? Will the new generation of youth merely take hold of the capitalist status quo and hope for the best? Or will it actually create a society capable of opening a path for the progress of the society? The younger generation can guarantee a future only if the path for the progress of society is opened.

"It is quite clear that the youth will have to learn not just to take over from the older generation, but specifically from that particular older generation that has engaged itself throughout its lifetime in opening the path for the progress of society. Such learning involves work, and very specific work for the progress of society. Your decision to publish *Voice of Youth* is a step in the right direction.

"While remaining loyal to the task of opening the path for the progress of society, youth must be extremely militant and broad-minded. Some will decide to learn Contemporary Marxist-Leninist Thought and join CPC(M-L), but they must not permit any divisions in the youth collective on this basis. They must forge the unity of the youth as a collective for the progress of society."



Those who want to become Marxist-Leninist, and more and more are coming forward as the revolutionary ebb wreaks havoc on society and the absence of political power is increasingly felt, must ensure that while they become the future cadres of CPC(M-L) they must be at the head of the political struggle and seek the unity of the entire collective of youth. Political struggle at this time has taken the form of the defeat of the anti-social offensive and the victory of the pro-social program on the basis of making way for democratic renewal. Youth must be in the front ranks of this struggle, opposing any ghettoization and marginalization, Comrade Bains pointed out.

Our organization has taken many successful initiatives in the past and many more are needed at this time. Basing ourselves on these past achievements, I am sure that we will enter the new school year ready to make our present initiatives to expand our youth radio, discussion and work for political empowerment successful as well.



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