

Conference notes:

_ That Israel's blockade of Gaza has now continued for over eighteen months preventing vital supplies including food and medicine from reaching the people of Gaza.

_ That over 1,440 Palestinians were killed during the first seventeen days of Israel's military offensive in Gaza of whom more than 400 were children (UN OCHA Report 12/01/2009).

_ That the Israeli Government acted in contravention of the IV Geneva Convention imposing collective punishment on the people of Gaza.

_ The sale of more than £18.8 million worth of British arms to Israel in 2008, up from £7.5 million in 2007.

Conference therefore instructs the NEC:

to call for an end to Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories.

to demand that the British government unequivocally condemns the Israeli military aggression against Gaza.

to demand the British government ends British arms sales to Israel.

to call for the immediate suspension of the EU-Israel Agreement providing preferential trade facilities to Israel.

to investigate whether any of the CWU's holdings are in companies engaged in building The Wall declared illegal by the International Court of Justice, and to divest from them.

with CWU member Trustees of pension funds, to investigate whether any of their holdings are in such companies and to campaign for their divestment.

to publicize principled trade union solidarity actions in support of the Palestinians by, e.g., the South African dockworkers in Durban, the Irish tramway drivers in Dublin, and the Norwegian rail workers for their two-minute strike in protest at the Israeli bombardment of Gaza.

to congratulate the organizers of the Viva Palestina Convoy of medical and humanitarian aid to Gaza.

to assist CWU members with information regarding local authority contracts with Veolia, the French company involved in building the light railway from Jerusalem to the illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories, thus encouraging campaigns to terminate such contracts.

to condemn the statement by Histadrut (Israel's TUC) backing the invasion of Gaza.

to contact the appropriate Palestinian communication workers' section of the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions to express the CWU's support for their members in occupied Palestinian territories.

to encourage branches to affiliate to the Palestine Solidarity Campaign.