

I. An "Organizing Committee for an Ideological Center" (hereafter referred to as "OC") is constituted.

II. The primary task of this body is the development of a political and organizational plan for building an ideological center. The plan should have four parts:

- a) it should further clarify and develop a conception of the goals, tasks, and nature of an ideological center for the tendency;
- b) it should clearly identify the basis of unity necessary to place an ideological center on a firm foundation and set forth the manner in which that unity can be prepared;
- c) it should identify any intermediate steps that may be necessary;
- d) it should specify the required resources, including literature, that would have to be prepared prior to the development of a center.

III. Secondary and related tasks of the OC are:

- a) organize a widespread discussion (internal and external) on the need to centralize the ideological struggle in our emerging trend;
- b) organize a broad discussion (internal and external) on why the 18 points are the proper basis of unity for a step forward in the development of our emerging trend, particularly highlighting the importance of point 18;
- c) publicize the constitution of the OC and its activities;
- d) take preliminary steps towards the actual centralization of the ideological struggle by publishing an internal OC discussion bulletin regularly;
- e) initiate a discussion (primarily internal) on the nature of the ultra-left line in the party-building movement. This discussion should encourage the presentation of the views of participants on party-building strategy;
- f) draw new forces into its ranks based upon their agreement with the principles of unity and the perspectives of the OC as they develop. Particular attention should be focused on developing concrete initiatives to strengthen the OC in its prime areas of weakness: oppressed nationality Marxist-Leninists, the West, South and Southwest;
- g) figure out a method and a mechanism to do a thorough investigation of the state of the trend (local organizations, groups, individuals, etc., throughout the country) in order to:
 - i) see how the national center can best facilitate local development and figure out what we can take up nationally (or where appropriate on a regional or local basis) in terms of theoretical and practical work, and
 - ii) provide analysis for the embryonic trend which will allow it to make sound tactical decisions on how to consolidate itself.

IV. The OC should meet every six months, making all basic policy decisions.

V. In order to implement OC decisions a steering committee should be constituted. That body should be composed of five persons elected for one year terms by the OC. It should meet at least twice in the intirim between OC meetings.

VI. Of the five elected steering committee members, the OC should designate one as Chairperson and one as Secretary. The Chairperson should be responsible for calling and organizing steering committee meetings, and should act as the primary public representative of the steering committee. The Secretary should handle all correspondence, and should be responsible for taking and distributing minutes of steering committee meetings.

VII. Finances should be drawn from equal contributions from each of the organizations participating in the OC. The amount should be set by the OC.

VIII. Local and regional comittees should also be organized of OC adherents where practicable. These committees should serve to complement the national OC's work.

Note to the Proposal:

It is necessary to draw your attention to several points about the enclosed "Proposal as amended at the February Conference":

- 1) There are a number of minor changes in wording which were made to try to bring the proposal in line with its adoption at the conference.
- 2) At the conference the Guardian raised an objection to the original wording of point I--that it implied that all organizations and individuals who voted for the proposal thereby expressed a desire to incorporate themselves into the OC. The wording of that point has been changed to leave open the question of participation in the OC.
- 3) The minutes interpret the motion that the Steering Committee "clarify the meaning of 'spirit of unity' in relation to the 18 principles of unity" as an amendment to the Concrete Proposal. I'm not certain but it seems to me that it was more a directive to the Steering Committee than an amendment, similar to #2 on page 3 of the minutes. In any case, this "amendment" does not really fit in the concrete proposal for two reasons. First, it is specific to the steering committee whereas all the other tasks listed are directed to the OC as a whole. Second, it is much more limited in nature than the other tasks and really only applies to dealing with the contradiction around point 18 as a line of demarcation, a contradiction which is likely to be of very short duration. For these reasons I have left this "amendment" out of the amended proposal.

The redrafted proposal will be presented to the steering committee for approval. If any comrades object to any of the changes I have made please write up your objections and send them to the steering committee c/o W. Foster, FWOOC, Box 11768, Phila., PA 19101.

CN /20 February 1978