

COMMENTS FROM COG TO SC/OCIC ON DRAFT PLAN FOR LEADING IDEOLOGICAL CENTER

COMRADES:

In reviewing and discussing the draft plan, COG members were concerned about the shortcomings of the characterization of ultra-leftism appearing on page 3 of the draft. Since this draft is to be circulated throughout the anti-left, anti-revisionist tendency and since the issue of ultra-leftism is central to our entire approach, we feel that the characterization of ultra-leftism should be as clear, correct and rigorous as possible. Instead of clarity and rigor, we found examples of the kind of sloppy polemic that too often passes for serious debate on the left.

To be more specific: "An immature political posturing is substituted for the necessary political line." What is immature political posturing? How is it different from necessary political line? Is this just another example of "my line is necessary, yours is immature posturing" or is there a specific methodological criticism behind the verbiage? If so, it should be brought out.

Similarly, "advanced fighters from the working class and oppressed nationalities are denied a genuine place in the party-building process." How are these advanced fighters denied a genuine place? How does a Marxist approach to involving workers and national minorities differ from an ultra-left approach?

We read that "revolutionaries are united on the basis of appeal to unquestioned prejudice." This is another example of accusation instead of analysis. If we see basic flaws in the ultra-left conception of the relation of theory to practice, we must attempt to explain our criticism so that we will raise the level of understanding both within and outside of the OCIC.

We in COG realize that the OCIC still does not have a deep and profound analysis of the nature of ultra-leftism but we feel that even at this time we must do better than we have in this document. COG would like to have been able to prepare an alternative section for consideration by the SC or the conference but we had neither the time nor the abilities to do this properly. We do not disagree with the direction of the assertions about ultra-leftism in the draft but we feel that a higher level of theoretical clarity is called for. We offer what help we can in reworking the draft before it is circulated more widely than it has been.

Fraternally,

LB for COG