

To all members

CONFERENCE SUNDAY 20th APRIL

Details: Place - Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1.
Club Room, booked in name of RCL.
Time - 10am to 5pm.

Attendance: We urge all comrades who can reasonably attend to do so. This is an important conference summing up major lessons and preparing the ground for a successful unity conference with the CWM on May 31st and 1st June. Where it is not reasonable for all comrades to attend please ensure that there is at least one representative from your area.

Structure of Conference:

The conference discussion will centre on the draft history of the RCL, which is enclosed. This is a first SC draft, which will be amended at the CC in the light of the comments and criticisms at the conference. In its amended form it will be presented as one of the resolutions at the unity conference for approval.

It is hoped that early on in the conference at least one comrade from each ^{geographical} area could make some comments about how much the draft conforms to their own experience and understanding. This is to get an RCL-wide view. Could you agree a comrade who could speak earlier on this without expecting him or her to give a perfect presentation?

Roughly speaking, it is proposed that the morning session should be about the history, and more detailed discussion of the rectification campaign itself should wait till the afternoon.

Towards the end of the day there will be a motion generally approving the outlines of the draft history and asking the CC to consider points made in the conference in amending it.

Individual comrades would be able to move more specific amendments at this time if they thought the point was really important and could not just be referred to the CC.

One individual comrade has already submitted the attached two motions.

We appreciate the problems caused by the shortness of time between ^{the circulation of} the document and the conference. However we hope comrades understand that this conference will mainly be a democratic conference concentrating ideas rather than a final decision-making conference, and that the CC will be considering more specific amendments.

Chairman.

PS. Regretfully the Britain Kampuchea Support Campaign has postponed its meeting planned the day before. Requests for fraternal assistance with accommodation should be sent in speedily. Please send a note if you have to arrive late.

9.4.80

PTO

Resolutions for Conference Received from Cde W.

RESOLUTION 1

The principal contradiction in the CFB(M-L) since the 3rd Conference and in the RCLB has been that between historical and dialectical materialism and idealism. Idealism has been the principal aspect of this contradiction, and remains so. Idealism occurs throughout the organization but particularly at the centre.

Idealism can clearly be seen in the lack of dialectical relationship between ideological, political and organizational (practical) work through this time. The rectification campaign is a clear example of this. It was almost exclusively concerned with ideology and greatly neglected political line and organizational work. At no time was self-criticism emphasised as an aim of the campaign so the lessons learnt were not applied to ongoing work. For these reasons it was divorced from our ongoing work and failed, in general, to have any effect on it.

It is said that the rectification campaign was effective at the centre but less so in the districts. This reflects the particular idealism of the SC who failed to relate the campaign to the rank and file cadres. The main slogan of the campaign "Target the ultra-left idealism of the anti-League faction" reflects this idealism in two ways,

1. The lack of emphasis of self-criticism means the campaign was not related to our work.
2. "Ultra-left idealism" was never defined in any document from the centre although the SC was quite prepared to attribute all manner of problems to it.

The roots of the idealism of the organization lie in our class origins. Many of us are from the petty-bourgeois intelligentsia and spontaneously make such errors if we don't guard against them. Also we live in the oldest imperialist country where bourgeois ideology has a strong hold, and we are not isolated from the thinking of the rest of the working class, or the rest of society. "

The reason for the particular idealism of ^{the} SC is a result of their principal task being the struggle over ideas and the result that they have relatively little time to spend on the day-to-day tasks of the organization and the resulting lack of contact with rank-and-file cadres in the carrying -out of their revolutionary work.

RESOLUTION 2

Idealism in both left and right forms existed in the RCL prior to the rectification campaign. Instead of looking at those errors that existed and combatting them the SC created "ultra-left" idealism, an error they have never defined or explained. The creation of the term "ultra-left" idealism is a reflection of the idealism of the comrades at the centre. Targetting "ultra-left" idealism resulted in a failure to recognise those real errors in our ideological, political and organizational work that existed, and instead has led to massive confusion over what was left, what was right and what was ultra-left. It is fair to say that some comrades now hesitate to try to differentiate left from right as a result of this policy.

Combined with the lack of self-critical attitude of the campaign the campaign has hardly affected the ongoing work in the rank-and-file, in general.

Because it did not deal with the real errors in the organization and because those real errors have not been attacked, even where they might have been recognised through the course of the campaign, those errors must have become entrenched. Things never stand still, they always move one way or another, so the rectification campaign has failed.

Since the entrenchment of real errors is most likely it should be said that the rectification campaign is principally negative.