

January 10, 1975

Dear Comrades of the Socialist Workers Party,

In your letter of November 27, 1974, you rejected the application of four members of the Revolutionary Marxist Collective of San Francisco-Berkeley for membership in the Socialist Workers Party. You indicated that the reason for our being rejected for membership was our refusal to abide by SWP discipline.

That is not the case. Perhaps to set the record straight, we should outline briefly the sequence of events with regard to our application for membership.

At the original meeting of July 19, 1974, Cd. Sheppard took great pains to emphasize SWP organizational discipline as exemplified by the expulsion of the Internationalist Tendency. The whole meeting was concerned with the "lessons" we should learn from this expulsion. The implications were clear; the IT supported the International Majority Tendency; the RMC also stated its support for the IMT. The same threat of expulsion would hang over the head of any supporters of the IMT inside the SWP.

We rejected to this whole method of proceeding at the time and subsequently in our letter of August 16, 1974. Firstly, because we did not feel this to be the most desirable type of "political discussion between supporters of the Fourth International. Secondly and most importantly, because the expulsion of the Internationalist Tendency was at that time, and indeed remains, an item at dispute inside the Fourth International and hence hardly the proper subject for discussion with new applicants for membership.

Nevertheless, particularly as the question was raised by the SWP, we felt that it did not make sense for us to proceed further without clarification from the International Majority Tendency about this whole question of a democratic centralist International, and the particular types of organizational measures demanded by the SWP. We continue to seek such clarification. Specifically, we will abide by the International's decision due shortly on the whole question of the IT expulsion and SWP discipline.

We continue to press our application for membership in the SWP. We hope that the SWP, like the RMC members, will abide by the decision of the Fourth International, whatever the decision might be.

Fraternally,



Jim Collins, on behalf of  
the RMC applicants for  
membership in the SWP

cc to USFI