

MAR 12 1975

Internationalist Tendency
Chicago, Illinois

March 10, 1975

Political Committee, SWP
New York

Dear Comrade Barry,

We have not yet received your answer to our letter of February 28, 1975, which followed the phone calls to you by Bill and myself. During our phone conversation on Friday, March 7, you stated that the answer would be mailed out today. In the meantime, our Political Committee has met and adopted the enclosed directives. We are forwarding them to you and to the United Secretariat.

Please consider these "Political Committee Directives on Tasks of the Internationalist Tendency", dated March 7, 1975, as proposals to your leadership as to how the collaboration between the IT and SWP should be organized. We would like your comments on these proposals, as well as answers on how they can be carried out at the local level in collaboration with the various branches of the Party.

Enclosed, you will also find our answer to the letter of resignation from the I.T. which Comrade Peter Ge. sent to you. Comrade Peter also raised some other matters in a phone conversation with us. I mentioned them to you during our phone conversation, and we will be writing for clarification of these matters.

Comradely,

John Barzman

for the Political Committee

John Barzman

INTERNATIONALIST TENDENCY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 8, 1975

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1. POLITICAL COMMITTEE DIRECTIVES ON TASKS OF THE INTERNATIONALIST TENDENCY
(Adopted Unanimously-March 7, 1975)

These directives are meant to guide the Tendency's activities through April 5, the date of our delegated conference. They place a central emphasis on activities which are both called for by the political situation in the U.S., and correspond to national SWP campaigns. The I.T. Political Committee will contact our SWP liason, Cde. Barry S., to outline how collaboration between the I.T. and the SWP can take place at the local level. These proposals will also be made at the forthcoming United Secretariat meeting in March. We will request that SWP branches be advised of these steps, so that comrades may proceed smoothly to coordinate their activities in designated interventions with those of the SWP. A written record of all activities and proposals should be kept and a copy of it should be sent to the Center on a weekly basis to allow us to see the progress of this work.

A. NATIONAL PRIORITIES

1. BUILDING THE MAY 17 ANTI-RACIST DEMONSTRATIONS

The preparation of the May 17 anti-racist demonstrations is the key priority in the coming period. It provides a field for sustained mass work in a meaningful struggle, and for collaboration with the SWP. The National Student Coalition Against Racism (NSCAR) is the most representative and effective tool for building these demonstrations. The slogans of NSCAR "Twenty-One Years Is Enough! Enforce Desegregation Now!" and "Desegregate Boston Schools". "Keep the Busses Rolling!" "Stop Racist Attacks!" correspond to the goals of structuring a united national anti-racist movement, focusing it on mass action, and mobilizing broad forces in the working class, the oppressed minorities, and on campus to rally in defense of a concrete struggle of the Black community.

On all campuses where we have a presence, we should initiate local chapters of NSCAR in coordination with national NSCAR-if one already exists we should then help build it. In those areas where we do not have comrades on the campus, we should make contact with the campus committee (NSCAR) since the campus will probably be the center for organizing this work. In unions, we should seek to get support for the march (motions, contributions, articles in paper, petitions and building a contingent where a base exists). Where offices of NSCAR, or a parallel local coalition exists, a number of comrades should be assigned to volunteer several hours a week to help staff the office and work on all aspects of publicity, media, labor outreach, fund raising and marshalling for the demonstrations. On all tactical questions, we should seek to coordinate our interventions with those of the SWP (i.e. agreeing to a strategy before before a regional conference, etc.). Sales of issues of the Militant with particular emphasis on building the May 17 demonstrations should be organized in selected areas (Black high schools, central areas of the Black community, at meetings of Black organizations i.e. NAACP etc.). Our explanations to the people we work with should explain the link between racism and capitalism, the need for mass action against the ruling class and for Black self-defense.

Where differentiations with the SWP's positions seem to be necessary to answer the questions of serious activists, we should refrain from any public attacks on the SWP as an organization, and explain our differences in a responsible fashion, in the context of explaining our fight for reintegration.

2. ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

In the coming month, SWP municipal election campaigns in a number of cities will move into their final push. This is the case especially in Chicago, with the important campaign of Willie Mae Reid vs. Daley, but also in Pasadena (Tim Mallory et al), Berkeley (Carl Fenimore), Philadelphia (Terry Hardy), and St. Louis (Barbara Bowman). We support all these campaigns because they objectively serve as a socialist pole in the elections, and advance a number of transitional demands which are important for the period. This is why we should help to place these tickets on the ballot, to tour their candidates as widely as possible, and to circulate the campaign literature. Comrades should inquire from SWP campaign committees what the schedule of these activities are so that we can participate in them and in the building of them. Here also the Militant is useful as the central organ of the election campaigns, and should be used to raise the consciousness of the best elements of the milieu in which it is sold, on the questions touched by the campaign.

These SWP campaigns should adapt their propaganda to the need to take unfolding struggles forward. While it is necessary to avoid concrete proposals which have nothing to do with the starting point and circumstances of these struggles, it is necessary also to show how the present forms of struggle can be used to go beyond limitations imposed by the bourgeois state and trade union bureaucracy or other reformist leaderships. When candidates and the literature of the SWP discuss the concept of a workers government to implement the party program, it should be clear that the present level of consciousness of the vast majority of people who are exposed to this concept requires that it be explained in terms of dual power, that is that it cannot coexist with the existing legal framework and state, and that it requires popular organs to come into being. There is little opportunity to raise these points in a constructive way outside of the SWP, because campaign committees only exist in reality at occasional regional conferences. But we can take some specific political initiatives in milieus where we are active (e.g. getting endorsements and or access for SWP candidates in certain unions, issuing statements of support to the campaigns).

3. DISTRIBUTION OF LITERARY PROPAGANDA

Tendency locals should assume tasks of literary propaganda aimed at different levels of consciousness. We should use the gamut of Fourth International publications, and should integrate sales of this literature into our political priority areas.

Inprecor and the Old Mole: Inprecor is addressed to a special audience and be sold mainly at radical meetings and political activities. However comrades should have copies available on Militant sales also. The Old Mole is mainly of value for contacts interested in the life of the sections of the Fourth International, and should be de-emphasized in other uses.

The Militant will be playing a useful role in terms of anti-capitalist exposure, covering the SWP election campaigns, and building the May 17 anti-racist demonstrations. Militant sales should be seen as a necessary and politically useful means of collaboration with the SWP. Additionally, such sales have a clearly demonstrable political value in their own right. These sales should generally fall into three areas: (1) during collaborative activities with the SWP; (2) in concert with the SWP's generalized sales work; (3) at places that are carefully selected and prioritized by each I.T. local, regardless of whether the SWP sells there itself (e.g. a factory gate where we intend to do sustained work, possibly because we have a contact there).

We will attempt to coordinate the sales of these Fourth International publications with the SWP at a national level so that it has its full value in terms of the reintegration struggle.

SECONDARY ACTIVITIES

The tendency has engaged in a number of local activities determined mainly by the distribution of our comrades and the immediate openings before us. These can be continued if they do not cut into the three above mentioned priorities. In all these activities ---except certain forms of contact work such as a study group where collaboration will take the form of a political explanation -- we will also seek to maintain collaborative consultations with the SWP.

In the next two months, the USIA tour of Juan Carlos Coral, will appear for a few days in each major center. Nonetheless, the experience we've had has shown that USIA chapters have not taken on a viable on-going life, (except in New York). Comrades should therefore help to build these meetings on an ad-hoc basis as part of the fight against repression in Argentina. It is difficult to make an impact on the audience of the broad defense meetings chaired by USIA, by raising political criticisms of the PST from the floor. However, sales of Inprecor and discussions with activists can lay the basis for further work.

CLUW work in Chicago, Houston and Los Angeles, has been undertaken sporadically. In consultation with the national center, these locals should determine how their work can be directed toward developing contacts for the I.T. and where possible, toward collaboration with the SWP, which seems to suffer from a contradiction between its written line and many of its interventions into CLUW. In other work also, comrades should seek to direct their efforts toward our central perspective. For example, comrades working on the rail newsletter should invite the SWP candidate to write a letter as a reader of the newsletter, and should submit an article to Frank Lovell's column in the Militant.

Internally, locals should organize the pre-conference discussion, and prepare for the cadre schools which will be held in the second and third week of April. Further progress is needed immediately on regularizing finances and raising the sustainer base of the locals. The center will keep the tendency as a whole informed of the progress of the collaboration on a national scale.

CALL TO A DELEGATED CONFERENCE OF THE I.T.

On March 5, the Political Committee decided to unanimously recommend to the Steering Committee that it call a delegated conference of the I.T. for the week-end of April 5th and 6th, in Chicago. The Steering Committee was polled the following two days and approved the recommendation. The conference will have a one-point agenda: how to implement the fight for reintegration. The plenum originally called for March 8-9, and postponed to March 15-16 is cancelled.

Delegates should be elected from each area on the basis of one delegate for every five members in good standing, or major fraction thereof (a major fraction being defined as 3). Good standing is defined as having paid the convention assessment of \$5.00 and being current in payment of dues. For purposes of voting isolated comrades will be regrouped in the following way:

1. Buffalo and Boston to New York
2. Detroit to Chicago, Iowa City to Chicago if less than three votes
3. A Wisconsin region
4. Kansas City to St. Louis

Groups of supporters of the I.T. who are seeking admission to the SWP and the FI will be given one observer with voice and a consultative vote each.

Delegates should be elected on the basis of stated positions on the written tasks resolutions submitted to the discussion. Proportional representation will be given to supporters of the different tasks resolutions, where necessary, on the basis of 1 delegate to five supporters or major fraction thereof. The discussion bulletin will be open for contributions until Friday March 28, 1975.

Members of the out-going Steering Committee will have voice at the conference whether they are delegates or not. They will not have vote. Therefore we leave it up to the members of the Steering Committee to decide whether they wish to run for delegate and to the comrades in the local areas to select their voting delegates. Supporters of the various tasks resolutions will choose their own delegates based on their proportional strength in the local area.

Guests of the Internationalist Tendency will be given voice at the convention as has been our practice in the past. This will be in conformity with the Voorhis Act.

AVAILABILITY OF INTERNAL INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION BULLETINS (IIDB)

In line with the agreement arrived at during the recent IEC, the SWP is making the IIDB available to the I.T.. All the bulletins already published can be ordered through the I.T. center.

New Bulletins published in 1975 are:

Vol. XII, No. 1, January 1975 (20 cents)

Fourth World Congress Since Reunification (Tenth World Conference) February 1974, Pt. 2.

Vol. XII, No. 2 January 1975 (80 cents)

Report of the Control Commission of the Socialist Workers Party, July 2, 1974

Motions Adopted by the Political Committee of the SWP, July 4, 1974

Statement Adopted by the Political Committee of the SWP, July 4, 1974

Appendices to the Report of the Control Commission of the SWP

Statement of the United Secretariat of the FI Regarding the Call for a Special World - Congress of the FI by the PC of the SWP in their statement of July 4, 1974.

The Myth of the "IT Split"--Purge Politics of the IITF

Vol XII, No. 3 January 1975 (30 cents)

The Need for a Special World Congress, A statement of the Steering Committee of the IITF on the Internationalist Tendency-Split from the SWP by Gus Horowitz

Appendix I: October 17, 1974 Letter from the Internationalist Tendency Party to the SWP National Committee.

Appendix II: Letter from Jim Collins to the Internationalist Tendency Party P.C.

Appendix III: Letter from Russell Welch and Cheryl Clark to the IMT Bureau

Appendix IV: Letter from Russell Welch and Cheryl Clark to the Kompass Tendency

Appendix V: Extracts from the IT Resolution on Trade Union Work; from IT Bulletin VII.

We have already ordered 100 each of #2 and #3. Every area must immediately notify the center of their decision on ordering these bulletins. Comrades must pay immediately upon receipt for Bulletins #2 and #3; comrades who wish to be put on a standing order list must prepay \$2.00 each. Bulletins should be circulated to members of the IT only, except for close contacts and after consultation with the IT PC.

Internationalist Tendency,
Chicago, Illinois

March 10, 1975

Peter Ge.
Houston, Texas

Dear Comrade Peter,

We have received your letter of resignation from the IT. We were surprised by the grossly lopsided, distorted and dishonest, evaluation of the past two years of factional struggle which your letter reflects. In our phone conversation since then, you maintain that this was because it was a letter of resignation addressed to the IT and you saw no purpose in discussing the factional record of the IFF. This excuse does not stand up because you sent a copy of this letter to the SWP National Office, and you knew it would be used to bolster the arguments of the most sectarian high priests of the "IT PARTY SPLIT" mythology.'

Your accusations that the IT was disloyal and anti-party are completely devoid of any political analysis and therefore open to any kind of interpretation. Even the use of the word "anti-party" is questionable. As Cde. Livio Maitan, representing the United Secretariat at the August 1973 convention of the Party, pointed out, it comes from the arsenal of Stalinist slander. You do not mention a word about the quasi-official merger between the organs of the party and the organs of the IFF which was formalized at the August 1973 Party convention. You do not mention your opinion of the letter where Cdes. Langston and others document this fact. You seem totally unaware of the self-criticisms which the IT has made, and which have been hidden from the membership of the SWP; your contention that the IT poses conditions on its reintegration in the SWP is equally devoid of any basis in reality.

To our knowledge, this is the first time that you have raised the accusation that the IT was disloyal and anti-party. You claim "we have had numerous fights over these questions in the past, so (you) won't repeat the arguments here". We might have had numerous fights, but never over such accusations which you now raise with no substantiation. Finally, as you yourself admitted on the phone, you do not bother to mention the numerous disloyal and unwarrantedly factional acts of the IFF against the P.I. leadership, the DEF, and the IT. Without taking these into account, there is no way to understand the events surrounding the expulsion of the IT.

In sum, where an honest dialogue and balance sheet is necessary, you substitute slanderous accusations in the Stalinist style. Where the whole truth is necessary, you substitute a unilateral attack on the IT. Do you believe the IT was a Party? Do you believe there was an IT Party Split? Do you believe the procedure by which the IT was expelled was correct? You make no comments on these questions. Such letters of resignation do not help to build the Party because a revolutionary Party must be built on the truth. Your action seems precipitous and subjectively motivated, and it will not contribute in any way to alleviate the factional tensions in the International and in our own Party, the SWP. You should reconsider your course and write a correction of your letter.

Comradely,

John Barzman, for the Political Committee, IT



CC: SWP HQ, UEFI Bureau, IT membership.