

DEC 11 1979

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(IMG)

NOVEMBER 5th 1979

SPLIT IN THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

As many comrades will have heard, there has been a split in the Fourth International. The IMG will undoubtedly come under attack from every variety of sectarian group over this, so it is vitally important that all our comrades are armed to deal with the points that the other groups make.

The facts of the matter are briefly this. The splitters are the Bolshevik Faction and the majority of the Leninist Trotskyist tendency. They, together with the French OCI are calling a conference to take place soon after the World Congress to "re-organise" the world Trotskyist movement. The excuse for the split is the dispute over Nicaragua, in which the splitters argue that the USFI is capitulating to a "bourgeois government".

We characterise this split as an unprincipled split and we characterise this conference as a liquidation conference not a reconstruction or "reorganisation" conference. The splitters have quit the Fourth International before the world congress where they could have fought for their views, and in a situation in which there was no possibility of the World Congress adopting an uncritical stance towards the Nicaraguan government (GRNN). Their conference will not establish a new democratic centralist international, but a loose federation of national Trotskyist groups, which will inevitably - given the huge political differences between its different components - blow up. The only thing that united the Moreno Bolshevik Faction and the Lambert OCI is hostility to the majority of the Fourth International. Their conference will not "reorganise" anything but merely mark a retreat into national Trotskyism; it is a step away from building a strong International. The split is an unprincipled split because the differences of assessment inside the FI on the Nicaraguan revolution do not at all involve questions of world historic betrayal of revolution, but genuine differences of appreciation which are inevitable within a world party.

However, we should be clear that the split is a big blow to the Fourth International and its international authority. The majority of Latin American Trotskyists have left the International, together with about 25% of the French section, the French LTT. In this situation it is all the more important that we clearly warn the other Trotskyist groups in Britain, especially the WSL and the ICL, of the unprincipled nature of the Lambert-Moreno operation to combat any temptation on their part to get involved with it.

We must do everything in our power to safeguard the unity of the FI and the IMG. The comrades of the British LTT clearly denounced the moves of the French LTT and the Bolshevik Faction as splittist. It seems certain that virtually no one in the IMG will join the splitters.

Comrades should read the material on the split being sent to all branches. Our key task is to defend the idea of a democratically centralised International against unprincipled blocs of the Moreno-Lambert type; and to defend the programmatic basis of the unity of the world movement against irresponsible splitters and factionalists.

PRE-CONFERENCE DISCUSSION OPENED BY CC

The CC at the weekend opened the pre-conference discussion in the organisation. Two major resolutions on tactics were put to the CC, - one by Clynes, Manzano and Dennis and the other in the name of Cannon. Neither of these obtained a majority. In addition, cde Strawsen and cdes Adair and Williams indicated that they would be preparing documents for voting. Two tendencies were set up from the CC (see statements). The documents from the CC will be sent out as soon as possible.

APPEAL FOR THE FORMATION OF A TENDENCY

The comrades listed below are calling for the formation of a tendency for the pre-conference discussion in the IMG. The basis of this tendency will be three documents: a) "Building the evolutionary Party in Britain" adopted by the September CC b) "Building the evolutionary Youth Organisation" by Brown, also adopted at September CC c) Tactics resolution presented by Cannon to the November CC.

The aim of the tendency will be to organise to achieve the largest possible majority for the three party-building tasks outlined in the Cannon resolution: a) The turn to industry b) The building of a revolutionary youth organisation and c) The fight to win the Socialist Workers Party(UK) to the Fourth International. The tendency will be holding a meeting in London on the evening of December 1st. We urge all comrades who have read and support these documents to attend the meeting.

Signatories: Cannon, Inglefield, Jones, Howard, King, Hutton, Mann, Hudson, Brown, Baker, Matthews, Oswald, Biggs, Yussef (Central Committee) Shevek, Marston (Control Commission) Andre (seated at CC) Hector, McDermott (TU Secretariat) Cheddar, Boyce (Full-time City Organisers)
Any enquiries to Biggs or Andre at the centre

APPEAL FOR THE FORMATION OF A TENDENCY

The following comrades are making an appeal for the formation of a tendency, for the pre-conference discussion in the IMG. The basis of this tendency will be: a) "Building the evolutionary Party in Britain" passed by the September CC b) "For a Decisive Turn for the IMG" by Clynes, Manzano and Dennis. The aim of this tendency will be to fight for the largest possible majority for these documents at the IMG national conference. Details of a tendency meeting will be announced at a later date.

Signatories: Banner, Bzant, Clynes, Cusack, Dennis, Ellis, Harlow, Jenkins, Manzano, Merkin, Savage (Central Committee) Donoghue (Trade Union Secretariat).

Any enquiries to Manzano or Savage at the national centre

SOCIALIST CHALLENGE

Debts: Following branches are now over the limit and should pay up by Wed. 14th November or will be cut off: Edinburgh, ISE, Harringey.

The following branches failed to pay up as advised and will be cut off if no money arrives by this Wednesday 7th November: Aberdeen, Bristol

The following branches must pay every week as already arranged - ie no money, no papers every week: Birmingham, Brighton, Cardiff, Glasgow, Hull, Leeds, Liverpool, Newcastle, Portsmouth, Sheffield, Newham, Outer West London, Wandsworth.

The following branches are already cut off: what are you doing about it? - Basingstoke, Bradford, Norwich, Middlesex Poly.

Several branches paid off all or a large part of their debts recently: why don't other branches follow the example of: Colchester, Islington, South East London?

ANTI-RACIST FRACTION 11am-5pm, Saturday 11th November at the Centre. **ONE COMRADE FROM EACH BRANCH MUST ATTEND.**

Engineering Fraction 11am Sunday 11th November, Birmingham Centre, 76B Digbeth

Fords Fraction Saturday 1st December, 11am-5pm, National Centre

BRANCH ORGANISERS PLEASE NOTE: There will only be limited material on the FI split in this week's paper, but a supplement in next week's. Therefore please circulate as widely as possible the dossier on the FI-split sent to you (but only internally).

There will be a further mailing for branch organisers sent this week with the paper. Please check your paper bundles carefully.