

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

October 28, 1972

TO ALL MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

This is to inform you of the resignation from the party of 15 members, who had constituted themselves as the "Leninist Faction."

The national office was first informed of the formation of the "Leninist Faction" in a letter dated May 15, 1972, signed by Barbara Gregorich. Subsequently, some members in the Boston, Twin Cities, Chicago and Washington branches announced that they were members of the "Leninist Faction."

During the Socialist Activists and Educational Conference, four members of the "Leninist Faction" who were members of the party, and one member of the YSA who claimed to be a member of the "Leninist Faction," resigned from the SWP and YSA, stating they were joining the Spartacist League. An issue of Spartacist, sold outside the Socialist Activists and Educational Conference, reprinted their letter of resignation.

In a letter dated October 26, 1972, the remaining members of the "Leninist Faction" resigned from the party. A statement by "Leninist Faction" members indicated that they plan to establish a new group.

The members who have resigned are: Barbara Gregorich, Phil Passen, John McCann, Dave E., Pam E., Jon G., Peter G., Katherine P., Rich G., Ginny T., Fred F., Carole F., Earl B., Vivian B., and Steve S.

Comradely,

Barry Sheppard

Barry Sheppard
National Organization Secretary

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STATEMENT OF RESIGNATION OF THE LENINIST FACTION FROM THE SWP

In the Declaration of the Leninist Faction we stated:

The current program of the SWP is sharply counterposed to the revolutionary heritage of the party and to the teachings of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky.

The end result of the SWP's flight from revolutionary Marxism is its degeneration into a party, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ based on the petty-bourgeoisie and existing as an obstacle to the class struggle.

The sum and substance of the SWP's program can be stated in three words: Pacifism; Liquidationism; and Reformism.

The Party's ~~xxxx~~ Pacifism can be seen in its position that basic contradictions of capitalism such as imperialist war can be solved within the context of capitalism by blocking with the liberal wing of the bourgeoisie in building mass demonstrations which say nothing about the fundamental class conflict of society and which are motivated as pressure on the bourgeoisie to withdraw American troops. Imperialist war can not be solved by the organisation of semi-yearly parades which are used by liberal Democrats as vote catching arenas. Only through the struggle of the working class for power will ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ imperialist war be ended.

The Party's ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ liquidationism is expressed in its poly-vanguardist approach to the struggles against the oppression

2

of women and racial and national minorities. Rather than trying to draw the elements into the class struggle under the leadership of the vanguard party they liquidate the political necessity for the party and call on Blacks and Chicanos to build their own Black and Chicano parties separate and apart from the white workers and from each other.

Along with the above examples the Party's reformism is also expressed in its calling upon women and Blacks to struggle outside the class struggle thus solidifying the illusion that the oppression of Blacks and women can be solved within the capitalist system if just enough of them get out in the streets and demonstrate for things like control of the bourgeois police.

On the theoretical plane the Party's reformism is expressed in its complete smothering of the difference between proletarian democracy and bourgeois democracy. Instead the Party tries to make it appear that proletarian democracy is just an extension and growth of bourgeois democracy rather than being fundamentally counterposed to it.

The Leninist Faction on the other hand sees the necessity of smashing the bourgeois state not controlling it. We see the necessity of the working class struggling for the dictatorship of the proletariat under which the bourgeoisie will be repressed not voting as Ernest Mandel would have it. We realise and we will propagandise to the working class that it is only through

3

the dictatorship of the proletariat that the oppression of women, Blacks and Chicanos will be ended at that imperialist war will be ended.

Our resignation is not an act which we have taken lightly. There are two fundamental considerations which dictate this move on our part. First is the fact that the SWP does not function under the norms of democratic centralism but under a mockery of those norms. There is no "legal" way to reach the ranks with our politics (except through individual discussions) for 21 months out of every two years. Only for three months during an entire two year period is political discussion allowed. This is what the Party leadership calls democracy!

Along with this aspect of the party is the fact that there is no large proletarian element within the party for us to win over. Long gone are the days when the SWP was proletarian in composition. Even so if there were significant forces in leftward motion it would be necessary for us to remain within the Party and try to win them to our program. However the elements of the Party which are moving to the left at this time represent a very small percentage of Party membership. And even these elements have ^{no} ~~to~~ program around which to struggle within the Party. However, the fault does not lie with these Comrades, but in the fact that were these Comrades to attempt to formulate a program they would no doubt be expelled, for as we all know the summer of odd numbered years is the time for pol-

4

itics. The other three seasons and even numbered years are the time for activism.

Upon separating ourselves from the reformist swamp which has the gall to call itself a Party of Socialists and Workers yet, we intend to set up an independent organisation which will root itself in the working class and function under the Leninist principles of democratic centralism where minorities are not stigmatised but are looked upon as a sign of ferment and growth within the Party. We will form an organisation where political differences are not hidden from the public but brought out into the open.

To those comrades who remain in the SWP we urge you to re-analyse the Party and its development. Return to the living works of Marxism. We urge those of you who would be revolutionists and desire to further the class struggle to join with us in advancing the development of the nucleus of the future revolutionary vanguard party. A party which will be based on the principles of democratic-centralism, proletarian internationalism, and an unswerving loyalty to the working class and its struggle against capitalism.