

"WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD, UNITE!!"

# WORKERS' PRESS

THE POLITICAL ORGAN OF THE MARXIST-LENINIST COLLECTIVE

## PARTY BUILDING: UNITE MARXIST-LENINISTS, WIN THE ADVANCED TO COMMUNISM!

Currently there exists much confusion and lack of clarity within the party building movement. The tasks of Marxist-Leninists in this immediate period have not been clearly defined. Concrete plans for building the party have not been advanced. For the most part, polemics have not focused on differences of principle.

Our strategy in the current period, the strategy of all Marxist-Leninists, is to build a genuine communist party. We are in a pre-party period, when the principal task of Marxist-Leninists is to unite separate Marxist circles, to "weld the core". This pre-party period corresponds to the years 1884-98 in the history of the Bolshevik Party:

"...the years 1884-94 were a period of victory over Narodism and of ideological preparation for the formation of a Social-Democratic (Communist -- ed.) Party, and the years 1894-98 a period in which an attempt, although unsuccessful, was made to weld the separate Marxist organizations into a Social-Democratic Party..." (History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks). Short Course, p. 30)

We are not presently in a situation similar to the "first period" in the development of the Bolshevik Party as outlined by Stalin in his article "The Party Before and After Seizing State Power", when the principal task was to win the advanced to communism. During this first period in the Soviet Union, the party had at last been put on a firm basis -- in 1903, at the Second Party Congress, the program was adopted and party rules were established; thus, the ideological and organizational foundation of the party had been laid. Moreover, for several years prior to 1903, "Iskra", the newspaper founded by Lenin, had given ideological leadership to the movement and linked up the separate Marxist circles in preparation for the Second Congress.

It is clear that our movement has not reached such a stage. What, then, are our tasks? During this pre-party period in the US our two tactical tasks are to unite Marxist-Leninists and win the advanced to communism. The task of uniting Marxist-Leninists, however, is necessarily primary at this point. Why? Currently, there is no party. To what, then, are advanced workers won? A limited number can be recruited into separate groups and collectives. However, the process of winning over, training, and recruiting advanced workers by different organizations and local circles is not the same as a party winning over the advanced. The party is formed on the basis of a common program, tactics, and organization. Unity of various organizations is forged in the struggle around political line, verified in social practice. Hence this unity of will, unity of action, embodied in the party, the centralized leadership and guidance of the party, facilitates and accelerates the process of winning over the advanced. Similarly, once the advanced have been won over, this new quality, the party, makes it possible to win over the broad masses of workers. This dialectical relationship between quality and quantity has been summarized as follows:

"With the appearance of a new quality, new quantitative relations come into effect, so that we may also speak of the

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transformation of quality into quantity. The high quality of class consciousness, discipline, organization and firmness of principle of the Communist Party, which at first represented the numerically small, but actually most advanced section of the proletariat, subsequently resulted in the Bolshevik Party's being able to assume the leadership of the movement of millions. Thus in the course of time, quality was transformed into quantity." (Adoratsky, Dialectical Materialism)

The task of uniting Marxist-Leninists is primarily theoretical, particularly the drawing of clear lines of demarcation in the struggle against all forms of opportunism and revisionism. (See Workers' Press Vol 2 #12: "Party Building -- Strategy and Tactics") Our task is to unite all genuine Marxist-Leninist forces and those advanced workers who in this immediate period have become communists. By understanding the correct relationship between uniting Marxist-Leninists and winning over the advanced, we are able to grasp the link in the chain which advances the entire process of fusing socialism and the working-class movement. The LPR formulated these concepts as follows:

"The party must be composed of workers, yes, but workers that are Marxist-Leninists, and not of advanced elements who are not yet communists. So it is our task to unite those that are Marxist-Leninists, and not confuse proletarian class with proletarian party or advanced elements with Marxist-Leninists. Secondly, the characterization of primary and secondary contradictions is not so much to ascribe importance to one or the other, but to determine HOW the process develops, WHAT moves it forward, WHICH aspect when resolved helps to resolve the other, what is the RELATIONSHIP between all aspects, NOT to the exclusion or exaggeration of one or the other." (Resistencia, Vol 7 #5)

This does not mean that the secondary aspect in this period, the primarily practical tasks of winning the advanced, is liquidated. To draw such a conclusion would be idealism, the separation of theory from practice. If ideological and political struggle are divorced from practice, this breach can only lead to left errors. Theory and practice are inseparably linked and interconnected.

Our practical tasks are to integrate with the most oppressed and exploited strata, give communist leadership to the spontaneous movement, conduct communist propaganda and agitation in order to win over as many advanced workers as possible (given the limitations of individual groups and circles). This fusing of socialism and the working-class movement is essential in order to: 1) test and verify political line in practice; 2) insure the social base of the party is proletarian. The advanced must then be trained in revolutionary theory and practice, through participation in study circles, factory nuclei, and eventually, Marxist-Leninist organizations. They must become "worker intellectuals" capable of leading the class struggle and, as Lenin said, trained "to respond to all cases of tyranny, oppression, violence and abuse, no matter what class is affected".

The present disunity of Marxist-Leninists urgently requires that concrete steps be taken to build the core, a communist party. History has shown again and again, as the general crisis of capitalism deepens, as crises of overproduction are prolonged and aggravated by the deepening of the general crisis, and as the bourgeoisie moves towards fascism and imperialist war to maintain its rule, the upsurge of the spontaneous working-class movement will inevitably occur. Indications of this are all around us; the recent wildcat strikes of coal miners are most notable. The critical question is: will there be a genuine communist party which can give leadership, a conscious and planned direction to the spontaneous movement, and ultimately lead the class in the overthrow of this imperialist monster?

The MLC has put forward two proposals for uniting Marxist-Leninists:

- 1) Joint theoretical work on programmatic questions, to take place principally in forums
  - 2) Joint practical work in factory nuclei (see Workers' Press, Vol 2 #12)
- We invite criticism and suggestions on these proposals, and urge other groups to put forward concrete plans which can resolve the current disunity and lead to the formation of the party.