

BAY AREA SOCIALIST ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
BOX 1839 / SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94101

Dear Friends,

December, 1978

This letter is being sent to various organizations and individuals in order to introduce ourselves as an organization. We will present a brief description of the origins of our group, its present status/activities and future plans. Since BASOC is still in its formative stage, our description will be limited. Our intention is to establish contact with similarly oriented organizations in order to learn from the experiences of others and to contribute to the development of an anti-revisionist and anti-dogmatic/sectarian trend.

The origins of our membership are broad. Some BASOC members were active in various cadre organizations (including a contingent who left Progressive Labor Party), some had been members of the Northern California Alliance and many more had remained independent in the past, critical of the sectarian orientation of existing organizations. Because of this degree of diversity there was agreement to proceed slowly and get to know each other personally and politically, before attempting to establish a firm level of political unity beyond the barest outlines of agreement. (We did agree initially to a 7 point statement-enclosed.)

A number of study groups were organized around various topics (party building, trade union work, anti-racism, cultural work, etc.) and these groups met for several months. During that period BASOC held two forums on party-building which were intended to summarize experiences from previous organizations and stimulate discussion on the form needed to establish a new revolutionary organization and its goals. At the end of the study group period, we began discussing a proposal of the formation of our organization on the basis of work-related small groups that could begin to co-ordinate common practice, and as a top priority discuss a common study program designed to develop a level of unity on the basis of questions related to party-building; questions such as 1) What is the level of mass struggle today in the U.S., 2) What have been the strengths and weaknesses of the M-L forces, 3) What should be the approach toward integrating reform struggles with a revolutionary perspective, and 4) What are the priorities in party-building and what kind of party is required.

We are now involved in this study (about 3 months into a program designed to take 8 months). Our members are divided into nine work-related groups (trade unions, unorganized workplaces, health workers, school workers, cultural work, women's movement, democratic rights, and "fundamentals"). These groups are discussing the problems of their work areas and coordinating common practice in some cases. A coordinating committee has been elected (with representatives from both the small groups and at-large), several sub-committees have been established (practice, internal affairs, liaison etc.), and a name has been chosen. General meetings are normally held every two months, with the small groups meeting on the average, once a week. Position papers are being developed as we proceed, attempting to define unity on questions directly related to party building, delineating those questions necessary to establish unity on at this time and those issues which can be deferred until we have more experience and study. Yet to be addressed are important questions such as approach to Black and other minority struggles, international perspective, etc. At the present stage we are also beginning to undertake some common practice as an organization in the areas of the anti-imperialist movement and minority struggles; we are also establishing a more systematic liaison with "trend" oriented forces locally and nationally. With this letter of introduction we wish to solicit an exchange of information from your organization, or yourself as an individual with the goal of establishing on-going contact and a productive working relationship.

LIAISON COMMITTEE
BAY AREA SOCIALIST ORGANIZING COMMITTEE