

## POINTS CONCERNING MARXIST-LENINIST UNITY

I am sure many other comrades will make valuable contributions to the conference on the items on the time-table. The conference will, hopefully, mark a significant step forward in our struggle for Marxist-Leninist unity. To help ensure that this is the case, I think it is important that we try to deal with three major questions, which have been raised by different comrades on a number of occasions, before the conference; otherwise, they will hold back our struggles for unity, in the future, including at the conference. These questions are:-

1. That of the struggle for political and ideological unity.
2. The reasons for the failure of the C.P.B.(M-L).
3. The need for a programme of practical work.

1.) Many comrades have stressed the need for ideological and political struggle to attain unity. No Marxist-Leninist would deny this, but I think a couple of points need to be borne in mind when comrades talk about this. Firstly, that to put the emphasis one-sidedly on struggle is wrong. We should start from the desire for unity, and proceed to conduct ideological and political struggle in order to attain unity. Without the desire for unity, there is a danger of these struggles becoming academic and un-productive. Furthermore, the purpose of political and ideological struggle, at the present stage of the Marxist-Leninist movement's development is to increase our unity; to talk simply about attaining unity suggests that there is no unity between us at the moment, which is not true. There is, in fact, considerable unity on the basis of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse-Tung Thought- that's why there can be a large and productive conference in July and why, on various occasions, comrades from different organizations have been able to work well together.

Secondly, the struggle for political and ideological unity is sometimes spoken about as though it is one that has to be completed before a party or a united party-building organization can be established. This is idealist. This struggle is one that will continue when a party has been established, and throughout the period of socialism, as the history of the Communist Party of China shows. Communists develop at different rates, bourgeois ideas influence them all the time, and whenever problems arise, comrades are bound to have some disagreements about how to tackle them, so there will never be complete political and ideological unity among British Communists. Therefore, to delay organizational unity until complete political and ideological unity is attained is to delay it forever. Rather, it is a question of attaining sufficient ideological and political unity before we unite in one party-building organization; it is my view that most of the Marxist-Leninist movement already has that degree of unity politically and ideologically-JAC(M-L)'s 7 points are the essential ones, which I think all true Marxist-Leninists would accept. These don't represent "the lowest common denominator" as some people would suggest, but a high degree of unity.

2.) In connection with the above, some comrades suggest that the C.P.B.(M-L) was a failure because it was declared to be a party without there having been a struggle for political and ideological unity; this has made them very careful about uniting prematurely in a single new party-building organization. The real point about the C.P.B.(M-L) is, I think, that it was always a revisionist organization, under revisionist leadership, though for some time a majority of its rank and file were good Marxist-Leninists. Except on one or two more obvious points, such as the questions of "peaceful transition" and "state of the whole people" its leadership never did break with revisionism-it just came out with neo-revisionism! It wasn't forming a party too early that was the fault with the C.P.B.(ML) --that could have been put right fairly easily; the fault was that revisionism was always in command. The real lesson that the experience of the C.P.B.(M-L) teaches us is that the fight against revisionism is a hard and complicated one. I think that great efforts should be made to ensure that that lesson is learned, that the fight to master Marxist-Leninist politics and philosophy is stepped up (All opportunists and counter-revolutionaries have this in common- that they are idealist in philosophy, and do not grasp dialectical materialism), and that revisionism in its various forms is combatted in our fight for unity. This is the right answer, I think, to those who use the experience of the C.P.B.(M-L) as an argument against Marxist-Leninist unity in one party-building organization.

3.) Some comrades, notably in the ELMLA, have pointed out that ideological and political unity is not enough; comrades need to be able to unite in practical work in an ongoing way. This is correct. A detailed programme of work will need

porting out, but at the moment, I think that our joint practical activities should be concentrated on the following:-

a). Strengthening the foundations for the revolutionary party. In concrete terms, this means :- Increasing our efforts to give Marxist-Leninist leadership to mass struggles in the sectors of work in which comrades are involved. Co-operation should be stepped up and developed there-for example, comrades working in the same industry, for the same firm, in the same union, in students' or tenants' work should get together to exchange experiences, attempt to establish a firm basis for co-operation and work together as far as possible. Efforts need to be made to win new recruits, who should be trained carefully as revolutionaries. Due allowance must be made for new comrades, or we will not be able to extend recruitment: their process of development may be slow, and they should not be forced along, or faced with responsibilities that should really only go to more experienced, tried and tested comrades. Priority should be given to recruitment in the proletariat, so that the revolutionary party of the future has a strong basis-people working in other sectors of society should try to assist these directly involved in this work. Efforts should be made to co-operate in spreading Marxist-Leninist politics via leaflets, pamphlets, papers, demonstrations, etc. All comrades can be involved in these activities. Those who argue that this is impossible before a detailed class analysis or a thoroughgoing programme has been determined, etc., are wrong-the history of the international communist movement shows that these things have been worked out in the course of struggle by revolutionary parties, and not in advance; generally, they have started from a fairly low level and developed in depth analyses, etc, as they have progressed.

b). Building the united front against imperialism and fascism. Much of the above applies here of course, but in this work we should be seeking to unite all who can be united against the main enemy, under Marxist-Leninist leadership. Anti-imperialist struggles strengthen us by weakening our enemies; it is correct that we should work to build a strong front of anti-imperialist solidarity in this country. With the decline of British imperialism, due primarily to the struggles of Third World peoples against imperialism, for national-liberation, the British ruling class is resorting to fascism. Therefore, the building of the united front against imperialism should also be the building of the united front against growing fascism. All Marxist-Leninists in Britain, wherever they are, can work on this, building the united front from below. This is an essential part of the preparation for socialist revolution in Britain.

Let us step up the struggle for Marxist-Leninist unity; this becomes more vital than ever as each day goes by. There is little reason for further delay in uniting in one party-building organization; we should aim to do this in the very near future.

J.G. (CWM)