

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS CONSTITUTION (Revised 7/75)

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be the International Socialists (I.S.)

Article II. (Deleted at '75 Convention)

Article III. Membership

All individuals are eligible for membership in IS who are (1) in general agreement with the political principles, aims, and major activities of the IS as spelled out in the major statements, publications and Convention decisions of the organization; and willing (2) to actively build the organization, through regular political activity under the direction of the IS and its elected leading committees.

A chapter may accept into membership by majority vote any applicant meeting the requirements herein. Members at large who live in an area in which the I.S. does not have a branch may be accepted into membership by the National Secretary or by other procedures adopted by the EC, subject to approval of the NC. In the event that the chapter refuses membership, the applicant may appeal to the EC and NC.

A member who is unable to maintain regular political activity for a period of time may apply to the branch executive committee for a leave of absence, or may be placed on involuntary leave of absence by the branch. Members on leave of absence are not entitled to voting or speaking rights at membership meetings. They must however pay full dues and function under the direction and disciplining of the IS in their political activities. Leaves of absence will be granted only for specific limited periods of time, during which specific circumstances make it impossible for the member to maintain regular activity.

Article IV. National Convention

The National Convention shall be the highest governing body of the Organization.

The NC shall call a National Convention every year.

The NC shall issue a call for the National Convention 90 days prior to the date set for the Convention. This period may be shortened by a 2/3 vote of the NC.

Special Conventions of the Organization may be called by the NC or by 25% of the membership.

Delegates for the Convention shall be determined as follows:

Apportionment of delegates from the chapters and unorganized areas shall be proportionally determined by the EC on the basis of the size of chapters and the Organization as a whole as of 90 days prior to the opening of the Convention.

The NC shall determine the delegate-membership ratio. Each chapter and organizing committee shall be entitled to at least one vote. Chapters may elect as delegates members of the IS who are not members of that chapter.

If the delegate-member ratio is 1 to n (so that each delegate represents n members) then each MAL who attends the Convention shall have 1/n votes. Or, what amounts to the same thing, each delegate shall have n votes and each MAL 1 vote.

Major documents for decision at the Convention shall be distributed to branches at least 4 weeks prior to the Convention. Counter-documents

shall be distributed at least 2 weeks prior to the Convention.

#### Article V. National Committee

The National Committee and alternates shall be elected by the National Convention.

The National Committee shall meet at least three times per year or upon call by the EC, or upon request of 1/3 of the membership of the NC.

A quorum of the NC shall be equal to a majority of the NC and shall consist of members and alternates with written designations from absent NC members. Remaining vacancies shall be filled by alternates present in the order of election except where political division shall have been used in election in which case vacancies shall be filled only with alternates from the same political grouping.

Between Conventions the NC shall be governing body of the Organization and may make all political and organizational decisions for the Organization in between Conventions, except those specifically excluded by this Constitution.

The NC shall appoint all national officers and the Executive Committee by majority vote and may remove them in the same way. Any member of the NC may be removed from office at any one of the consecutive meetings of the NC is automatically removed from office unless action to the contrary is taken by the NC.

#### Article VI. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall be elected by the NC and may be replaced or changed at any time by the NC.

The EC may act for the organization on all political and organizational matters except as otherwise provided for herein between meetings of the NC.

Any two members of the EC or five members of the NC may request a mail vote of the NC on any action of the EC within 10 days of the action.

#### Article VII. National Officers

The NC shall at its first meeting following a convention elect a National Secretary, Publications Editors, and any other national officers as it may deem necessary. These officers, if not elected members of the NC, shall be fraternal members of the NC with voice but no vote. These officers may be replaced by the NC at any time. Officers shall be politically responsible to the EC between NC meetings, although recallable only by the NC.

#### Article VIII. Organization.

Members at large shall be responsible to the EC for the conduct of political activity.

Five or more members in any locality may be chartered as a chapter upon application to the EC. Chapters have the right and duty to perform all IS activity in that locality. The National Organization retains the power to supercede any decision of a local branch regarding its external functioning.

Three or more members in an unorganized area may be constituted an organizing committee upon application to the EC and carry on activities subject to review by the EC.

Where more than one chapter exists in any locale, a district organization may be chartered by the EC in which case district organization will be the highest governing body within the locale. This district organization will be elected by a district convention called at the initiative of the chapters in the locale.

All MAL's, organizing committees, branches and districtys of the IS are responsible for carrying out national policies and campaigns of the organization as mandated by the EC, NC, or Convention. Leading committees are responsible for ensuring that local activity is based upon the carrying out of national

perspectives and policies.

National fractions of members involved in common political work may be initiated by the members themselves or by the NC or EC. These fractions may elect their own officers and committees. These fractions are responsible in their political work to the National Organization as a whole through the National Convention, NC and EC. The NC and EC may establish any procedures deemed necessary to insure political responsibility.

#### Article IX. Finances

The NC shall have the power to set national dues and establish a centralized financial structure, to organize fund drives and set special assessments.

Only members in good standing may vote or hold office at any level in the IS. A member who is more than three months in arrears in dues and has not made satisfactory arrangements with the appropriate executive committee shall be deprived of the right to vote or hold any office. Members who are more than 6 months in arrears in dues and have not made satisfactory arrangements with the appropriate executive committee shall be dropped from membership two weeks following a letter of warning.

#### Article X. Referenda

Motions, proposed constitutional amendments or resolutions to be voted on by referendum shall be submitted to the membership upon request of 1/3 of the NC, 25% of the membership of the organized chapters.

The vote on each referendum shall close 30 days after submission to the membership. A majority vote of those voting (not including abstentions) shall determine the result except that no referendum shall be valid unless 1/3 of the membership in good standing vote.

#### Article XI. Membership rights

A. The EC will establish a year-round discussion bulletin where political and organizational disagreements and points of view may be expressed. All members of the IS have access to the discussion bulletin. The discussion bulletin shall be published: (1) as often as is necessary in periods of pre-convention discussion to include all contributions on Convention questions; (2) whenever a political question is opened up for discussion inside the organization, in order to assure full presentation of all points of view and exchanges; (3) on other occasions during the year when it is justified by substantive political discussion material.

The EC may impose reasonable space and technical requirements on contributions to the discussion bulletin. The EC may refuse to publish any article which would endanger security or seriously impair an individual or organization's political functioning. The EC may also impose minimal political conditions on publication of articles in the bulletin: that the topic be relevant or that the contributions represent substantive points of view or contain important information.

Any such decisions by the EC may be appealed to the NC.

B. Political decisions by committees of the IS shall be fully reported to the membership through regular national reports, fraction bulletins or other appropriate means. The EC or appropriate subcommittees shall have responsibility for the regular publication of reports.

C. The rights of the majority shall be protected:  
All members will carry out their political activities under the guidance of the IS. Decisions and policies once arrived at, shall be carried out by all members and all sections of the organization in external work. All such decisions and

policies shall have binding and disciplined force.

A member who has profound differences with a specific policy may appeal to the EC for permission to be exempted from responsibility for being a spokesperson for the organization on that question. Such exemptions will in general be granted except where they would substantially impair the ability of the IS to carry out that policy.

No votes, substantial or procedural, shall require more than a simple majority of those voting (not including abstentions) for determination except for those specified in this Constitution.

D. The rights of minorities shall be protected; There shall be no restriction on the formation of caucuses within the organization. There shall be no restriction on the rights of individuals or caucuses to publish their own points of view for distribution solely within the organization, except for reasons of security.

Political minorities in the IS shall have the right to publish external opposition bulletins or journals, or publish their own point of view in non-IS publications, except in particular cases where such publication would in a substantial immediate and concrete way undermine the effectiveness of the organization's action program. This decision shall be made by the appropriate group, fraction or leading body and may be appealed to the EC or NC.

External IS publications shall put forward the political line of the organization. Where political majority and minority points of view have been established on a question, the publications may be opened up to discussion articles, provided that the character of these articles are generally consistent with that of the publication as a whole.

E. The bases for disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion, shall be: (1) political activity contrary to the decisions of the organization; (2) Actions (external or internal) which seriously threaten or discredit the organization; (3) Fundamental, irreconcilable and thoroughgoing differences of political principle that make common organization and unity in action impossible.

Disciplinary proceedings against an individual must be sent in writing to him and notification of discipline proceedings must be sent to all chapter members and the EC at least two weeks prior to the general chapter meeting called to act on the discipline. A member has full rights to defend himself at the chapter meeting. An individual may appeal disciplinary action of a chapter to the EC and NC.

The EC may initiate disciplinary proceedings against members-at-large or chapters. The EC shall notify the individual or chapter of charges and evidence and allow reasonable time to arrange for the individual or chapter to be present at the EC meeting which will consider disciplinary action. The individual or chapter has full rights to defend himself at this meeting. The decision of the EC may be appealed to the NC. In the case of disciplinary action against chapters, the decision may be appealed to the National Convention.

During the entire proceedings and appeal procedures, individuals and chapters have full rights to the use of the discussion bulletin and other procedures for internal communication.

Minority political views shall have full rights of representation on all committees of the organization. The outgoing NC and the executive committee shall submit in nomination a slate of candidates for the election of the new committee after consulting the different political tendencies within the

organization. If any political tendency believes that it is or may be under-represented on any committee of the organization, it is entitled, by submitting a motion or resolution as the basis for political representation, to that proportion of the seats on the committee as the proportion of those voting in favor of the motion or resolution as a basis for political representation, to those voting at the meeting where the election is carried out.

Political tendencies also have the right to the procedure of political division in the election of delegates to the National Convention.

No member shall be denied full rights of electoral participation in all internal IS affairs, or be denied full due process in any and all questions concerning discipline including expulsion, nor be denied the right to run for any position of office in the IS, because of the length of his or her membership in the IS.

Article XII. Amendments

This constitution may be amended by membership referendum or by Convention vote. Amendments to be considered must be submitted 60 days in advance of the Convention which is to act on the amendments.

Article XIII. (This should be a new article on the youth organization of the IS. It should be drafted by the appropriate subcommittee in consultation with the Red Tide leadership.)