Resolution on the women's movement - for regroupment session

Basing our prospects on a reemergence of mass movements in the 1980's, the
IS must pay consistent attention to the women's movement in the United States.
Attacks on women's opportunity and equality as workers, on reproductive freedom
and on the ability of poor and working women to meet family responsibilities
continue to be part of capitalism's political response to the crisis. Changes
the workforce are creating new conditions of oppression for women as well as
placing them at important centers of potential social struggle. The ideologica
antifeminist right, though somewhat rebuffed by the Reagan administration, is
still strong. The family's continued disintegration presents women both with
difficulties and potential new social roles.

Despite the recent defeats and weaknesses of the women's movement of the '70s,
active responses among women to changing conditions is sure to increase. In a
context of social activism, many women from both the working class and middle
class are likely to become politicized — and radicalized -- through their
fight against women's oppression. Activists, both those who consider themselve
socialists and those who do not, will be looking for analytical and strategic
answers to the problems their movement faces. They will look towards organizat
and the idea of socialism only if this is where they can expect to find those
answers.

The regrouped revolutionary socialist organization we envision will have to be
suggest strategic direction and work towards bheoretical clarity for the
women's movement. As initiators of the regroupment process, we must be
prepared to develop this strategy and theory. Indeed, our credibility among
those we attempt to involve in the regroupment process is damaged if
we are perceived as ignoring issues of the women's movement. At the moment, we
are not in a position to determine the extent to which we can increase
_ in the movement; this will take some thoughtful assessment. But
we can adopt a serious and systematic approach to improving our understanding a
expertise on these issues during the regroupment process itself. Both discussi
and activism, by IS members themselves and in conjunction with others, can be
developed, and to that end we propose the following:

    1. That Changes include regular articles of both strategic and social
analysis on issues pertaining to women. Topics would include the future of the
the Family Protection Act and the role of the right, defeat of the ERA, etc.
Some would be written by our own members, some solicited from others, and some
would take the form of reviews or respsonses to articles in other publications
(Radical America, International Socialism, etc.)

    2. That, as a means of the entire organization sharpening its perspective,
discussion pieces be solicited for internal bulletins. Some would
be work reports and some analytical. Again, these can be our own writings or t
of others, or comments and reviews of itums apprearing elsewhere.

    3. That we participate in producing a joint publication of the type
proposed in "Changes and the Regroupment Process" that would consitue a
shating of experience and dialogue among different tendencies active in the
reproductive rights and working women's movements.

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Resolution on women's movement(cont'd)

4. That, where possible, the IS have an organizational presence at rallies demonstrations, etc. This can range from simply endorsing an event to participating in a contingent, but implies that at least endorsement be xxxxxx systematically considered.

5. That we undertake, over the next few xxx months, an assessment of our current involvement in the women's movement and investigate the potential for deepening this work and improving its coordination.

6. That the PC be responsible for conrdinating the above activities, with the understanding that members respond when called upon to submit articles, et and take initiatives when local issues and opportunities arise.

--submitted by the
New York branch (passed una