

Comrades,

As you may know, the Steering Committee is in the process of formulating a proposal for the development of Local Trend Centers. We see this task as a very important one, but realize that good preparation and thought must precede implementation of a concrete proposal. Understanding that conditions will vary throughout the country, we need to have your ideas and suggestions.

The basic purpose of the Local Center is to bring together all adherents of the Organizing Committee who are in basic agreement with the 18 Principles of Unity for joint meetings and discussions of the questions being taken up at the national level. They should also serve as information centers and contact points for the Organizing Committee at the local level. Other activities, such as joint study, summation of practice, joint action, etc. could also be taken up. In addition, each local center might take initiative to develop relations with other forces, like El Comite, that agree with the 18 Principles of Unity, but for one reason or another, stand outside the Organizing Committee.

Detroit folks have taken some initial steps in the direction of building a Local Center. In order to give you an idea of one approach, we would like to share with you some of these early developments.

In Detroit, there are two separate O.C. organizations. Both organizations view joint work around building a local center as an important aspect of our organizational tasks, locally and nationally. In addition, there are a number of independent Marxist-Leninists and progressives who, for various reasons, remain outside of our two organizations. In all cases, we have developed close working relationships with these people through our mass work, coalition efforts and study groups. We see as a first step, the consolidating of these forces into a local center.

We first plan to present a 4-part series of sessions (presentation and discussion) which will introduce in some detail the anti-dogmatic trend. It will also speak to the need to build a party, define revisionism and dogmatism. After these sessions conclude, those that feel they have sufficient unity with the O.C. will be encouraged to go on to form the Local Center, together with the two trend organizations.

We envision some of the activities of the Local Center to be the sponsoring of forums, workshops, and/or speakers on timely issues, for instance, affirmative action and South Africa. We would see possible inviting speakers from other parts of the country from the O.C. Joint study of specific questions might also be taken up by Local Center participants.

As you can see, Detroit is only in its initial planning stage. The Steering Committee needs your ideas and comments. Answers to the following questions would be helpful:

1. Have you taken up in any way the idea of a Local Center for your area? If so, what has been your progress to date?
2. What do you see as necessary and/or possible activities/tasks for a Local Center?

3. Do you anticipate priority conflicts, in terms of your organization, in developing and taking leadership in a Local Center for your area?
4. If such a Local Center would be possible for your area, what kinds of things would you expect of the Steering Committee. For example, resources, materials, coordinated activities, etc.
5. What kinds of forces do you see organizing into a Local Center for your area? For example, other organizations friendly to the O.C., independent Marxist-Leninists, progressive activists, advanced workers, combination of all of these, etc.
6. If for some reason, you do not see the possibility of a Local Center getting off the ground in your area, please state so, and explain the reasons for this.

It is most important that we hear from you on this subject. Please give us your ideas as soon as possible and send to Pat Fry, 5510 Courville, Detroit, Michigan, 48224.

Comradely,

Pat Fry
For the Steering Committee

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