

January 16, 1980

Dear NSSO Member:

This letter is intended to present a summation of the discussion of the content of the OCIC Principle of Unity 18 which was held with the representatives of the National Steering Committee on January 12, 1980. Additionally, it will summarize concrete tasks requested of each individual NSSO member in order to make clear individual positions.

Summary of Discussion on the Content of Point 18 with NSSO

In the opinion of the NSC representatives, overall, individuals of NSSO were not opposed to the content of each of the points raised in Principle of Unity 18, but individuals could not completely unite with some of them either. Specifically, the following are the main points of view presented in our meeting of January 12, 1980:

1. Comrades could unite that the main enemy of the world's peoples is US Imperialism, militarily and economically, and that the working class must practice the principles of proletarian internationalism.
2. Comrades are not sure that if one does not identify US imperialism as the main enemy of the world's peoples that one cannot practice the principles of proletarian internationalism. Comrades explained this by saying that if a working class fought primarily its own bourgeoisie, this would fulfill their proletarian internationalist duty because every fight against any imperialist power weakens the entire system of imperialism worldwide.
3. Comrades clarified their position on the Theory of the Three Worlds. Comrades do not uphold this theory and believe that the struggle in the OCIC should have been around defeating the Theory of the Three Worlds. This view is based on disagreements with the Theory of the Three Worlds over the question of its liquidation of class struggle in the world, emphasizing instead nationalism.
4. Comrades felt that the resolution on Point 18 should only have targetted imperialism as a world-wide system, and not any particular "national" form of imperialism.
5. When asked if comrades felt that the Soviet Union was a secondary enemy of the people of the world, there was no hesitation in answering that the SU is a secondary enemy.
6. Comrades said they had problems with the "concept" of the "main" enemy in

that they had questions about the theoretical underpinnings of it. Therefore, some indicated that they had questions about whether the united front was a correct policy during WWII and in the present context as well.

The NSC team has tried to summarize to the best of our ability the key points raised in our discussion. We understand that the level of unity and disunity was uneven among the different members of the organization.

As was agreed to in our meeting, the following questions are put forward in writing so that the National Steering Committee can precisely determine the level of unity on the content of Point 18 on the part of each individual member of the North Star Socialist Organization.

1. Do you agree that the working class must practice the principles of proletarian internationalism and that it must take up every struggle against imperialism anywhere in the world and champion it as its own?
2. Do you agree that in the present context, the practice of proletarian internationalism is impossible without concretely identifying the main enemy of the world's people?
3. Do you agree that by "main enemy" Marxist-Leninists understand the main obstacle to the consolidation of national liberation, democracy, peace, and socialism?
4. Do you agree that today that main enemy is US imperialism?
5. Do you agree that those who do not view the US as the main enemy are not upholding proletarian internationalism?

The NSC urges comrades to answer questions above as precisely as possible. Where there is unclarity or disunity, please state such. We would also urge that comrades read over all Point 18 documents, especially John F's paper, "The Struggle Over Principle 18 Summed Up."

The answers should be completed and sent to Pat Fry no later than March 1, 1980.

#### On the Question of NSSO Individuals' Relationship to the Minneapolis Local Center

The National Steering Committee regards seriously the question of OCIC members' participation in Local and Regional Centers. Our ability to overcome the circle existence in ideological struggle rests on the building of OCIC centers broadly in the tendency. All members of the OCIC have the right and, indeed, the responsibility to raise views opposing the SC's positions. However, these views must be struggled for at the local and regional levels as well as at the national level.

In order that individual members of the NSSO may clarify for the National Steering Committee and the Minneapolis Local Center their reasons for withdrawing from the Local OCIC Center, comrades should read John F's paper, "Forging the Party Spirit", which outlines organizational guidelines in the conduct of the ideological struggle for OCIC bodies. Comrades are asked to reply in writing their attitude on these guidelines, as well as specific reasons for leaving the Minneapolis Local Center. These written responses should be sent to Pat Fry for the National Steering Committee, as well as the Local Center Steering Committee in Minneapolis and the Midwest Regional Coordinating Committee, c/o Pam Marquardt.

During the course of our discussion, comrades of NSSO raised criticisms of unprincipled methods of struggle of individuals in the Minneapolis Local Center. Any criticisms such as this must be written up and submitted to the Local Center in Minneapolis, as well as the National Steering Committee and the Midwest Regional Coordinating Committee. After a written response is submitted in reply by the Local Center leadership body, the Regional Coordinating Committee will intervene if necessary. Criticisms of unprincipled methods of struggle must not be raised casually; all parties must move to resolve problems such as this as quickly as possible.

In summation, then, the National Steering Committee is asking each member of NSSO to respond in writing to the following:

1. The five questions regarding the content of Principle 18.
2. The organizational guidelines in "Forging the Party Spirit" paper, and reasons for leaving the Minneapolis Local Center.
3. Criticisms of methods of struggle of the Minneapolis Local Center comrades.

It is hoped that comrades will treat these tasks seriously and that they will receive top priority. All three should be completed no later than March 1, 1980.

In the spirit of moving forward our common effort,

  
Pat Fry, Steering Committee, OCIC

xc: Members of the National Steering Committee, OCIC  
Members of the Regional Coordinating Committee, Midwest  
Members of the Minneapolis Local Center Steering Committee