

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP REPORT AT PLP CONVENTION

The international policy of the Progressive Labor Party is to unite all workers to defeat all bosses. The only way the international working class can have a decent life is by the revolutionary overthrow of the bosses' governments and the establishment of the dictatorship of the working class, a system in which the workers rule and the bosses are outlawed.

When this is done, we can build a new society with no exploitation of man by man, a society in which working people collectively own the factories and farms, a society of socialism.

At the Third Convention of F. L. P., July, 1973, the following report from the international workshop was adopted:

REPORT TO THE PLP CONVENTION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP:

I. One of the African guests who participated in the workshop commented yesterday afternoon that the most impressive thing was its spirit of constructive internationalism. "A few years ago, we would not have been able to express our differences without being at each other's throats. This new spirit indicates a great maturity for our movement and the Progressive Labor Party."

Comrades and friends from some 20 countries participated in our workshop. From the outset, we tried to devote ourselves to establishing a new spirit of international consultation and criticism among friends.

The old international movement had, and

still does, keep its differences and its criticisms bottled up at the top. We determined that this should not happen to us. We began by reaffirming the principle first put forward by Marx and later by Lenin that it is the right and responsibility of communists to criticize each other and to raise questions and differences with others, regardless of national boundaries. Communism knows no borders.

II. In this spirit, we began by discussing some of the fundamental concepts our Party has put forward in recent years, particularly those in Road to Revolution III. Differences were expressed, and to some degree discussed, on many questions, including:

- Nationalism and the role of national liberation struggles;
- Tactical unity with petty-bourgeois forces, or even bourgeois forces;
- Two stage theory of revolution;
- The role of peasants, and whether it's possible to win peasants to socialism, or even whether there are peasants in the traditional sense of the word;
- The history of the Chinese revolution, particularly alliances with the KMT;
- The questions of survival versus principle, and which is primary.

Aside from these, and a few other minor points, our workshop was unanimous in every respect (smile). We realized that these differences would not, could not be resolved at this meeting, and determined that the exchange of views should be continued and expanded (see below).

III. Next, we discussed the mass movements around the world, and sought to arrive at some common programmatic demands for

this movement (s).

Taking into account the perspective for the coming period which was described in Milt's opening remarks, that is of sharply increasing inter-imperialist rivalry and the decline of U. S. imperialism, where does that leave us. We expect a sharp increase in nationalist propoganda (we can already see this begun) in every country in the world in the form of increasingly hysterical anti-'foreigner' and racist propoganda.

The fundamental basis of any international program for the mass movement, we felt, must be a total and complete rejection of this 'national interest' bullshit. We should adopt some popular slogan--for example "Workers of all nations, Unite!"

We agreed, too, that as communists we must participate in the mass movements which arise around the world-- national liberation struggles, agrarian reform movements, etc. , even when we don't agree with the leadership or the line of these movements. But we must participate in them as communists. This means raising the revolutionary consciousness, and putting forward our program within these movements.

Some of the programmatic points for these movements which were suggested were:

1. Worker-peasant alliance. . . fight for better working and living conditions for agricultural workers as part of the working class.
2. Fight against Imperialism in any one country should be spread to an international war against imperialism.
3. A shorter work week -- not necessarily 30 for 40.
4. Defeat racist ideology in every country in the world.
5. Stop racist immigration laws --Immigrant workers and native workers UNITE!
6. Support for strikes around the world . . . this can and should be fought for within the labor movement (s).
7. Men and women workers unite. . equal pay

for equal work (particular example cited: the border towns of Tijuana, Mexicali and Juarez are sites of several factories which exploit women workers).

While there was not unanimous agreement on these points, the general feeling was positive. It was agreed we should circulate a draft of this program proposal to all our groups and friends, and ask for comments, additions, etc.

IV. Our most important decision was to continue and expand our workshop. We agreed on some general guidelines for this process:

1. Participants in our ongoing meetings should be generally part of the anti-revisionist stream.
2. They should be involved in the mass struggle.
3. We all agreed to try to work out some common programmatic points and to try to work together at fighting for them.
4. We all agreed to frank and open exchange of ideas and criticism. We recognized it will take years of ideological struggle and experience before a unified line will emerge. This process we're confident will lead eventually to the establishment of a new International. It will be loose at first, just as our PLM was, but over the years, it will grow and grow together.

V. We concluded with certain concrete proposals, among which were:

1. We will put out a journal for continuing this international discussion -- the first issue of this journal should contain the report on our workshop, the draft programmatic proposals. It will also contain reports from comrades and friends in Puerto Rico, Canada, Angola, and elsewhere which were presented at the workshop.
2. Everyone here and all our friends should make a serious effort to read and criticize each other's literature. This means not just sending it to our offices and to the leaders, but subscriptions by as many as poss-

ible. Members, leaders, friends and the mass base of all parties should read this literature and the journal. We must **RELY ON INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS AND ITS PARTIES TO SHARE LINE OF NEW COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL.** We can all start here and now by subscribing.

3. We will have regular consultative meetings of this workshop, including new participants. . . loose at first. . . perhaps twice a year.

4. We will try to organize visits among our friends and comrades to each others' countries. We will make a serious effort to coordinate and even direct members and friends who are "vacationing" to other countries to involve them in this work.

5. The PRSL, CPL and PLP will meet togeth-

er more regularly, and function temporarily as a kind of ad hoc coordinating committee for this ongoing workshop.

VI. In the 'old days' it would have been easy to 'solve' many of these knotty problems: Just pick up the phone and call Moscow, or check out the latest issue of Peking review. Today we see answers to these questions will come through frank public exchange of views and criticisms and through our experience in the common struggle against the international ruling class. This week-end, we have taken the first tentative steps towards the "New Days" -- **TOWARDS THE BUILDING OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT!**

CPL REPORT TO INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

This report was presented to the International Workshop at the PLP Third Convention by the CPL representative.

The Canadian Party of Labour came into being by fighting against the proposition that any "stages" or national "questions" superseded the necessity of the closest possible international working class unity. Specifically, the question was whether or not to forge close ties with the Progressive Labour Party. So we are glad to be here making this report.

The condition of the working class in Canada is substantially the same as that of the U.S. working class. Wages, costs, housing are approximately the same. The worker in this developed capitalist system works in the same industries, often for the same monopolist bosses; they belong to the same international unions, and they are now undergoing the same upheavals.

The same hold true for the working class in Quebec. Precisely as we began to reject the notions of "two stage" revolution and "national liberation", our strategy became to build our Party and the fight for socialism in Quebec as everywhere else in Canada. Our line is: "one state, one class, one revolutionary communist Party."

Canada's ruling class is often described, fairly accurately, as the junior partner of U. S. imperialism. As capitalists go, "junior" isn't doing bad. Canadian bosses have worldwide holdings from which they reap immense profits. They do particularly well in the West Indies, South Africa, Ireland and Indonesia. While there is much U. S. investment in Canada, the Canadian financial bosses have been careful to keep a tight grip on the banking system. David Rockefeller attempted to set up a bank in Canada and was given the bums' rush. Canada's rulers also have considerable