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## Marxist-Leninist Organisation of Britain

# Conference lays foundation of Marxist-Leninist Party

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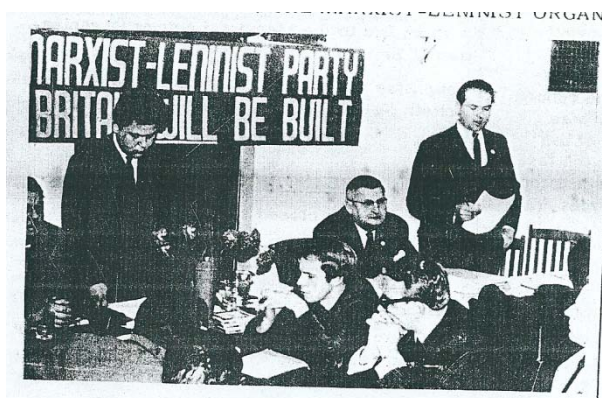
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On the weekend of September 9/10<sup>th</sup>, delegates representing Marxist-Leninists from various parts of the country met in London in the CONFERENCE OF MARXIST-LENINIST UNITY in order to found THE MARXIST-LENINIST ORGANISATION OF BRITAIN.

### A Historic Conference

In his opening remarks, the chairman, Bill Bland, referred to the conference as "historic".



L-R: Mike Baker, Bill Bland and Gunter Ackerman, Free Socialist Party of Germany (ML)

"Those outside this hall who do not understand the principles of Marxism-Leninism may well look upon this phrase as wishful self-deception. For to them history is made by great names, by prime ministers and millionaire financiers, by field-marshal and prominent intellectuals. And there are no financiers or field marshals here today. And this is as it should be, for the next decisive turn in the long history of mankind will be taken not by great names, but by the Bill Smiths of the working class."

He described the aims of the Conference as

"to take the first steps towards the reconstitution of a Marxist-Leninist Party of Britain",

Which had been made necessary by "the criminal betrayal of Marxism-Leninism and of the fundamental interests of the working class by the revisionist leaders of the Communist Party of Great Britain."

He said that the initial Marxist-Leninist forces in Britain, which were proportional to the numbers of delegates at the conference, were not large.

“Of course, were all the people who called themselves ‘marxists’ here, the Albert Hall could be filled many times over – mainly with members of the revisionist Communist party. Even if there were present only those who called themselves ‘anti-revisionist marxists’ and who cry: ‘Long Live Chairman Mao!’. Some hundreds of people could be mustered from all parts of Britain. But the experience of the last few years has proved that a majority of those who call themselves ‘anti-revisionist marxists’ are associated with groups which put forward policies which deviate from Marxism-Leninism either to the right or to the ‘left’, policies which range from revisionism to trotskyism.”

Comrade Bland pointed out that the inaugural conferences of genuine Marxist-Leninist organisations were invariably small.

“The Russian Social-Democratic Labour party, forerunner of the great Bolshevik party, had nine delegates at its first congress in 1898. And two years ago the reborn French Marxist-Leninist movement was founded at an inaugural conference of ten delegates. In comparison, we begin the task of building a Marxist-Leninist organisation in Britain with somewhat larger forces.”

#### A Praiseworthy Offence

After messages of good wishes from veteran British Communists had been read, together with telegram of greetings from the Marxist-Leninist party of Austria, the Conference gave a standing ovation to the fraternal delegation of the Free Socialist Party of Germany (Marxist-Leninist), the membership of which embraces both West and East Germany. The leaders of the German delegation, Comrade Gunter Ackermann, is at present awaiting trial for what the Chairman described as “ the praise worthy offence” of insulting the President of the Federal German Republic.

#### Closing Remarks

Following the election of the Central committee, Control Commission and Appeal Commission, the Chairman closed the Conference by saying:

“When I opened this Conference, I described it as “historic”. Everything that has taken place this weekend has confirmed that estimate a hundredfold, and in the future all of us will look back with pride in our participation in this founding conference.

We have talked. We have met Comrades we have not met before. We have passed resolutions on policy, and decided broadly on the way forward. We have founded the Marxist-Leninist Organisation of Britain and elected its first Central committee.

Now we have to go back to our various parts of the country and begin the task of putting into practice the political line we have agreed here: the task of bringing this line to the working class in every conceivable way; the task of striking roots deep into the working class; the task of building the Marxist-Leninist Organisation of Britain.

The directives of the Central committee, pamphlets and educational material which will be produced by the M.L.O.B., the new revolutionary journal RED FRONT – all these will be of assistance. But it is on the political consciousness and dedication of each one of us that the immediate future depends.

The cardinal task of the M.L.O.B. is to establish a Marxist-Leninist Party of Britain. The sooner that task is accomplished, the better. In closing this conference, I say, therefore

A short life to the Marxist-Leninist Organisation of Britain:

Long Live the Marxist-Leninist party of Britain!



### THE INTERNATIONALE

The Conference closed with the singing of the “The Internationale”.

### FIRST CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

The Central Committee of the M.L.O.B. met for the first time on the evening of Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> and elected its officers.

Comrade Mike Baker was elected First Secretary.