

Special Bulletin On the Convention of the S.W.P. and the Meeting of the
Leninist Trotskyist Tendency

Given the importance of these two events we have decided to publish this official bulletin for the information of the comrades.

This bulletin includes a letter sent by the comrades who attended the two meetings which summarizes the events which took place at the SWP Congress and two outlines which were presented for a declaration in the meetings of the tendency. One prepared by the leadership of the SWP and the other by ourselves. We have added a few notes to make it easier to understand.

11 August, 1973

Dear comrades,

Today the congress ended. Everyone agrees it has been an historic one. Some comrades consider it as important as the 1946 when Cannon was released from prison. All the points on the agenda both national and international were discussed but for the tendency struggle the most important were Latin America, Europe and International. Here a tendency has been formed which calls itself internationalist which had the support of Livio and put all the accomplishments of the SWP into question. (They have only three delegates but represent about 80 members). According to the comrades of the SWP this tendency is a collection of diverse groups, some of which have workerist positions, that until recently were against the politics which they party had towards the international, and old tired comrades that cannot adapt to the new reality of work with the youth. In reality it is an unprincipled tendency like the one which appeared within our party when the Combo fraction was formed. The detonator for the SWP making this giant step of calling for a faction at an international scale against the so-called majority, was the discovery of a letter sent from Europe by a member of that internationalist tendency. The author, Barzman, admits the existence of a secret tendency headed up by the troika Germain, Livio, Frank.

The political debate was quite intense and strong. The SWP comrades, "declared war", exact words, against the centrist faction on an international scale that has prostituted the Fourth International and which today, like in 1953, abandons the creation of bolshevik parties with mass influence in order to work on the "mass vanguard" and which is nothing less than the adaptation to that vanguard which is at times ultraleft and at times opportunist, as had

been reflected and the most recent events: June 21 action in France and support to the FRA in Bolivia, or towards the NLF in Vietnam.

Livio, who was present, gave total support to this faction and utilized the same old arguments against us; that we are reformists. At times it was like being back in Argentina arguing with the Combos. Naturally none of the faction gave ~~any~~ proof of our "ultrarightist" positions, but the method used was the usual; dissolve the concrete in the abstract, take events out of context and make accusations without the least basis. It was an emotional experience to listen to Joe and Jack recognize the error of the Ninth World Congress, "There Moreno told us that the Red Book was the positions of the Combaticos and we didn't believe him. We listened instead to Livio who told us that the majority belonged to the Combos and that the Red Book did not reflect the official positions of this faction. But today we must make a open self-criticism. Moreno was right." These were, more or less, the words used. But followed by other declarations equal if not of a greater importance. Joe said that there was a tendency moving towards a split, that it was due to the existence of this tendency that our expulsion was proposed from the Fourth, and that they would not tolerate it whatsoever. Like never before the entire old guard supported the positions taken by the younger ones. Farrell Dobbs, Novack, Tom Kerry and Joe all spoke.

In reality an historical event. Personally I felt one of the most satisfying experiences of my life. The support of the comrades of the SWP I interpret as the ratification of a struggle we have been carrying on for over twenty five years, the formation of a truly bolshevik international. The only thing I regret was that Hugo was not with me to feel the same satisfaction that, although I may fall in the sin of the cult of the personality, I have to say it; this recognition is the public recognition for his long struggle of twenty five years for the true ~~the~~ trotskyism. ~~It~~ The affection for us is immense, truly overflowing. Alberto agrees with these appreciations. Both of us have lived unforgettable moments.

After Monday we will be discussing the structuring of the faction. In private discussions we have made it clear that there are still some differences over Popular Frontism and China, but that we have time to discuss these further. Peter has recognized that in his work on Chile there are unilateral appreciations but although he disagrees on some tactical questions, as for example, our slogan of replacing the military in the Chilean cabinet, he is in agreement with our analysis. We, on our part, have said that although it is necessary to make some clarification on the stages in the Chinese revolution, that we are in agreement on the need for a political revolution in China as well as Vietnam.

What we will have to discuss is whether in the general declaration of the faction is whether we will consider all the documents as documents of the faction or whether we make an extensive general declaration, which takes in all the points. We are in agreement in a general declaration, an extensive one, but in a general declaration to elaborate. What is your opinion?

Enough for today.

With a fraternal hug,

E and A

Note I

In all there were 1,478 comrades present at the SWP congress. In the congress of 1971 there was close to 1,100 and in 1969 660.

Comrades participated from 27 different states. 301 from New York, 220 from California, 88 from Massachusetts and Illinois, and 77 from Texas. There were 44% women and 55% of those present were under 25 years of age. There were represented some 55 trade unions and 38% of the ** were present for the first time at a congress of the SWP. There were 75 delegates each one representing 15 comrades.

Note II

The minority faction (3 delegates) attacked the politics of the SWP in all areas. It supported Mandel's document on Europe and the line of the Ninth World Congress approved by the majority. On the national level it accused the SWP leadership of tail ending the feminist movement, the blacks, the Chicanos, and in general the oppressed nationalities and the more backward layers that protested against the war instead of having a political line towards the vanguard. They also attacked denouncing the lack of democracy because they insisted in a higher number of delegates, that is to say, instead of one delegate for every 15, they asked for one for every 10 or less. The congress declared this faction as disloyal and did not permitted participation on the National Committee.