

## PC Decision Suspending Wohlforthites

### Motion by Secretariat:

Under date of June 30, 1964, a circular "demanding" that a general internal party discussion be opened was submitted to the Political Committee by nine members of the Wohlforth group. The nine who signed the document are: Jack Arnold, Danny F., Neil M., Fred M., Sylvia M., Earl Owens, Dave Van Ronk, Martha Wells and Tim Wohlforth.

As a pretext for their "demand" the Wohlforthites cite the betrayal of Trotskyist principles by the Perera wing of the LSSP which has entered a bourgeois coalition government in Ceylon. Slanderously blaming the SWP and its co-thinkers for Perera's unprincipled conduct, the Wohlforthites set out to reopen a whole series of policy questions which were decided by the July 1963 party convention. These questions range from the reunification of the world movement to the Negro struggle in the United States, and on every one of them the Wohlforthite positions were decisively rejected by the convention.

Concurrent with the issuance of the Wohlforthite document, readers of the Newsletter in this country are being circularized by the Healy group of Britain with a letter calling for the reopening of discussion within the SWP. The fraudulent political attack on the SWP in Healy's material closely parallels the Wohlforthite line and is the obvious source from which the latter derives. It is plain for all to see that the Wohlforthites are acting as direct factional agents for Healy within the SWP.

The disruptive intent of the Wohlforthites is clearly shown by the manner in which they have proceeded. Simultaneous with the submission of their June 30 circular to the PC, they sent copies of it to party branches. A covering letter, also dated June 30, signed by the nine Wohlforthites and addressed to the branch organizer, asked that the circular be read at the next branch meeting. Copies of the material were also mailed to some individual party members. A general distribution of the document was made to the New York membership as the comrades arrived at the party headquarters for the July 2 branch meeting. In short, the Wohlforthites have sought to open an internal party discussion without waiting a split second for the PC to act on the matter.

Their conduct is in flagrant violation of the 1938 party resolution, "On the Internal Situation and the Character of the Party," which specifically states: "The decisions of the national party convention are binding on all party members without exception and they conclude the discussion on all these disputed questions upon which a decision has been taken. Any party member violating the decisions of the convention, or attempting to revive discussion in regard to them without formal authorization of the party, puts himself thereby in opposition to the party and forfeits his

right to membership. All party organizations are authorized and instructed to take any measures necessary to enforce this rule." (See, Internal Information Bulletin, January 1964 -- I).

It would be the height of insolence for the Wohlforthites to claim ignorance of the foregoing provisions concerning the regulation of internal party discussion. For more than a year the above and all other provisions basic to the party's organizational principles have been forcibly called to the attention of all comrades because of violations committed by the disloyal Robertsonites. Plainly the Wohlforthites knew exactly what they were doing; they deliberately and wilfully violated party discipline.

Because of their flagrant, deliberate and wilful violation of party discipline the Political Committee hereby suspends from party membership Jack Arnold, Danny F., Neil M., Fred M., Sylvia M., Earl Owens, Dave Van Ronk, Martha Wells and Tim Wohlforth. Those suspended are barred from internal party meetings. They are denied access to internal party material. They are excluded from participation in any and all forms of internal party life and activity.

The Political Committee refers to the next plenum of the National Committee the question of further disciplinary action against the Wohlforthites.

Although the Wohlforth group has held divergent political views within the party, we emphasize that their opinions have nothing to do with the suspension of the signers of this document. Others who have held similar or identical positions as the signers have not joined them in their flagrant violation of discipline. These comrades, having continued to abide by convention decisions, are not in any way affected by the Political Committee action.

Adopted by the Political Committee  
July 10, 1964