

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
September 28, 1973

TO ALL MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,


Attached are two items, the call for the Pre-World Congress Special National Convention of the Socialist Workers Party, and Recommendations to the Delegates of the Coming World Congress adopted unanimously by the United Secretariat on September 19, 1973.

The World Congress has been set to take place in early 1974. Thus, the Political Committee has scheduled a special party convention to consider and decide party position on the disputed points the United Secretariat has recommended be placed on the World Congress agenda for vote, to take place the evening of December 26 through the morning of December 28, 1973.

The United Secretariat has unanimously recommended that the present temporary statutes of the Fourth International be adopted without change. The political points the United Secretariat has recommended to be placed on the World Congress agenda are: 1) the world political situation, 2) orientation in Bolivia, 3) orientation in Argentina, and 4) European perspectives. Thus the agenda of the Pre-World Congress Special National Convention of the party will cover those same points. This letter, the call for the special party convention and the unanimous recommendations of the United Secretariat should be read to the branches and posted.

All contributions to the Discussion Bulletin must be submitted in typed, triple-spaced format to the national office and should include title, author and author's branch. Contributions must be typed 60 characters or less to a line to facilitate typesetting for the bulletin. Only contributions received by the national office on or before December 8, 1973, will be accepted.

Comradely,



Lew Jones
National Office

CALL FOR THE PRE-WORLD CONGRESS SPECIAL NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

September 28, 1973

TO ALL LOCALS, BRANCHES AND MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

Pursuant to the provisions of the party constitution, and as authorized by the August 1973 plenum of the National Committee, the Political Committee hereby calls the Pre-World Congress Special National Convention of the Socialist Workers Party to convene in Chicago, Illinois, at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday, December 26 and continue through three days (December 26, 27, and 28, 1973).

AGENDA

The Political Committee proposes the following agenda for the convention:

World Political Situation
Orientation in Argentina and Bolivia
European Perspectives

PRECONVENTION DISCUSSION

The party preconvention Discussion Bulletin is formally opened September 29, 1973. The Discussion Bulletin is open for all party members on the subjects listed in the agenda. The oral preconvention discussion will begin following receipt in the branches of the International Executive Committee Majority Tendency's World Political Situation Resolution or Resolution on Argentina. As authorized by the party constitution, the Political Committee has set a deadline of December 8, 1973, for acceptance of preconvention discussion articles for the bulletin.

Branch membership meetings shall be arranged for discussion of the various subjects on the agenda. Our traditional provisions and safeguards for the adequate and free presentation of all points of view shall govern all discussion.

CONVENTION ASSESSMENT

As authorized by the party constitution, a convention assessment of \$6.00 per member is hereby levied, the payment of which is obligatory for every member not totally unemployed.

BASIS OF REPRESENTATION

1. Representation from the branches shall be as follows: One delegate for the first 15 members or less, and one additional delegate for each 15 additional members or major fraction thereof (8 or more constituting a major fraction).

2. Delegates are to be elected by branches in accordance with the actual number of members in good standing who have been admitted to the party prior to October 15, 1973, and who have paid their convention assessment, as certified by the branch

executive committee on the day of voting.

3. Branches organized after October 15, 1973, are entitled to send fraternal delegates as provided by the party constitution.

4. Members admitted to the party after October 15, 1973, are entitled to voice in the party discussion but no vote on resolutions or in the selection of delegates.

5. Absentee votes on political resolutions and in the election of delegates shall not be permitted except in clearly established cases of occupational necessity (for example, regular night workers, etc.). In all such cases the votes must be submitted in writing and recognized by motion at the branch meeting at the time of the branch voting.

6. Members transferring from one branch to another within the same locality subsequent to October 15, 1973, must vote in the branch from which they transferred.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

In the case of political differences defined by conflicting resolutions, the election of delegates in the branches is to be on the basis of the vote on resolution or resolutions voted on at the meeting at which the delegates are elected. Members voting for a given resolution are entitled to designate the delegate or delegates to which they are entitled on the basis of proportional representation laid down in this call, the designations to be ratified by the branch. Abstentions in no case count as votes.

1. If a branch is entitled to one delegate, the delegate goes to the majority of those present and voting at the time of the election.

2. If two delegates, a minority with 40 percent gets one.

3. If three delegates, a minority with $33\frac{1}{3}$ percent gets one.

4. If four delegates, a minority with 25 percent gets one delegate, but a minority with 40 percent is entitled to two delegates.

5. If five delegates, a minority with 20 percent gets one.

6. If six delegates, a minority with $16\frac{2}{3}$ percent gets one delegate, a minority with $33\frac{1}{3}$ percent, two delegates, but a minority with 40 percent gets one-half the delegates.

In general, if a branch is entitled to n delegates, then a minority is entitled to x delegates if it receives at least x/n of the votes, with the one exception that if n is even, a minority receiving at least 40 percent of the vote is entitled to half of the delegates.

CONVENTION ATTENDANCE

The Political Committee proposes that all party members in good standing may attend the convention as visitors, and that friends may be admitted to the sessions provided they have been invited by a branch.

Fraternally yours,

Political Committee
Socialist Workers Party

Jack Barnes
Jack Barnes
National Secretary

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE DELEGATES OF THE COMING WORLD CONGRESS

Adopted unanimously by the United Secretariat September 19, 1973

The fear has been voiced that the differences under discussion in the Fourth International and the organizations in sympathy with it could lead to a split. To counteract this danger and to strengthen the unity of our movement, the United Secretariat reaffirms its statement "The Preconditions for an Authoritative World Congress" that was unanimously adopted on April 9, 1973.

In addition, the United Secretariat unanimously recommends to the delegates of the Fourth Congress Since Reunification (Tenth World Congress) that they adopt the following proposals:

1. That there be no expulsions or suspensions or application of disciplinary measures against sections of the Fourth International or any of its sympathizing groups.

2. That all sections and sympathizing groups be granted full voting rights at the world congress in accordance with the number of their members in good standing, as specified in the statutes of the Fourth International.

3. That the present temporary statutes of the Fourth International be adopted without change,

4. That in those countries where two or more groups exist because of splits or other reasons, the united moral authority of the Fourth International be brought to bear for the earliest possible fusion of the groups on a principled basis.

5. That only resolutions and counterresolutions on the following points be placed on the agenda of the coming world congress for a vote: (a) the world political situation; (b) the question of orientation in Argentina; (c) the question of orientation in Bolivia; (d) European perspectives; (e) statutes of the Fourth International.

6. That the international discussion on these points be closed following the world congress for one year unless the IEC decides to reopen the discussion earlier.

7. That the following points be considered in commissions or panels at the coming world congress: (a) the "cultural revolution" and China; (b) youth radicalization; (c) women's liberation; (d) Middle East; (e) Vietnam; (f) Eastern Europe.

8. That votes on these topics not be taken at the coming world congress.

9. That the international discussion on the questions listed in point No. 7, excluding analysis of conjunctural events in Vietnam and Eastern Europe, be continued in literary form following the coming world congress in a monthly bulletin not to exceed 48 pages.

10. That the Fifth Congress After Reunification (Eleventh World Congress) be held within two years following the coming world congress.

September 19, 1973