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ISA/ISO Central Office
334 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario

July 23, 1974

Dear Dick:

Here is the record of our negotiations with the RMG, in our unsuccessful attempt to agree on a text for a joint statement of support for the four revolutionary candidates in the July 8th elections.

Item no. 1 is our original proposal, a suggested text for a joint statement, which we delivered to the RMG on June 26, some days after we had informed them of our support of their candidates.

Item no. 2 is the RMG Political Committee's explanation of why they were not supporting our candidate. Dated June 18, it was not delivered to us until June 27.

Item no. 3 is the RMG's proposal for a joint statement. They delivered it to us the same day, June 27. They wrote into the statement a paragraph about the "final goal," workers power, a theme omitted from their real election program. But this paragraph is followed by another which implies some kind of division between these "revolutionary objectives", and the "immediate solutions."

What follows presents the kernel of their schema for today's struggles: proposals of an organizational character for the struggles of the labor movement, which in their view have a "revolutionary dynamic."

Item no. 4 is our second proposal. We gave it to the RMG on June 28. As you see, it retains as much of their text as possible.

On June 30, the RMG told us that two of our amendments were unacceptable. These are the underlined portions of item no. 4. In each case, they demanded that we accept their text, and said this was not negotiable.

We then made them a final proposal (Item no. 5), which we gave to them the same day. Before the day had ended, they phoned us up to tell us that they had rejected this as well.

They had made clear at the outset that if no joint statement was agreed on, their position would remain non-support of our candidate. But the next day at the ISA/ISO-RMG debate Smiley declared they had changed their stand and were supporting Kate Alderdice in Eglinton.

They promised us a letter stating their new position. But this letter never arrived. We have now written them, asking what their final position is, (Item no. 6). We have yet to receive a reply.

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The documents of the negotiations indicate many key points of difference. We were struck by their refusal to include the passage from the Transitional Program, which the IMT ostentatiously included in their international tendency declaration. RMG negotiators told us it was "not relevant" to the July 8 elections.

Comradely,

s/John Riddell.

ITEM NO. 1TROTSKYISTS UNITE EFFORTS IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS

Statement of the Revolutionary Marxist Group and the League for Socialist Action/Ligue Socialiste Ouvriere.

The RMG and the ISA/LSO are presenting revolutionary candidates in four ridings in these elections: Bret Smiley in Toronto-Greenwood, Kate Alderdice in Toronto-Eglinton, Linda Peevers in Peterborough, and Murray Smith in Winnipeg-North Centre. The RMG and ISA/LSO are presenting separate programs, and are waging separate campaigns.

Nevertheless, the programs advanced by the two organizations express major areas of agreement on the central issues in this election. That is why we have decided to join forces in calling for a vote for the four revolutionary candidates, and the engage in joint activities to promote their common aims. Through this stand, both groups can unite on a platform that advances workers' political consciousness and explains the need for independent class action, while retaining their full right to criticize the other group, in areas where they disagree.

As revolutionary socialists in a common world organization, the Fourth International, we are combining to focus our fire on the ruling class and their parties. We further aim to expose the social-democratic mis-leaders of the working class.

We call on Canadian workers to support the revolutionary candidates of both the RMG and the ISA/LSO, on the basis of the following programatic points, which we hold in common.

* * *

The capitalist system is bankrupt. Inflation is built into it. Capitalism cannot provide jobs for all or an adequate standard of living for workers. It oppresses women and national minorities. It wastes resources and pollutes the environment. Faced with economic problems and increasing difficulties, capitalism tries to resolve these through attacks on the working class.

Capitalism must be abolished. Working people need to throw the capitalist parties out of office and form their own government, committed to policies that will fundamentally transform society. The entire apparatus of government and state, set up to defend the interests of the bourgeoisie, must be replaced by a workers government and state ruling in the interests of the toiling masses. The capitalist system of private profit must be replaced by a socialized, planned economy.

The major asset of the ruling class in this election is the political weakness of the working class -- its lack of clear perspective. The workers movement has shown its will to struggle and built powerful organizations. But they are headed by a conservative bureaucracy, while the workers need a revolutionary leadership. Overcoming this deficiency is the central respon-

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sibility of revolutionaries.

In the current federal elections a class question is posed. At present the NDP is the only mass political organization of the working class. By virtue of its organizational ties and the class character of its support, if not its program, the NDP remains a component of the labor movement. It is a labor party. In all ridings where the ISA/ISO and RMG are not presenting candidates, therefore, we call for the election of NDP candidates, not as a vote of confidence in the NDP program or leadership, but as a working class vote against the capitalist parties.

But in calling for a vote for the NDP on this basis, we give no support to the strategy and program of the NDP leadership, which has the reformist perspective of making the capitalist system work better. In B.C., Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, NDP governments are the loyal servants of capitalist interests. We oppose the NDP's class collaborationist alliance with the Liberals in the last Parliament. We call for an unequivocal break with all forms of class collaboration. To the reformist and parliamentary strategy of the NDP leadership we counterpose the proletarian method of independent mass action by the working class.

In addition to our common approach on this question, we also agree on a number of other key issues in this election. In particular we call for the following:

1. Support Quebec's right to self-determination, that is, the right to form an independent state if the Quebecois so desire.
2. Fight inflation with a rising scale of wages which go up in direct proportion to a cost-of-living index determined by the trade unions.
3. Fight unemployment with a sliding scale of hours.

June 26, 1974

ITEM NO. 2

Political Committee, LSA

Dear comrades

As you know, we are not supporting your candidate in the federal election. We wish to explain why, both to you and to the leadership of the Fourth International.

Our position is based on our analysis of the present political conjuncture in Canada. By now you will have seen the latest issue of our press and should be familiar with this analysis. We will summarize the main points.

We believe that Canadian capitalism is going to experience economic, social and political problems in the next immediate period such as it has not faced in the last quarter century. While the worst effects of the deteriorating condition of the world economy have been partially offset by the benefits accruing to Canada from the boom in resource prices, this does not permit a long term economic upswing nor does it compensate for the continuing decline of the manufacturing sector, reflected in the unemployment level (which has been only marginally reduced in the last two years). The inflation rate is already provoking a perceptible increase in workers struggles in both the private and the public sectors. These coincide with resistance in the public sector to state efforts at rationalizing and legal restrictions on the right to organize and strike, as well as widespread unionization and strike campaigns among various layers of "professional" employees. Simultaneously, we see a much more advanced working class offensive in Quebec, ending the lull which followed the defeat of the 1972 upsurge. These various factors are combining to produce a political crisis within the ruling class. The essential division is over whether or not to use the federal state in a much more direct as an instrument of intervention in the economy and in the class struggle, in both Canada and Quebec. This is the significance of the Stanfield program in the present conjuncture. Regardless of the outcome of the election, it is clear that the Tory line is supported by appreciable sectors of the ruling class and that its general approach will become increasingly favoured by the bourgeoisie as the problems of capitalism intensify.

Such an analysis permits us to establish both the positive and negative possibilities in the situation. Positively (from the proletarian point of view) the working class, which has not suffered any major defeats for many years, can take advantage of the political disunity and weakness of the bourgeoisies to strike a number of serious blows at the class enemy. Such a situation would favour both the development of a broader workers vanguard of class struggle militants and the development of new, more advanced perspectives for the labour movement.

Negatively, the political inexperience and backwardness of the working class, the regional and sectoral fragmentation of its struggles, and the absence of any serious opposition to the labour bureaucracy poses the danger of a number of serious

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defeats being inflicted on the workers.

As for the NDP the relationship of various social and political forces completely excludes any possibility of it posing itself as a governmental alternative at the federal level. It is not seen as such by its members or by anyone else. The options for the NDP are essentially twofold: to offer its services (at a modest price) as the guarantor of parliamentary stability in a context where the bourgeoisie is unable to arrive at a unitary political formula, or to maintain a "principled" stance of opposition to both bourgeois parties thereby reverting to its traditional marginality and impotence in federal politics. Either choice is fraught with political problems for Lewis and Co. Hence their present vacillation.

The responsibilities of revolutionaries in this situation may be summarized thus: to clarify the essential elements of the conjuncture to worker militants, to define the objectives and methods of struggle for a working class offensive outside the parliamentary arena, to cut across the isolation of the Quebec class struggle from the English Canadian workers and to popularize a merciless and extremely concrete criticism of both the NDP and the trade union leadership.

This perspective is the fundamental theme of our own election intervention. It also constitutes the basis from which we have derived our position regarding both the NDP and the tendencies to the left of it, including yourselves. Like you we call for an NDP vote in the ridings where we are not presenting candidates. Unlike you, we do not do so as a matter of principle. We do so at the present time because in our estimation, the support given to the NDP by large numbers of workers and small farmers does not primarily signify approval for NDP collusion with the Liberals, but rather a primitive awareness that the NDP is not a party of the capitalists. While such consciousness is laden with reformist ideology, it is none the less progressive in relation to the backwardness of those sectors of the working class which continue to support the bourgeois parties. In the period when the working class in its entirety participates in the electoral process, we stand with those who wish to support a workers party, albeit reformist.

But the axis of our intervention in the elections is not to mobilize support for the NDP. It is to explain to worker militants that their class faces the prospect of serious defeats unless it prepares itself for struggle and that the NDP offers no solution for avoiding such defeats, much less acquiring new gains. We consistently emphasize the treachery of the NDP and advocate a reliance on working class mobilization, unity and self organization, not on the futile parliamentary manoeuvring of the social democrats.

Your approach is precisely the opposite. You lament the bankruptcy and opportunism of the NDP. But the central focus of your campaign is to call for the election of an NDP government (with the rader, new in your progaganda, of "socialist policies") In the Labour Challenge supplement on the federal elections, the only form of action you propose for worker and student militants, with the exception of calling for the re-

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opening of union contracts and the negotiation of escalator clauses, is work in support of NDP candidates and a struggle within the NDP to win it to your "socialist policies".

The contrast between our electoral platforms flow from this central difference. We advocate a program of direct and immediate action: objectives which can broaden the scope of workers struggles and improve the relationship of class forces in favour of the proletariat; methods of struggle which unify the working class and give it experiences in self-organization and proletarian democracy. You advocate the "socialist policies" which the NDP government of your dreams would implement. Your platform of nationalizing this and nationalizing that is very pretty. But it does nothing to clarify the concrete measures which are absolutely essential for the working class at this time. Such a platform would have been adequate for the first militants of Canadian socialism seventy years ago. It is no doubt acceptable to the remnants of left social democracy within the NDP. But it is useless as an instrument for modifying the dynamic of workers struggles in an anti-bureaucratic and anti-capitalist direction under present conditions. And inasmuch as it presents the NDP as the only possible vehicle for the road to socialism, it continues the outrageous deception about social democracy which you have promulgated for over twenty years.

The practical consequence of your orientation is to transform yourselves into a left appendage of the NDP and the union bureaucracy which it represents and to reduce your criticisms of Lewis to those of a loyal opposition which respects the eternal sanctity of the social democratic arena. Thus, you concluded these criticisms with the announcement that you intend to "campaign actively in support of the NDP". The slogan "For an NDP Government" blares from the headlines of your press and the advertisements for the common meetings of your candidate and those of the NDP.

We wish to make it clear that for us, the question of supporting other candidates of the far left is an open one and is not contingent on their full agreement with our program. It's rather a question of evaluating the situation and drawing certain lines of demarcation. Despite the opportunism of your program, we could conceivably support your candidate, if the political situation meant that an ISA vote would constitute a pole of identification for significant anticapitalist forces in opposition to the reformist working class leaderships, regardless of the programmatic deficiencies of your campaign. Such conditions prevailed in France, for example, at the time of the 1973 Legislative elections. In that contest, the support given to Lutte Ouvrier, despite its economism and opportunism, by the Ligue Communiste was in our view correct. But such conditions, most fundamentally the existence of a broad anti-capitalist vanguard, do not obtain in Canada at the present time. The value of revolutionary intervention in this election is almost totally defined in terms of its educational content. It is therefore a question of measuring the comprehensibility and impact of such intervention on the advanced elements of the working class. Thus, the question of the NDP and the necessity

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of posing an orientation of offensive, extra-parliamentary struggles for the labour movement is the primary consideration for us. Our assessment of your campaign is that it will make virtually no contribution to this process. While the electoral platform of the Maoists of CPC(ML) is in some ways closer to a class struggle line than yours is, the purpose of their campaign is completely unintelligible to workers militants and for this reason, we have also refrained from calling for a vote for their candidates.

Finally, we are compelled to express our curiosity at your motivation for supporting our candidates and your proposal for what in effect amounts to a joint campaign. Our electoral platform does not reflect any change in our politics. When we advocated the same demands around self-organizations and workers democracy during the postal strikes, your militants actively collaborated with the union bureaucracy to oppose them. When we advocated the same themes of internationalist solidarity as a platform for the Chile committees, you split from the committees. When we advocated the same approach vis-a-vis the NDP during the tendency struggle in the ISA, you denounced us as anti-Trotskyist. Why do you now consider it acceptable to support exactly the same political positions on the electoral front? There has been no shift in our programmatic orientation. And, despite a more left rhetoric and the new display of token independence from the NDP symbolized by the Eglinton candidacy, there seems to have been no substantial shift in yours. You have made no such overtures to any other forces on the left and you present no reasons why you would distinguish us from them. When we requested your endorsement, we did it on the basis of our platform. (We had not yet seen yours). Comrades, what are your criteria? We remain of course always willing to engage in common activity with you on a principled basis (as we are presently doing in the campaign against the Brazilian trade tour.)

Communist Greetings

The Political Committee,
Revolutionary Marxist
Group

ITEM NO. 3

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ITEM NO. 4

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REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALISTS UNITE EFFORTS IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS

STATEMENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY MARXIST GROUP AND THE LEAGUE FOR SOCIALIST ACTION/LIGUE SOCIALISTE OUVRIERE

The RMG is presenting revolutionary candidates in three ridings in these elections: Bret Smiley in Toronto-Greenwood, Linda Peevers in Peterborough, and Murray Smith in Winnipeg-North Centre. The ISA/LSO is presenting a revolutionary candidate in Toronto-Eglinton, Kate Alderdice. The RMG and ISA/LSO are presenting separate programs, and waging separate campaigns.

Nevertheless, the programs advanced by the two organizations express major areas of agreement on the central issues in this election. That is why we have decided to join forces in calling for a vote for the four revolutionary candidates. Through this stand, both groups can unite on a platform that advances workers' political consciousness and explains the need for independent class action while retaining their full right to criticize the other group, in areas where they disagree.

As revolutionary socialists in a common world organization, the Fourth International, we are combining to focus our fire on the ruling class and their parties. We also aim to criticize the bankruptcy of the policies of the NDP and the trade union leadership and to explain why these policies are purely diversionary with respect to the pressing tasks which confront the working class movement.

We call on Canadian workers and socialists to support the revolutionary candidates of both the RMG and the ISA/LSO,

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Nevertheless, the programs advanced by the two organizations express major areas of agreement on the central issues in this election. That is why we have decided to join forces in calling for a vote for the four revolutionary candidates. Through this stand both groups can unite on a platform that advances workers' political consciousness and explains the need for independent class action while retaining their full right to criticize the other group in areas where they disagree.

As revolutionary socialists in a common world organization, the Fourth International we are combining to focus our fire on the ruling class and their parties. We also aim to criticize the bankruptcy of the program of the NDP and the trade union leadership and to explain why this program cannot resolve the pressing tasks which confront the working class movement.

We call on Canadian workers and socialists to support the revolutionary candidates of both the RMG and the ISA/LSO,

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Item no. 3 - RMG Draft

on the basis of the following programmatic points which we hold in common.

The capitalist system is rapidly exhausting its capacity for reforms and concessions. The historic crisis of international capitalism is expressed in the high unemployment levels and soaring rise of prices which have become generalized throughout the capitalist countries. It is expressed in the inability of capitalism to ameliorate the oppression of women and of national minorities. It is expressed in the instability of the parties and governments of the ruling class. Faced with this crisis, capitalism attempts to preserve itself through intensifying its attacks on the mass organizations and standard of living of the workers.

As revolutionaries, our goal is the seizure of political power by the working class and the use of that political power to abolish capitalist social and economic relations. The capitalist governments and the entire apparatus of the existing state must be replaced by a government based on mass representative bodies of the workers and small farmers, bodies which can arise only out of mass mobilizations and struggles. The factories, mines, banks and other large economic enterprises must be expropriated by such a government to begin the transition to a socialized, planned economy.

Such revolutionary objectives in no way contradict the need to struggle for im-

Item no. 4 - ISA/LSO Second Draft

on the basis of the following programmatic points which we hold in common.

The capitalist system is rapidly exhausting its capacity for reforms and concessions. The historic crisis of international capitalism is expressed in the high unemployment levels and soaring rise of prices which have become generalized throughout the capitalist countries. It is expressed in the inability of capitalism to eliminate the oppression of women and of national minorities. It is expressed in the instability of the parties and governments of the ruling class. Faced with economic problems and increasing difficulties capitalism attempts to preserve itself through intensifying its attacks on the mass organizations and standard of living of the workers.

As revolutionaries, our goal is the seizure of political power by the working class and the use of that political power to abolish capitalist social and economic relations. The capitalist government and the entire apparatus of the existing state must be replaced by a government based on mass representative bodies of the workers and small farmers, bodies which can arise only out of mass mobilizations and struggles. The factories, mines, banks and other large economic enterprises must be expropriated by such a government to begin the transition to a socialized, planned economy.

Such revolutionary objectives in no way contradict the need to struggle for immediate

mediate solutions to the economic, social and political problems which confront the working class. They are, in fact, the logical extension of such struggles. The major asset of the ruling class at this time is the political weakness of the working class -- its lack of clear perspective. The workers' movement has shown its will to struggle and built powerful organizations. But they are dominated by a conservative bureaucracy, which seeks to maintain the status quo in order to preserve its own privileges. To this bureaucratic domination, we counterpose the self-organization of workers struggles and the principles of workers' democracy. Such measures are indispensable to ensure the unity of the working class and the broadest possible mobilizations to fight the ruling class. They are also indispensable in order to popularize a revolutionary program in the labour movement.

At the present time, no revolutionary organization has significant support in the working class. The NDP is the only mass political organization of the working class. By virtue of its organizational ties and the class character of its support, if not its program, the NDP remains a component of the labour movement. In all ridings where the ISA/LSO and RMG are not presenting candi-

solutions to the economic, social and political problems which confront the working class. The task for revolutionaries is to help the masses in the daily struggle to find the bridge between the present demands and the socialist program of the revolution. This bridge should include a system of transitional demands, stemming from today's conditions and from today's consciousness of the wide layers of the working class and unalterably leading to one final conclusion: the conquest of power by the proletariat. The major asset of the ruling class at this time is the political weakness of the working class movement -- its crisis of leadership. The workers movement has shown its will to struggle and built powerful organizations. But they are dominated by a conservative bureaucracy, which has a reformist strategy whose aim is to maintain the capitalist system and with it their privileges. To the reformist program of the bureaucracy, we counterpose the strategy of the transitional program: mobilization of the masses for a sliding scale of wages, open the books, expropriation of private banks, end military spending, self-determination of oppressed nationalities, factory committees, workers democracy; leading to the building of the revolutionary leadership.

At the present time, no revolutionary organization has mass support in the working class. The NDP is the only mass political organization of the working class. By virtue of its organizational ties and the class character of its support, if not its program, the NDP remains a component of the labour movement. In all ridings where the ISA/LSO and RMG are not presenting candidates, therefore, we call for

dates, therefore, we call for a vote for the NDP candidates, not as a vote of confidence in the NDP, but as a working class vote against the capitalist parties.

But in calling for a vote for the NDP on this basis, we give no support to the strategy and program of the NDP, which has the reformist perspective of making the capitalist system work better.

The election of an NDP government will not solve the urgent problems which face the working class. In B.C., Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, NDP governments are the loyal servants of capitalist interests. We oppose the NDP's class collaborationist alliance with the Liberals in the last Parliament. We call for an unequivocal break with all forms of class collaboration. To the reformist and parliamentary strategy of the NDP, we counter the proletarian method of independent mass action by the working class. Only through such mass action outside the parliamentary arena can the labour movement effectively respond to the developing crisis of Canadian capitalism.

In addition to our common approach on this question, we also agree on a number of other key issues in this election. In particular, we call for the following:

1. Quebec: Support Quebec's right to self-determination, that is, the right to form an independent state if the Quebecois so desire.
2. Resist inflation through fighting for a rising scale of wages which go up in direct proportion to a cost-of-liv-

the election of the NDP candidates, not as a vote of confidence in the NDP, but as a working class vote against the capitalist parties.

But in calling for a vote for the NDP on this basis, we give no support to the strategy and program of the NDP, which has the reformist perspective of making the capitalist system work better.

Workers cannot rely on the election of an NDP government to solve the problems which face the working class. In B.C., Saskatchewan and Manitoba, NDP governments are the loyal servants of capitalist interests. We oppose the NDP's class collaborationist alliance with the Liberals in the last Parliament. We call for an unequivocal break with all forms of class collaboration. To the reformist and parliamentary strategy of the NDP leadership we counterpose the proletarian method of independent mass action by the working class. Participation in elections and use of the parliamentary tribune can only be one aspect of the mass action strategy of the working class, the main thrust of which will develop outside the parliamentary arena.

In addition to our common approach on this question we also agree on a number of other key issues in this election. In particular, we call for the following:

1. Quebec: Support Quebec's right to self-determination, that is, the right to form an independent state if the Quebecois so desire.
2. Inflation: fight for a rising scale of wages which go up in direct proportion to a cost-of-living index determined by

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ing index determined by the
trade unions.

3. Resist unemployment through
fighting for a sliding scale
of hours, that is, the equal
distribution of all available
work with no loss in pay.

the trade unions.

3. Unemployment: fight for a
sliding scale of hours, that
is, shortening the work week
to spread the available work
around with no loss in pay.

The following material was the last proposal made to the RMG Political Committee in an attempt to make possible a united stand by revolutionary socialists in the federal elections. The RMG Political Committee rejected the proposal.

334 Queen St. W.
Toronto 2b, Ont.
June 30, 1974.

Political Committee
Revolutionary Marxist Group,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Comrades,

We believe that the federal election programs of the candidates of the Revolutionary Marxist Group and the League for Socialist Action/Ligue Socialiste Ouvrière indicate a sufficient area of agreement to justify a united stand by the two organizations in support of the candidates of both groups.

On June 26 we proposed to you that our two organizations make a joint statement declaring our united support for the four revolutionary candidates. We gave you our proposed text for this statement.

But negotiations to agree on the text of the joint statement have not been successful. We have been unable to agree on the proposed sections describing the role of the Transitional Program and indicating how it should be applied in Canada today.

The ISA/LSO Political Committee has therefore redrafted the proposed joint statement, to limit its scope to areas of our respective written programs where our positions coincide. The text of this new proposal is enclosed. It consists of sections of the statement already agreed on by both groups, plus section no. 12 of the election program of the RMG.

We hope this proposal permits us to reach rapid agreement. It records the agreement of both groups on the fundamental questions posed before socialists in this election, particularly in counterposing a class struggle course to the reformism and class collaborationism of the present leadership of the English Canadian working class. It would be incorrect to allow disagreements on other questions to obstruct our united stand in the elections.

Regardless of your response to this proposal, the enclosed statement outlines the principled basis on which the ISA/LSO supports the three candidates of the RMG in the July 8 federal elections.

Comradely,
s/Arthur Young

REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALISTS UNITE EFFORTS IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS

Proposed statement of the Revolutionary Marxist Group and the League for Socialist Action/Ligue Socialiste Ouvrière.

The Revolutionary Marxist Group (RMG) is presenting revolutionary candidates in three ridings in these elections: Bret Smiley in Toronto-Greenwood, Linda Peevers in Peterborough and Murray Smith in Winnipeg-North Center. The League for Socialist Action/Ligue Socialiste Ouvrière (LSA/LSO) is presenting a revolutionary candidate in Toronto-Eglinton, Kate Alderdice. The RMG and LSA/LSO are presenting separate programs, and waging separate campaigns.

Nevertheless, the programs advanced by the two organizations express major areas of agreement on the central issues in this election. That is why we have decided to join forces in calling for a vote for the four revolutionary candidates. Through this stand, both groups can unite on a platform that advances workers' political consciousness and explains the need for independent class action, while retaining their full right to criticize the other group, in areas where they disagree.

As revolutionary socialists in a common world organization, the Fourth International, we are combining to focus our fire on the ruling class and its parties. We also aim to criticize the bankruptcy of the program and policies of the New Democratic Party and the trade union leadership, and to explain why they cannot resolve the pressing tasks which confront the working class movement.

The RMG and the LSA/LSO believe that workers can best indicate their class sentiments by voting for our candidates. But in most ridings, a class struggle candidate will not exist. The question of the electoral policy of class conscious workers is therefore posed.

The NDP is a qualitatively different type of political organization from the capitalist Liberals and Tories. As much as it tries to hide the fact, its base lies in the trade unions and the working class. It receives no support from any appreciable sector of big business.

Politically, the NDP has repeatedly betrayed the interests of the working class. Its liberal program offers no positive perspective for working people. In B.C., Saskatchewan and Manitoba, NDP governments are the loyal servants of capitalist interests. Militant workers and socialists must wage a sharp struggle against the NDP leadership in order to politically rearm the labor movement.

But by virtue of its organizational ties and the class character of its support, if not its program, the NDP remains a component of the labor movement. In the ridings where we are not presenting candidates, therefore, we call on workers to vote NDP, not as a vote of confidence in the NDP, but as a working class vote against the capitalist parties.

In addition to our common approach on this question, we

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also agree on a number of other key issues in this election. In particular we call for the following:

1. Quebec: Support Quebec's right to self-determination, that is, the right to form an independent state if the Québécois so desire.

2. Inflation: Fight for a rising scale of wages, which go up in direct proportion to a cost-of-living index determined by the trade unions.

3. Unemployment: Fight for a sliding scale of hours, that is, shortening the work week to spread the available work around with no loss in pay.

We call on Canadian workers and socialists to support the revolutionary candidates of both the RMG and the ISA/LSO, on the basis of the above programmatic points, which we hold in common.

334 Queen St. W.
Toronto, Ontario.
July 10, 1974

Political Committee
Revolutionary Marxist Group,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Comrades,

We are now preparing our coverage of the election results, and we wish to include a report on the Revolutionary Marxist Group's (RMG) stand on the League for Socialist Action/Ligue Socialiste Ouvriere (LSA/LSO) candidacy in Eglinton riding.

On June 18, your Political Committee adopted the text of a letter to be sent to us stating the reasons you were not supporting our campaign. You gave us a copy of this letter on June 28. On July 1 you announced at the LSA-RMG public debate that you had changed your stand. But we have as yet received nothing in writing setting out your new position.

Moreover, we note that at your major public meeting in Toronto on the election on July 6, you did not tell the audience that you were supporting our campaign. You did not even reply to a question posed during the meeting as to your stand on the LSA/ISO campaign.

What final conclusions did you come to on the question of the LSA/ISO campaign?

Comradely,

John Riddell,
Executive Secretary
LSA/LSO

cc: United Secretariat.

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Note: As of August 9 no reply has been received from the RMG.