



BOLSHEVIK LEAGUE of the UNITED STATES
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Open Letter Regarding The CWP - Led Greensboro Conference

On December 6, 1980, the Bolshevik League sent representatives to an "open" conference in Greensboro, North Carolina. This had been advertised as a conference to expose government involvement in the rising wave of Right-wing terrorism exemplified by the Klan and Nazis. Although the spark for this gathering was the recent acquittal of the Klansman who had murdered five members of the Communist Workers' Party in November, 1979, the conference claimed to be a broad coalition, independent of CWP.

Nowhere was it announced publicly that criticism of the CWP would be forbidden or that the Leninist method of struggle through open polemics would be considered "bad taste" and "against the spirit of unity of the conference." Therefore, as Marxist-Leninists, we went to the conference not to add our names to a paper coalition but to expose the bourgeoisie and their social props — the opportunists like CWP — before the eyes of all Marxist-Leninists, workers, and honest forces who attended. The fact that few, Marxist-Leninists, workers or honest forces ventured into this swamp of Maoists and Trotskyites did not discourage us from the tasks of distributing Bolshevik literature and engaging in political struggle. It was the blatant censorship of the CWP that kept most of those who attended in ignorance of the positions which we will elaborate here.

Our leaflet for the conference (reprinted in *Bolshevik Revolution*, Dec., 1980, p. 13) drew three main lessons from the Klan murder of the five CWP members and the subsequent acquittal of the murderers. The first of these was that the utter hypocrisy of bourgeois justice in America was nakedly revealed in this trial. The verdict was an encouragement for the Klan and Nazis, who were turned into racist folk "heroes." Further, there was a display of the role of government agents in instigating and covering up for vigilante activity.

In the "Theses on War" by the Sixth Congress of the Communist International, such Right-wing terrorism is cited as a characteristic feature of imperialist war preparations. By whipping up chauvinism towards Blacks and oppressed nationalities and hatred against Communists, the bourgeoisie hopes to keep the working class weak and divided. They aim to imbue the proletariat with hatred for other nationalities in order to make them into more willing cannon fodder for imperialist war.

The second lesson that we draw is that the adventurist stunts of the CWP and their like actually assist in this process. They substitute isolated confrontations with the Klan, Nazis, etc., for the organized force of the working class which can defeat these fascist-type organizations. Their provocative actions toward the Klan have already served to increase violence and repression — not against the Klan, but against Blacks and other working people who are not organized to

meet it. Unwarranted defeats like Greensboro increase the confusion and disorganization among the working class in the name of "Communism". What better way to spread and strengthen anti-communism!

The third lesson which was drawn from the first two was that the victory for the working class and oppressed peoples is impossible unless such elements like CWP are also fought and thrown out of these movements. Like other Maoists internationally, CWP's actions are not those of naivete or stupidity, but of intentional treachery. At the conference, we intended to oppose the Maoist positions with Bolshevik positions, both by distributing our leaflets and literature and by open debate.

Instead, the CWP went into a frenzy upon reading our leaflet. We were called "dogs" and "cops" and threatened with physical abuse. The leaflet's politics were ignored; all fire was aimed at our "incorrect method" of struggle, our "sectarian, harsh tone," our "bad taste." We were followed and provoked.

If the politics of our leaflet were so wrong, why didn't CWP expose its errors in open polemics and debate? It was because its criticisms hit home that they were afraid to let people know its contents. Instead, they could only forbid its distribution on the basis that some mystical "unity" existed there and that our leaflet was "against the spirit of the unity of the conference." Although many of the other forces there had privately criticized CWP that very day, they did not oppose the hysterical charges that any criticism of CWP is automatically a cop line. The only notable exception to this disgusting philistinism was the Amilcar Cabral-Paul Robeson Collective from North Carolina who made public criticisms of CWP. This group also was the only one to forcefully oppose CWP's attack on the B.L., despite the fact that we have many differences. Undoubtedly they too can expect the heavy hand of CWP for daring to say anything about the true events in Greensboro.

The censorship of our leaflet served a threefold purpose. First, it stopped the circulation and discussion of the leaflet itself. Second, it acted as a warning to any others who might dare to raise their voices against CWP. Third, it served as an

excuse to censor not only all the literature of the Bolshevik League of the U.S., but also the publications of Bolshevik organizations from Upper Volta, Puerto Rico, Ivory Coast, Canada and Togo. While suppressing orthodox Leninist literature of the international Bolshevik trend the Maoists of CWP allowed reams of trotskyite literature from several trotskyite sects to flourish at their conference. The trotskyites have long stood exposed as counter-revolutionary agents of imperialism and fascism. They conspired during the anti-fascist war (WW2) to split the anti-fascist united front, isolate the then — socialist Soviet Union, and have it defeated by the Nazi hordes. These are the "allies" CWP tells us so much "unity" was achieved with at this conference. Trotskyites like the Revolutionary Socialist League and others pursue

the same course as CWP by organizing provocations and suicidal confrontations with fascists. They all divert the struggle against the entire system of imperialism and its coming war to a reformist struggle against the small bands of fascists as the main target. This is further evidence of the ideological convergence of Maoism and Trotskyism, all against the teachings of Lenin and Stalin. Since bolshevik exposure of international opportunist trends exposes the basis of CWP's line, it is feared as a threat. Thus, CWP cannot afford to expose its false "communism" to the light of Marxist-Leninist analysis.

In conclusion, we call on all honest forces who were at Greensboro to join us in exposing that the CWP — led forces who gathered to "defend democracy in the face of repression" instead supported the repression of democracy at their own

conference. Democracy is essential if organizations that claim to fight exploitation and oppression will actually be composed of and controlled by the masses. Opportunists characteristically oppose democracy so they can use such organizations for their own narrow ends. They stifle the masses and try to take these groups over and drive everyone else out, or else crush them. They do the work of the police by driving out Communists and suppressing their literature.

We call on all those who truly want to fight imperialism to denounce the suppression of democracy by CWP at the Greensboro conference. Making concessions to such provocations and suppression of debate will only give a green light to the likes of CWP to continue on their path of preventing or smashing mass organizations.

You may be next!