

Direction of the So. California Local Center in the Immediate Period
(about 6 to 9 months)

In the next period of time, we would like to see the local center become a broad educational form to draw people from the anti-left tendency into an active effort to develop an ideological center. We will begin by developing introduction discussions on the general perspective of the OCIC. These discussions will probably be offered in four sessions and will deal with 1) a critique of past party building efforts in U.S. 2) a popular history of the tendency in general and the OCIC in particular 3) general overview and discussion of the 18 principles 4) and the developing conception of an ideological center. For those people who are interested in further work, we could offer study classes on the 18 principles. When the draft plan for an ideological center is approved and circulated by the national steering committee, we will want to study, discuss, and develop it among forces in the tendency.

Internal ideological work among OCIC forces will have to go on in order for our outreach work to succeed. We will have to deepen our understanding and unity on the perspective of the OCIC. We will need to study and discuss the Founding Statement, the 18 principles, and particularly focus on the draft proposal for an ideological center. The local center steering committee will be a working committee organized to draw forces into the local center, and conduct educational work and ideological struggle with them and present members. OCIC members not serving on the steering committee will be called on as resources for developing and aiding this work.

In addition we will attempt to sponsor forums on a variety of subjects that reflect the politics and work of tendency forces in the area. These could include such topics as 1) a developing critique of ultra-leftism 2) the nature of the current discussion between Network and OCIC forces 3) the centrality of the struggle against racism --- as well as strategies and summations of practical work in our party building efforts 4) anti-racist work 5) trade union work 6) anti-imperialist work 6) propaganda and agitation.

The local center would be allowed to develop its direction beyond this initial work according to the needs of participating forces and the national process. The viability of a local center in our area will depend on 1) our ability to attract forces into the local center 2) the development of a national network of local centers 3) the further development of national guidance. The local center steering committee is committed to aiding all three of these developments.

Different kinds of people will be attracted to the local center:
1) Organizations and groupings who are interested in relating to the development of an ideological center.

of the local center, in order to be able to do ideological work and to
be able to do it well to be part of an OCIC with a national center.

) Individuals interested in the development of an IC who are looking to eventually join an OCIC cadre organization.

3) Individuals who would be interested in relating to the broad party building issues of the local center and to contributing to the ideological center's development; but who are not ready, able or willing to be part of a cadre organization.

The Local Center and Member Organizations (Currently SOC)

1) OCIC organizations should pay special attention to the development of the local center and give it their guidance and support.

2) All members of the organization should be considered active members of the local center. The local center will be one important arena for participating in the national process to build an ideological center.

3) An organization should not restrict majority/minority positions on OCIC issues solely to the organization, but should extend discussion about them to the local center.

4) Within the process of developing the local center, potential recruits to member organizations can be discovered. This is positive and a useful function of the local center. However, it is not its purpose. The purpose of the local center is to draw as much of the anti-left tendency as possible into an active effort to build an ideological center.

The Local Center and Individuals

We encourage the participation of individuals on all levels of the local center---the steering committee and the local center at large. The local center is an avenue through which individuals can participate in the national process to build an ideological center.

The Local Center and the National Process

We expected more and stronger guidance from the national steering committee in our local center work than we have received. What we have been given has often lacked a general perspective on the relationship of our work to building an ideological center and has not been guided by the actual experiences of our locale. We think that the national steering committee has been idealistic about our work here and has misrepresented that work to the rest of the OCIC. Part of the reason for this has been our inability to accurately analyze our contradictions for the national steering committee and to criticize its guidance or lack of it. Although we sent detailed minutes of our meetings, we didn't offer a political analysis of our progress and setbacks until recently.

We want national guidance that is based on a strategy for local centers within our general party building perspective.---That understands the role of the local center in developing an ideological center during the present period and in the future. We want national guidance that accurately reflects the concrete conditions in various parts of the country and that is guided by an analysis of our own locale.

As the national steering committee further develops its ability to guide the development of the local centers, local centers will increasingly rely on its leadership. Central to our relationship to the national steering committee in the next period will be our efforts to draw in forces from the broad tendency into an effort to build an ideological center. We will relate the practical and theoretical questions raised in our work, and ask for guidance on them.

Local centers throughout the country should be encouraged to communicate with each other, and share perspectives and summations of their work. The national steering committee should facilitate this whenever possible.

Comradely,

The So. California Local Center Steering Com.

First Draft 3/12/79

Second Draft 3/27/79

Final Draft 5/17/79