

DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS

BOX 12 OF 16

FOLDER 12

CONTINUATION COMMITTEE
HISTORY ORGANIZATION

Informe On The Continuations Committee

It is the purpose of this report to provide basic information to cadre on 1) the history of the National and Local Continuations Committees, 2) the structure of the Local Committee and 3) National and Local Perspectives and Process

History-National

The National Continuations Committee was formed after the May 1973 Conference of North American Marxist Leninists. Local Continuations Committees were also formed in various cities about that same time. There were 8 organizations on the original Nat'l. Committee, and as of Jan. 1974 5 organizations were on it with most of the day-to-day work being done by the CL. The National office has always been in Chicago.

The main work of the Nat'l. Committee was to be, and is, organizational: 1) getting the Conference resolutions finalized and printed in Marxists-Leninists Unite! 2) putting out a newsletter for political struggle and news in preparation for the Congress. (Note: the Newsletter is the primary means of political struggle leading up to the Congress and it is essential that all participating organizations have input into it.) 3) co-ordinating work between the various organizations on the National Committee and on the various local committees. 4) doing the other tasks necessary in organizing the Congress.

Originally, the Committee was united around the following points: 1) the primary task of Marxist-Leninist organizations and advanced workers is to build an honest multi-national Marxist-Leninist Communist Party in the U.S. to unite and lead the struggles of the U.S. working class in the seizure of state power and the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat. 2) a Party Congress should be called in approximately a year to organize such a party in the U.S. 3) the draft resolutions adopted at the Conference should be the minimum political line holding the Committee together and enabling it to carry out the organizational work necessary for the Party Congress. Also, that any organization or individual agreeing with these points should be encouraged to join both the National and Local Continuations Committees.

According to information in Newsletter #1 dated Jan. 1974, the initial work of the Nat'l. Committee was slow up to about that date because of personnel shortages and difficulties in communications. All of the organizations on the Committee could not send people to work on it, and the assigned CL cadre were also deeply involved in other CL work. Since then, the work has picked up, newsletters are coming out regularly, and the MCLL representative to the Nat'l. Committee is a concrete and most welcome addition to the forces there.

History-Local

The Detroit Local Continuations Committee #1 existed for about 5 months prior to its dissolution by the National Committee in late March, 1974. This Local Committee functioned primarily as a study circle during its existence, studying What Is To Be Done? MCLL participated in it as observers only in October 1973 for two meetings. We were then advised that this was not politically appropriate, and we should either join as active members or not come at all. This Committee was dissolved by the National Committee after it was discovered in the process of struggle that 6 members did not unite that the Conference resolutions were the basis of polemics for a party program. This was a fundamental and definitive position on their part and

exposed their opportunism in the party building process. These persons claimed they could disagree with the points of minimal political unity and still participate in the process!!! They were purged from the Local Committee and it was dissolved by the National Committee. A letter was written to the 6 opportunists and there was a great deal of self-criticism by the Local Committee for not having achieved clarity and unity on the basis of minimal political unity when the Local Committee was formed. A letter was also written to the National Committee explaining the struggle and the purge along with the self criticisms; this letter is in Newsletter #4 which cadre have.

The first meeting of the Detroit Local Continuations Committee #2 was held 4/13/74. Present were MCLL, CL and the Capital Collective. A history of Committee #1 was given along with the self-criticisms of its functioning. It was decided that this Committee should function more as an organizing committee rather than as a study group. PC, LB and NJW of A Study Circle came to this meeting and stated that they united with all the points of unity, but admitted they had not polled all their members on this point. At that time they were asked to leave the meeting since they came as an organization, but could not affirm that their membership endorsed all points of unity. They later said their entire membership united with the four points, but MCLL opposed their joining because of their opportunism, and we distributed our paper spelling out our reasons for our opposition. This paper should be distributed to cadre soon. 6/2/74 the question of A Study Circle's membership was again discussed by the entire Committee and it was unanimous that they should not be members. A letter will be sent to them communicating the decision along with a copy of our paper, and the letter will be printed in the Newsletter.

Organizations presently on the Local Committee are CL, MCLL, Capital Collective, BWC (as of 4/28) and the Puerto Rico Revolutionary Workers Organizing Committee (as of 6/2/74). Contact was made with the Cass-Trumbull Collective, but they declined to join stating they do not think they have the time to help build a party and also continue with the work they were currently doing. In other words, they want to continue the spontaneous struggle and not advance to a higher stage.

Structure

The Local Committee now has three functioning sub-committees which were formally established at the first meeting of Local Committee #2. They are 1) Organizing & Recruitment 2) Forum and 3) Education. In addition, a Credentials Committee was recently formed with all member organizations represented on it.

It is the function of the Organizing sub-committee to make contacts with various organizations and individuals who are Marxist-Leninists and who want to join the Continuations Committee or are recommended as good prospects for joining. The sub-committee describes the entire process and requirements to them and either recommends their membership or discourages it. Other functions are to distribute Marxists-Leninists Unite! in various places in the city, e.g. bookstores, and also to put up literature tables with Congress literature at conferences, etc.

The Forum sub-committee has responsibility for organizing a Forum on Party Building and the Congress. This will be held 7/20/74 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm at Trinity Methodist. This forum will not be a "mass event" but instead is intended to ideologically consolidate and rally all the comrades already in the party building process, and also to

involve advanced workers and other Marxist-Leninists in the party process. Position papers on the 4 points of unity are being drafted by members of this sub-committee, will be discussed and united on by the entire Continuations Committee, and will be presented at the Forum. The program will also include a skit, music and refreshments. We hope to have a fund raising party after the Forum. Each member organization will have some shared responsibility for child care, the skit, music, refreshments and security, and is expected to assign cadre to these tasks. No cameras or tape recorders will be allowed in the building. No known Trotskyists will be allowed. RU and OL will not be invited, and not allowed to sell their papers at the forum, but their members will not be excluded.

The Education sub-committee has formulated a list of readings to the Committee to deepen the understanding of the resolutions in Marxists-Leninists Unite! Also, each member of the entire Committee has taken the responsibility for leading a discussion on one particular resolution. These discussions will take place each week from now to the Congress.

The Credentials Committee of the Local Committee is composed of one person from each member organization. One person is also the Local Committee's representative to the National Credentials Committee which is composed of representatives from each Local committee and one person from the National Continuations Committee. The duty of the Local Credentials Committee is to examine the "credentials" of each person who wants to attend the Congress, determine that they are, indeed, honest Marxist-Leninists, and then certify them to the Congress through the National Credentials Committee.

National & Local Perspectives and Processes

The dates, expenses and basis of attendance at the Congress is secure information and should be obtained from a CC member. It can be said that expenses will be very heavy and fund raising will be a prime responsibility of each organization and each cadre from now on. The July Forum will be a fund raiser, and there will be a major cabaret early in August. Each cadre must put their full weight behind this effort. Also, it is absolutely essential that each organization make input into the Newsletter so it can be the important means of political struggle nationally that is so necessary. This means that all cadre must be acutely conscious of the entire process we are in, and struggle sharply to contribute to it. Information and assistance to each local sub-committee, and political input for the Newsletter are essential and expected.

TO THE CONGRESS!!

BUILD A MULTI-NATIONAL, ANTI-REVISIONIST COMMUNIST PARTY OF A NEW TYPE!
WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES UNITE!