

# DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS

BOX 14 OF 16

FOLDER 33

RED STAR COUNCIL MCLEAN  
CITY ILL POLITICAL LINE 1974

POLITICAL LINE

PREAMBLE.--*Socialist revolution on a world-wide scale is possible and necessary in the near future, the objective conditions for it having existed at least since the full development of monopoly capitalism in the early twentieth century. Lenin was not naive or unrealistic in expecting an early expansion of the Revolution to the West. The subjective conditions for revolution, in the sense of a deep working-class awareness of the failure of capitalism, have also been present throughout the same period. What has been lacking is a correct revolutionary strategy which could unify the working class in advanced capitalist countries. That unification is not so much a precondition of revolution as the revolution itself, since in developed capitalist countries the actual seizure of state power will be very easy if we have done our political work well.*

1. STRATEGY: CLASS AGAINST CLASS

- a. Broad masses of American workers can move consciously toward socialist revolution and know what that means (forceful destruction of the economic, political, and cultural hegemony of the bourgeoisie, followed by dictatorship of the proletariat). When a revolutionary consciousness is deeply rooted in the working class, a Leninist Party can then enter into true united fronts, should such become necessary, as opposed to the broad, politically shallow alliances that are being called United Fronts today.
- b. A strong and uncompromising class struggle will, in fact, be more effective in winning dependable allies from other classes than will an explicit United Front Strategy.

## 2. CLASS ANALYSIS OR "CONCEPT OF CLASS"

a. While the industrial proletariat remains central to the revolutionary struggle, it is only a sector of the class, not the class. No acceptable class analysis of America exists, but the following sectors of the working class are identifiable:

(i) Industrial workers *and* their wives (employed or unemployed), children, and retired 'elders.'

(ii) Non-administrative civil-service workers (with some obvious exceptions and doubtless some exceptions not now obvious which will become so).

(iii) Office, clerical, and sales workers (*and* their families) in *large* concerns.

(iv) Many service workers (theoretical and practical work is needed here to establish a correct analysis).

b. Certain sectors of the working class not 'gainfully' employed (e.g., housewives, old people, and others) are, because of their place in capitalist relations of production, central to the political organization of the working class. For this reason point-of-production organizing is *potentially* racist and sexist--and a movement dominated by such organizing *necessarily* so.

## 3. PARTY AND CLASS. MARXISM-LENINISM AND MASS LINE.

a. The Party's function is to unite the class.

b. Party discipline unites the *Party*, but NOT the *Class*. Mass Line unites the Class.

(i) Party discipline rests on shared ideology: Marxism-Leninism.

(ii) The substance of Mass Line is the goal of Socialism (which equals the Dictatorship of the Proletariat). Mass Line is therefore an *expression* of Marxism-Leninism, but it does not incorporate *all* of Marxism-Leninism: for example, adherents of the Mass Line need not explicitly

embrace materialism. Hence class militants or cadre could (for example) be Christians, so long as they adhered to the practical program of working-class hegemony.

c. Since the ground for discipline is theory, the Party exercises no discipline over the Class; rather, it exercises *leadership*, the ground of which is the correctness of the Mass Line (equals Party Practice).

#### 4. THE STRUGGLE FOR CLASS UNITY

a. The road to the unity of the working class is through continuing and uncompromising attacks on the divisive forces within the class. These include:

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| (i) White Supremacy      | (ii) Male Supremacy       |
| (iii) Skill hierarchies  | (iv) Nationalism          |
| (v) Isolation of the Old | (v) Wage-Earner Supremacy |

b. Only independent, strong, and uncompromising struggles by people of color and women (perhaps by other groups as well) can maintain a basis for the struggle against white and male supremacy within the working class. People of color and women will be respected by other workers (white or male), as well as by themselves, WHEN THEY ARE STRONG. Strength comes first, then respect, NOT the other way around.

c. The Party must never waver in its support of the struggles of women or of national minority peoples, however negatively other sectors of the class may, at a given time, respond to such struggles. Above all, the Party must *never*, in the name of 'unity,' join in pressuring such groups to 'moderate' (*always* means 'weaken') their demands. *THAT IS THE OLDEST SHUCK OF ALL. THAT HAS BEEN SLAUGHTERING WORKERS OF ALL COLORS AND BOTH SEXES FOR NEARLY TWO CENTURIES.*

5. NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLES AND THE AMERICAN WORKING CLASS

- a. Either passive acceptance or active support by the working class of imperialist wars constitutes an objective alliance of the class with its enemy, the bourgeoisie.
- b. A continuing task of the Party consists in acquainting the working class (and a wider public as well) with the true nature of national wars of liberation and of imperialist efforts to suppress such struggles.
- c. Both the Party and the Class, however, can best express their solidarity with such struggles by building the Revolution in the United States, hence breaking the objective alliance between the American working class and its imperialist rulers.
- d. Since the 'morale' of imperialist armies is rooted in sexism and racism, the chief support the Party can give to national liberation struggles is in its vigorous support of the struggles of women and people of color in the United States.

6. THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT

- a. The first task of the Party is the organization of proletarian socialist councils, through which socialism, and the struggle for socialism, can begin to be a concrete alternative to the enjoyment of or struggle to preserve privileges rooted in the various divisions capitalism creates within the working class.
- b. The basis for recruitment to the revolutionary movement must be the future of the CLASS as opposed to that of the individual member of the class. No program grounded in or featuring economistic goals can move significant numbers of workers to adhere to the socialist movement.

c. A chief advantage of the more successful revolutionary movements from Russia to Guinea-Bissau has been that either state repression or working-class (and peasant) illiteracy (or both) deprived the Party of the use of 'mass media' as its primary link with the revolutionary masses. Personal contact and small group discussion have always been the best method of revolutionary organizing and will be in the United States also. Revolutionary literature should be designed to *require* collective reading in small groups with a revolutionary cadre present.

d. The substance of socialist agitation and propaganda is the elaboration of a *possible* strategy for working-class seizure of state power. The core of *working-class anti-communism* is doubt of the possibility of total victory.

*SOCIALIST REVOLUTION IS POSSIBLE AND NECESSARY--SOON*

*CLASS UNITY IS THE REVOLUTION*

*ACTUAL SEIZURE OF STATE POWER IS NO PROBLEM*

## APPENDIX: "Petty Bourgeois" or "Working Class"

In the case of all job categories of which the class-nature is problematic, the objective nature of the relationship (1) between employer and worker and (2) between worker and work-task is probably decisive--or at least provides a point of departure for further analysis. The first criterion suggests that salespersons in small shops belong to the "servant" class rather than to the working class. The second criterion suggests that, at present, teachers are petty bourgeois.

NAM apparently considers teachers working class. The Guardian apparently considers them petty bourgeois. Both conclusions are premature and either self-serving or dogmatic. Red Star denies in principle the possibility at this time of identifying the class position of a number of sectors of the work force, of which teachers are an important example.

However, we consider it politically safer (in the light of the long history, stretching back to 1848, of petty-bourgeois corruption of the workers' movement) to view teachers as a sector of the petty bourgeoisie--but a sector from which a strong and principled workers' movement may draw individual recruits. United Front alliances with teachers (or similar sectors) as a group are undesirable, for these do not pressure teachers to repudiate their petty bourgeois status (whether that status be real or illusory).

Similar principles may apply to other ambiguous sectors of the work force (e.g., college-trained technical workers).