

Reformism

The Second National Conference of the Marxist-Leninist Party was held in fall 1984 under the militant slogans "Deepen among the masses" and "Carry forward the struggle against the reactionaries among the working masses for proletarian leadership!"

The conference met in a critical period for the revolutionary movement. Towards the capital it posed the major offensive against the working masses. It has inflicted a number of serious blows upon the reactionaries, stepping up its program of hunger, fascism and war preparations, of racism, reaction and imperialism. Meanwhile the mass struggle is still at a low ebb.

In this situation, the revisionists and opportunists of every stripe have deepened their liquidationist treachery. They have continued to trail behind and merge with the reformists and trade union bureaucrats, who are actively engaged in disorganizing the masses and preventing the mass anger from breaking out into organized struggle. This was revealed once again by the disgusting spectacle they made of themselves in the election campaign. They trailed helplessly behind the Democratic Party liberals and worked to corrupt the masses with their "reformist" and "bourgeois" imperialism which would allegedly give a "breathing space" to the liberation movements and the American people. Some of them openly lectured the masses to support the Democratic Party and to overlook the Reaganite line of the Democrats, who are standard-bearer of Mondale. Others blashed a bit, but fell in behind Jesse Jackson's campaign to restore the masses to the Democratic Party. And some others formally avoided endorsing the Democratic Party, but still in fact helped the liberals and the trade union bureaucrats enslave the people behind the scenes. They will learn nothing from the elections but that they must bow their heads even to capitalist politicians only they posed as "independents." The opportunists mumbled a bit about supporting even the Democratic Party but only to not disturb the liberals, but in practice they helped the liberals and the trade union bureaucrats enslave the people behind the scenes. They will learn nothing from the elections but that they must bow their heads even to capitalist politicians always on the pretext that the masses are backward and this is the only way to move forward.

A few of the revisionists and opportunists upheld some sort of opposition

to reformist politics and they talk of revolution, but they claim that nothing can really be done among the masses. Holding the essence that "the working class has sold out," they have despised of communist organizing in the masses and even among the broadest masses of the working masses in general, denouncing it as a reformist snare. They instead retreated to waiting for the masses to reach a valid point, treated with some semi-anarchist spouting. In essence, these opportunists agree with the revisionist and bourgeois opportunists about work in the masses: one says we must work in the Democratic Party or at least take up liberal politics similar to the revisionists and in order to stay among the masses, the other says that in order to uphold revolution it is necessary to stay clear of the masses. Having abandoned the standpoint of organizing the masses for the class struggle, the talk of revolution becomes empty posturing and collapses into illusions in this or that liberal, pacifist, reformist or even clerical trend that shows some "action."

The Marxist-Leninist Party has rejected both these opportunist courses. It maintained the proletarian standpoint in the midst of the masses. It strives to build the independent political movement of the masses similar to the revisionist and bourgeois masses from the capitalist parties.

And the Party lets no political situation, no ebb in the mass movements or no rise in the mass movements, from continuing work among the working masses. It denounces both reliance on the Democratic Party and its flip side, maintaining "revolution" by abandoning the mass struggle.

The present economic crisis and the reaction of the masses present difficult conditions in maintaining the links with the masses. Layoffs and factory closings are continuing at an increasing rate, while the ebb in the mass struggle puts political pressure on revolutionary organization. But one of the differences between communists and liberals is precisely that the liberal means about the difficulties of opposition to the masses in order to bid his renunciation of the struggle against reaction, his hidden services to reaction and the capitalist offensive, that the people behind the scenes find harder to overcome the obstacles. In this period, the Marxist-Leninist Party, as the banner of the proletarian communist mass, fought tooth and nail to maintain and extend its links with the proletariat at the work places wherever and whenever in steady revolutionary work. The Party has



succeeded in organizing struggle, preserving party organization, influencing new forces that are coming forward, in preventing the reformists from attacking liquidating the mass actions, in further developing revolutionary theory and in holding high the banner of Marxism-Leninism and the class struggle right amidst the working people.

The first slogan of the conference was "Deeper among the masses — build the Marxist-Leninist Party." This fighting slogan expresses our determination to maintain and deepen its links with the masses even in the period of capitalist offensive. It takes account of the special features of revolutionary work in the present period, when it is necessary to strive with all one's might to maintain the presence and revolutionary momentum of revolutionary Marxism-Leninism among the masses. And it stresses that the question of links with the masses is one of building up the proletarian party, not of merging with the liberals and the reaction. The conference upheld the tactical lines of the Second Congress and urged the Party to determine its own program in carrying out these lines in the present situation. It took various decisions to systematically work, including on the further develop-

ment of *The Workers' Advocate*, voice of the Marxist-Leninist Party.

The second slogan of the conference was "Carry forward the struggle against racism and national oppression — work for proletarian leadership." The bulk of the conference dealt with a number of questions concerning the link for the struggle of the black people, questions which, however, also bear on the struggle of the other oppressed nationalities. The struggle of the black working masses against vicious racism and national oppression and against merciless capitalist exploitation has tremendous revolutionary potential. The struggle of the black workers is an important part of the struggle of the entire working class, and the entire working class must take up the struggle against racism and national oppression in order to refer to this front of the capitalist offensive and to unite its ranks.

The conference dealt with this question from many angles. It dealt with the work of the Marxist-Leninist Party in this struggle. Our Party has thrown its heart and soul into this fight, and has had much valuable experience. The conference discussed this experience in such questions as the relation of the work with organizing at the

factories to the struggle against racism, showing both the importance of organizing the black workers into the general class struggle and the role of the black workers as the foremost fighters in the black communist fight against racism. And conference dealt with the question of the student movement as well.

The conference also discussed the history of various of the revolutionary party organizations of the 1940's and 1970's. The history of the mass surge of the 1960's and 1970's provides many valuable lessons to guide revolutionary work in the present period. The black working masses sought to organize themselves in various forms, but it was necessary both to support the rising of the working masses in revolutionary life and to find ways to deal with the mistaken orientations, such as petty-bourgeois nationalism and the influence of reformism, that sabotaged the struggle. The exact forms of organization that arise in the future will undoubtedly be different, but the lessons on how to guide the mass struggle are of great significance.

The conference also discussed certain controversies that have come up historically in the American communist movement concerning the black people's work during the preliminary stages, which were being faithfully received and are being further considered and discussed in the conference and study following the conference.

The conference also reviewed the situation in the international Marxist-Leninist movement. It upheld the bold resolutions of the Second Congress of the Party for the new era and bravely criticized of the recent stands of the Party of Labor of Albania and the fraternal Communist Party of Labor of the Democratic People's Republic of North Vietnam. It stressed the internationalist support for the fraternal comrades of the Movement of Peoples Action/Marxist-Leninist (MAP) Party of Nicaragua who are fighting valiantly to continue the revolution in one of the world's hot spots, revolutionary Nicaragua, the ranks of the Party, the proletariat and poor peasantry against U.S. imperialist aggression, against the treacherous internal bourgeoisie, and against illusions in the vacillating petty-bourgeois course of the Sandinistas. And it sent ardent regards to the communists of all lands, striving to build up powerful proletarian communist parties where they do exist.

The conference was attended by all members of the Marxist-Leninist Party. It was marked by a great amount of work accomplished, the militant spirit, and the steel-like determination of the ranks of the Party. Its success is another indication of the value of the resolutions and decisions of the Second Congress, and of the communist spirit, hard work and self-sacrifice of the rank-and-file members of our Party in the midst of the capitalist offensive against the masses — build the Marxist-Leninist Party.

Carry forward the struggle against racism and national oppression — work for proletarian leadership.

Follow the path of the Second Congress and build the Marxist-Leninist Party.

Against the Capitalist Offensive

The Second National Conference calls for struggle against the brutal Reaganite offensive of the bourgeoisie. The bourgeoisie is not only attacking the working masses at home and abroad. This is what the capitalists mean by the word "internationalism." Cutting and backstabbing productivity drives; frenzied warmongering and fervent declarations of capitalist enthusiasm; an all-out campaign against the black people, Latinos and other oppressed nationalities; the passing of one new police-state measure after another.

The election campaign has shown once again that there can be no illusion in the good nature of the capitalists. An obscure sign of their worship is militarism. Reaganites are crowing about "four more years." They are complaining that the exploiters, and not the exploited, are being held to feel "guilty" but should openly proclaim their fitsy ideas to the world.

The Democratic Party liberals, having rubber-stamped Reagan's program for four years in Congress and their best efforts to help Reagan for the elections. While Reagan ruthlessly cut social benefits in the economic crisis, he has not only repudiated a program he campaigned on a new program of austerity for the working masses on the theme of "no deficit" but he has also called for one new police-state measure after another, the Congressional Democrats have not only repudiated a program he campaigned on a new "law and order" federal criminal code and contains many of the features of the notorious Nixon S-1 Bill. While Reagan dropped himself as atomic bomb and American flag, the Democrats called for "sustainable" increases in the military budget, denounced Reagan for not being tough enough in Lebanon, and raised the issue of "guarantining" White House to the rights of immigrants, the Democrats added to the hysteria and the U.S. "Neolithic" domestic leader in the House of Representatives

they were eager to pass the anti-immigrant Simpson-Mazzoli bill even at the price of losing ground in the elections. The Democratic Party is the independent organization of the working masses. It is only the struggle of the working masses that can lead to the fight the capitalist offensive against their livelihood and democratic rights, that can provide support for the workers and peasants of other lands who are under the guns of the Pentagon and the CIA) and that points towards the struggle that will usher in a new society, a better society, one free of the capitalist system and its oppression by separating from the capitalists.

Whether these capitalists stay themselves in the hands of the reactionaries or the working people carry out this mass struggle consistently and effectively.

The Second National Conference noted the special features of the class struggle at the present time, when the bourgeoisie has launched the capitalist offensive is growing everywhere but the working masses is still in a period of reaction. The power of the capitalist offensive has been accumulated, but the bourgeoisie has been unable to carry out this offensive and the deeper the economic crisis, the more profound mass upsurge in the masses.

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drastic illustration in the election campaign of the ruling bourgeoisie's use of the services of the black bourgeoisie to exploit the black workers to the capitalist parties.

Meanwhile the role of the other reactionaries in the capitalist offensive was strikingly clear as most of them rallied around the Democratic Party, toned down even their own rhetoric to what was more acceptable to the Democratic Party liberals, sabotaged the demonstration and mass struggle that might embarrass the Democrats, and worked in an all-round effort to contain the onslaught of the liberal bourgeoisie.

The Second National Conference declares that the capitalist offensive is a sign of the bankruptcy of capitalism. The face of the deepest economic crisis since the 1920's, the bourgeoisie has put in power an empty-headed reaction on his last legs. Reagan, to carry out their dual tactic of Reaganite reaction and intensive use of the reformist and patriotic forces is a sign of their fear of the power of the working masses. The current ebb in the mass movement, inflammatory material is accumulating in the hands of the capitalists to exploit the working masses.

The task of the Party and of all class conscious workers and revolutionary activists, however, is not to passively wait for the workers to do the big days of the future. The Chrysler corporation has even insisted the job of revolutionaries is to enforce the UAW with a seat on the board of directors. The Chrysler corporation has even insisted the job of revolutionaries is to enforce the UAW with a seat on the board of directors. The Chrysler corporation has even insisted the job of revolutionaries is to enforce the UAW with a seat on the board of directors.

The bourgeoisie also pays special attention to the oppressed nationalities during this period — in organizing struggle, in present offensive. The Jesse Jacksonist party organization, in its campaign, was undoubtedly the voice of new forces that are coming up, in

Responsibilities

preventing the liquidation of various mass actions, in the further development of revolutionary theory and the carrying forward of the fight against racism and national oppression, and in holding high the banner of class struggle against the capitalist offensive against the working people. It discussed the methods of work needed in

the present period and to further improve the tactical lines from the Second Congress of the Party. The Second National Conference calls for the revolutionary work to fight the capitalist offensive.

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On 'The Workers' Advocate'

The Second National Conference held that the strengthening of the workers' Party is an essential task in the present period. It discussed measures to modify the role of the capitalist offensive against the working people. It discussed the methods of work needed in the present period and to further improve the tactical lines from the Second Congress of the Party. The Second National Conference calls for the revolutionary work to fight the capitalist offensive.

hard work of the communists, who have not shrank from either jail or lives of hardship, and through the support of the revolutionary workers, that the workers' Party, *The Workers' Advocate*, has served as the head of a whole system of proletarian literature — from leaflets and local newspapers to theoretical issues. The *Workers' Advocate* served as collective organ, built up in close connection with both the practical and theoretical tasks of the Party. Support for the whole system of proletarian literature has been one of the methods of rallying the workers around their party and enlisting them in its work.

The carrying forward of steadfast revolutionary work, the Party puts new tasks before *The Workers' Advocate*. The Second National Conference determined the tasks of transforming the *Workers' Advocate* in line with the work to bring the Party closer to the masses, so that it could serve as a powerful organizing force will be further enhanced. Among these tasks are: to increase the circulation and establishment of a support organization, revolutionary activists on every progressive people's group and all progressive party and workers' press. It expressed the determination of the Marxist-Leninist Party to ensure the continuation of *The Workers' Advocate* as the revolutionary voice of the American working class. □

The workers' press is only built up through the struggle and work of the bourgeoisie, despite its hypocritical boasts about "freedom of the press." It is necessary not to suppress the press and the workers' publications. Through laws against distribution, through high rates of production that the press is its strength to the tasks of organizing the workers, essential to first reestablish it and then constantly uphold and strengthen a genuine Marxist-Leninist party of the American working class.

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