

June 4, 1980

To the NERC CC:

On April 1, 1980, we sent you a letter of resignation of the five BPC(ML) from the OC. Since that time, the structure of the NERC was altered, and we attended a meeting with members of the CC in order to discuss our decision to resign. It was on this basis that the BPC(ML) reconsidered its decision, which we now reaffirm: The members of the former Red Boston Study Group and LB are no longer members of the OC, pending the entire BPC's decision on whether or not to join the OC.

Initially, we would like to self-criticize for originally over-emphasizing the matter of resources as the determining factor in our decision. While our limited resources certainly played a part in the decision to resign, the issue only became a problem in the context of the growing political concerns we have regarding the OC's viability and role in the ideological struggle of the tendency.

In particular, the OC has consistently failed to organize the ideological struggle and cultivate the solid political unity of its membership around the key issues confronting the tendency. Instead, it has acted in a sectarian and bureaucratic fashion. We will not repeat all our political differences here, but refer you to the numerous documents appearing in the Theoretical Review, and the RBSG letters to the SC since May, 1979.

No doubt you will greet the reaffirmation of our decision with further charges of small circle spirit; charges which we reject. We too stand opposed to small circle spirit, and we are consciously striving to help overcome the fragmentation which is holding back our movement. However, in order to advance the movement we see the need to address the major contradiction within the movement: the struggle over party building line. It is this struggle which will lay the political basis for the unification of the movement.

The divergence between us on this issue of how to unify the movement reflect our differing party building lines, differences which the OC continually belittles. The BPC organizes itself around a particular set of priorities and practices in line with the primacy of theory line on party building. The OC has yet to recognize that the struggle around party building line is the principal struggle for our movement in this period. Thus, it is no surprise to us that the NERC might reject our decision as a manifestation of small circle mentality since they reject this analysis of what constitutes the key struggle before us. It is this difference over the state of the movement which raises questions for us regarding the OC's viability.

It is in this context that we feel we do not want to commit the resources on the OC process at this time.

Moreover, as will be put forth by other minority forces around the country, the struggle against federationism is not the number one agenda item of the party building movement; and it, in fact, diverts cadre from the correct political agenda. Given the practice of the OC, we simply cannot accept the demand that our theoretical agenda be subordinated to that of the OC. At this

time, the OC is one circle among many and we feel its agenda does not reflect the needs of the movement as a whole.

Our decision to resign is also based on an assessment of our overall priorities which the BPC has developed through its practice of democratic centralism. We reject the notion that an organization that has never belonged to the OC should relinquish its prerogative to set priorities for the use of its resources on a democratic centralist basis, simply because the OC demands it.

Finally, we would like to express our disagreement with the CC's rejection of our request to send two observers to the Local Center meetings. In fact, the rejection came as a surprise to us in that the original offer to allow us observers came from a member of the CC itself. This type of practice does not bode well for the "open tendency-wide process of ideological struggle" the OC claims to be organizing.

In the upcoming period, primacy of theory forces will continue their activity in the OC. Hopefully some of our work will be helpful in struggles ahead within the OC. We look forward to comradely relations, and finalizing our relationship with the OC, in the coming months.

In struggle,

Boston Political Collective (ML)

cc: OC Steering Committee