

24 September 1979

Dear Friends:

Enclosed you will find a proposal, initiated by forces within the rectification movement, for the establishment of a Liaison Committee for the Seattle party-building movement. The need for this committee is demonstrated by the fact that there does not currently exist any forum for mutual discussion between representatives of differing political views within our trend. It is our opinion that a Liaison Committee is a minimum step that can now be taken to meet this need.

We are calling upon all forces within the party-building movement to consider and endorse this proposal. In uniting with it, comrades will be upholding the fundamental unity of the party-building movement as a whole, and advancing the movement toward a higher level of unity than now prevails.

If you are willing to endorse this proposal, please contact any of us as soon as you can. The proposal will be distributed to the broader party-building movement in Seattle, and, during the week of October 1st, to the Local Center of the OCIC.

Comradely,

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PROPOSAL FOR A LIAISON COMMITTEE
FOR THE SEATTLE PARTY-BUILDING MOVEMENT

The following proposal for the establishment of a local Liaison Committee is designed to bring together representatives of the leading party-building organizations in Seattle, along with independent Marxist-Leninists, to discuss areas of common concern, to share views and opinions about local and national developments in the communist movement, and to plan for common and joint work. We, the undersigned, feel that the interests of the broader party-building movement is served by the creation of such a Liaison Committee, since there does not presently exist any forum for such discussions. In making this proposal, it is not the intent to disrupt or interfere with the establishment of the Local OC Center or to obstruct the work of other organizations and individuals in the party-building movement. The Liaison Committee would not supplant any existing organizations, and would not put itself forward as "the" center for all local party-building work. Rather, it would insure an orderly exchange of views between representatives of different political perspectives within our trend. This seems to be a very minimal step that can now be taken to work together.

PROPOSAL:

I. The Concept

In the name of the Committee, the word "liaison" refers to the process of intercommunication between parts of a whole. The process of intercommunication between different organizations and individuals (the parts) within the whole (the party-building movement in Seattle) is designed primarily to uphold the unity, integrity, and cohesiveness of the whole. This process is facilitated by the regular exchange of information, frank discussion of views and opinions, and a commitment to struggle out differences for the purpose of building a higher level of unity.

II. Political Unity

The basic political unity of the Liaison Committee would be general agreement with the need a.) to demarcate with revisionism and left-opportunism (dogmatism or ultra-leftism) and b.) to advance the process of party-building within the U.S. and Seattle.

For Marxist-Leninist organizations, the criteria for participation in the Liaison Committee would be:

- (1) agreement with the basic political unity of the Committee, and
- (2) their actual work toward advancing the party-building movement.

Currently, three organizations which meet these criteria are the Local OC Center, the Seattle Workers Group, and the Club Network.

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The criteria for individuals would be:

- (1) agreement with the basic political unity of the Committee, and
- (2) their proven ability to play a leading role as a communist force within the party-building movement.

Relations among participants in the Liaison Committee would be based on the principles of mutual accountability and unity-struggle-unity. By this we understand that building a party spirit is especially important during the pre-party period. We must be accountable to one another not only for the responsibilities we agree to undertake in our meetings and joint work, but also for our political line and practice. Thus criticism self-criticism will be fostered. By basing our relations on the communist principle of unity-struggle-unity, we recognize that we have both a fundamental unity as well as a basis for principled political struggle over differences.

III. The Work of the Committee

The purpose of the Committee is to exchange views and opinions about local and national developments within the party-building movement of our trend; to plan out common and joint work, including studies, debates, conferences etc.; and to engage in periodic summations and appraisals of the past and present situation. Our common discussions and work would revolve around the many important questions facing the communist movement, e.g. how we define ourselves, our basis of unity, and how we can advance the party-building work. Since the Liaison Committee is not designed to be the center for coordinating and centralizing all the debate and struggle over political line in Seattle, it would chiefly a.) aid the process of intercommunication between different centers with different lines, b.) build party spirit within our trend and c.) conduct such joint and common work as is in the mutual benefit of the party-building movement as a whole.

To insure the accomplishments of these tasks, the Committee would meet regularly (for example, once a month), and might select work teams to carry out the joint work.

We, the undersigned, endorse this proposal and call upon all forces within the Seattle party-building movement to take it up, to offer positive criticism or suggest changes, and to commit themselves in principle to the creation of a Liaison Committee.

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