

Comrades,

The western regional pt.18 conference is scheduled for March 10, in the San Francisco-Oakland area. We are suggesting that we have a regional meeting on March 11, to discuss regional development of OC work.

To prepare for the pt.18 conference and the regional meeting it has been suggested that we have a planning meeting in January. The suggested date is January 13. If this date is a hardship please let us know. We plan to have the meeting from about 11-6 so people can fly in and fly out that Saturday if necessary. If you plan to come in Friday or stay over Saturday please let us know so that we can arrange places for you to stay. We would enjoy having some out of meeting time with our regional comrades. Let us know when you plan to arrive so that we can meet you at the airport. All flights should be to the Oakland airport whenever possible.

Below are some proposed agenda items. If you have any additions etc. please let us know ASAP. We plan to send out a final agenda as soon as we get responses to this letter. Please respond ASAP to let us know that you received this letter and if you are planning to attend the January meeting, even if you don't have any suggestions.

pt.18 -overview of how we arrived at this regional conference on pt.18; history of OC and regional development

- purpose of conference; do we view it solely as consolidating OC members or drawing in allies
- criteria for invitations and participation
- preparation in relation to study and content of conference

regional meeting

- short and long term view of regional consolidation
- division of labor within region
- forms for deepening ideological unity re proletarian internationalism; possibility of regional study commissions
- local center development
- how to improve communications; security; and finance

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Unity-struggle-unity,
Richard
Richard for the Bay Area
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Comrades,

We had originally been informed that our pt.18 conference was scheduled for the second weekend in March, which would be the 10th, or 11th. This would conflict with International Women's Day. We found out that the date is somewhat flexible and thus recommend March 17, to avoid any conflict with IWD.

We are making two recommendations to the SC. One, that Tyree, our regional SC representative, give an opening speech explaining the purpose and history of the conference as the focus of a brief *HISTORY* of the OCIC. Two, that the SC develop a procedural plan that can be used at all three conferences. This could be helpful in drawing conclusions from the conferences without having to figure out how different procedures might have effected the conclusions. It would also save three regions the time of planning that part of the conference.

At the planning meeting on Jan. 13, our primary time and energy will be used to plan the pt.18 conference. We will save some time for discussing regional plans, the SOC proposal etc. If we finish the pt.18 discussions we can use the extra time for the latter.

Tentative agenda for planning meeting.

1. Approve agenda, additions or deletions
2. Finalize date
3. Observer policy
4. Conference procedure (if SC isn't going to develop one)
5. Nature of meeting on sunday after pt.18 conference. Two proposals have been made. One by SOC for an expanded conference and one by the CB for a meeting to begin regional consolidation.
6. Depends on outcome of 5. If SOC proposal is adopted we should take up how to plan expanded conference. If CB proposal, then we should discuss how to begin to consolidate our region.

The following is a brief response to the SOC proposal for an expanded conference following the one on pt.18.

We think that this kind of conference is generally a good idea. However, we agree with the L.A. comrades mentioned in the SOC cover letter. The idea is premature. We agree with the concerns raised in the SOC paper, point 7, about the importance of careful preparation, OC leadership, and that attempting something beyond our abilities would be damaging.

As a region we have not had one meeting. We need to develop our own working relationships prior to taking on the planning and leadership of such a complex and important conference. We have yet to develop a collective sense of our regions abilities and limitations in planning and leading any kind of conference. A self assessment is an essential aspect of any political project. We also need a shared assessment of the forces on our periphery to decide who we might realistically develop more unity and joint practice with at this time or in the near future.

We propose that the day after the pt.18 conference be our first regional meeting. The first step in consolidating our region so that we may, in the not to distant future, plan and give leadership to a tendency wide event, among other things.

On the question of observers two positions emerged in our discussions this week. We thought that sharing them with you might facilitate the resolution of this question.

GIVEN: The primary purpose of the conference is internal consolidation, observers can't speak unless called on to represent a delegate's position, there will be 20-30 delegates and a small number of out of region OC observers.

One view was to try to keep it relatively small so that it would hopefully allow for a deeper discussion. This could clarify and sharpen the struggle and thus bring forth the clearest political resolution to the question. This view thought that three observers from each group be maximum.

The other view holds that we should politically evaluate who we think should come as observers; that size was a secondary consideration. Since observers wcn't normally speak, 50-75 observers shouldn't qualitatively hold back the political discussion.

We are also suggesting the possibility that the region extend invitations to some groups that are present in more than one area if our policy on observers would include them. We feel this would be better than having local OC forces inviting multi-area organizations.

Also, we, the CB, face a particular problem with observers since the conference is here and transportation will not limit anyone's ability to attend, and there is a large OC periphery in the area. We have already gotten inquiries about the conference and questions about who will attend.

We look forward to resolving this and other questions in preparation for a great conference that will be the begining of our regional activity.

We are sending this out without any return on the first letter. We have heard that the date is ok for most folks and since time is running out we thought we should send this out. Changes can be made on the agenda, if necessary, when we meet. We do need to know, ASAP, when people plan to arive, how long you plan to stay and if you need a place to stay while here. The meeting will be in Oakland, Jan. 13, 11-6. Please fly into the Oakland airport if at all possible. If you have any last minute changes or questions call 415-482-0761. This is not a public number so please keep it to yourselves. for this occassion.

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