

11 June 1979

*Rec'd June 14, 1979*

TO: Planning Committee, National Conference  
of Minority Marxist Leninists

FR: Concerned Minority Comrades (listed at end)

Dear Comrades,

For more than six months now we have been hearing that the Organizing Committee for an Ideological Center (OCIC) had initiated a National Conference of Minority Marxist Leninists in order to promote the participation of minority comrades in the party-building movement. Recently it has come to our attention that the Conference is scheduled for June 23-24. It is therefore important at this time to express some concerns that have been accumulating over the past months in regards to this Conference, before it is too late to have any effect.

A Conference of Minority Marxist Leninists, if properly conceived and organized, could be beneficial to the anti-revisionist, anti-left opportunist party-building movement as a whole. As third world comrades actively involved in the struggle to build a genuine communist party, we have considered this initiative to be very positive, and have hoped to find ways to contribute to its success.

Unfortunately, however, what has become clear in practice is that some forces within our party-building trend are being consciously and systematically excluded from this Conference. Clay Newlin, chairperson of the OCIC steering committee, and Leslie Roberts, member of the Conference planning committee, have publicly stated that this is not an OCIC Conference. Yet the selection of the Conference organizers and participants conspicuously excludes many comrades who are central to the party building movement (and the mass movement) but who have expressed disagreement with the "Fusion" line on party building or the OCIC. Many comrades and organizations have never even been directly contacted about the Conference.

Perhaps there is some objective basis for these decisions that has not been brought to our attention. However, in the absence of a clear statement of purpose and criteria for participation, your efforts are objectively promoting sectarianism and division within the ranks of the communist and anti-racist movements. What is the purpose of the Conference and who is accountable for its decisions? Given the purpose, what are the criteria for participation in planning and attending the Conference? Minimally, these matters must be clarified so that the communist movement as a whole, and minority comrades in particular, can objectively assess the merits of this Conference for promoting party building, and develop their relationship to the Conference on this basis.

It is our responsibility as communists to raise these questions. We are concerned that this Conference, which has the potential to be enormously positive for the party-building movement, is being turned into a

sectarian activity that may actually hinder the ability of the communist movement to unite. As minority Marxist Leninists active in the struggle to forge a genuine vanguard party of the working class--as Marxist Leninists period--we ask that you recognize the validity of these concerns and clarify your purpose and policy to the communist movement as soon as possible.

Individuals:

Bob Wing, National Committee  
to Overturn the Bakke  
Decision  
Belvin Louie, National Comm-  
ittee to Overturn the Bakke  
Decision  
Jacque Agtuca, Seattle Anti-  
Racist Organizing Committee  
Juan Lombard, Northern California  
Alliance  
Frances Beal, National Network  
of Marxist Leninist Clubs (NNMLC)  
New York  
Victor Uno, NNMLC, Bay Area  
Emile De Guzman, NNMLC, Bay Area  
Bruce Embrey, NNMLC, Los Angeles  
Donna Brown, NNMLC, Los Angeles  
Laurie Mayeno, NNMLC, Los Angeles  
Michael Downing, NNMLC, Los Angeles  
Michael Kozu, NNMLC, Seattle  
James Early, Organizing Committee  
to form an NNMLC, Washington D.C.  
Miriam Louie, Third World Women's  
Alliance (TWWA)  
Linda Burnham, TWWA  
Attieno Davis, TWWA  
Grace Shimizu, TWWA  
Cheryl Perry, TWWA  
Elaine Ko, Union of Democratic  
Filipinos, (KDP), Seattle  
Silme Domingo, KDP, Seattle  
Bruce Occena, KDP  
Estella Habal, Marxist Leninist  
Education Project

Organizations:

Phil Gardiner for the SMG  
El Comite-M.I.N.P.  
Ray Otake for the Northern California  
Alliance  
Marxist Leninist Education Project  
Melinda Paras for the National  
Network of Marxist Leninist Clubs

CC: the Party Building movement