

Comrades,

In January we had a planning meeting for the regional pt. 18 conference. In attendance were Socialist Organizing Committee (SOC)-Orange County, Ca., L.A. Local Center (LALC), Seattle Workers Group (SWG), and Bay Area Coordinating Body (BACB). Tucson Marxist-Leninist Collective (TMLC), and MayDay-Eugene, Ore. were not there but thru the mail have expressed interest in the conference and plan to attend. (L.A. Local Center is So. Calif. L.C. or SCLC.)

The primary purpose of the conference is the internal consolidation of OCIC forces on the question of pt.18 as a line of demarcation and a principle of unity on which to establish an ideological center. The planning meeting had unity with this steering committee view and planned the conference accordingly. Secondarily, we see the conference as a place to expose people on our periphery to the OCIC, and the content and form of the struggle over pt.18.

### Format and Rules

All members of OCIC organizations and all OCIC individual members are invited and encouraged to attend.

R from BACB will chair the conference

T from OCIC steering committee and SWG will give an opening speech about the history of the OCIC with a focus on pt.18..

Speaker: for each position 30min. opening speech, followed by two 15 min. rebuttals each. Total time each side 60 min. We had initially decided on 45 min. openings but after seeing that the day was going to be about 9 hours and since everyone attending will have read the papers we changed it to 30 min. after some discussion by phone.

We are inviting the authors to do this debate. We think that this will give us the sharpest and most developed presentations. BPO has stated they would like to come and speak. We are in the process of working out the arrangements at this time. The cost of the trip for each speaker is to be discussed by the SC soon. It looks as if they will either pay for both or neither which is fair. If they decide neither we will have to discuss how to finance the trip or develop speakers from the local area. We had originally discussed the possibility of paying half and will have to see if this is possible if the SC decides not to.

Workshops-to raise, discuss, and evaluate in small groups the major issues, questions, two line struggles etc. that exist on pt.18 with in our region. N from SOC is workshop coordinator and will develop guidelines and agendas for the workshops. There will be five workshops and they will last 90 min. People from each area will be in each workshop to the best of our ability so that we can benefit from regional thinking and experience. There will be a chair and a notetaker for each workshop. N from SOC, B from SWG, I from LA, and two people from BACB will chair. Each chair will select their own notetaker. After the workshops the chairs will sum up the two line struggles and issues with the conference chairperson to develop the agenda for the plenary. This way the plenary can be used to discuss the areas where OCIC folks are unconsolidated and sharpen the debate in these areas.

Plenary-final discussion prior to vote on pt.18 as a line of demarcation, 90 min.

Voting-by delegate only, chosen as per SC process. All OCIC organizations and individual members must have formally joined and paid their dues before the conference. The national treasurer will oversee voting questions since he will have the info on who is and isn't eligible to vote and how many delegates each organization is entitled to. Local centers will not vote, since they are made up of individuals and organizations that are eligible to vote and are primarily a forum that can discuss issues and influence voting.

Observer policy--the SCLC recommendations for criteria were accepted. 1. Observing conference will move relationship forward. 2. They have followed the OCIC process generally and the pt.18 struggle specifically. 3. They are concerned about the content and process of pt.18 struggle. 4. (a separate category of observers) history of anti-imperialist work and concerned with questions of party building. It was agreed that they didn't have to have unity with pt.18 to be an observer. The decision to invite "PUL" forces is up to local OCIC forces depending on if you think it would move your relationship with them forward. Regional invitations are being extended to the Guardian Clubs(2 each, L.A., Bay Area, Seattle), KDP and NICH (1 for each organization) the reason the G.C. get 6 and the others 1 each is due their different relationships to party building.

In the workshops and the plenary observers will only be allowed to speak if an OCIC delegate yields their turn to them. This is to keep the focus on the internal consolidation. In the plenary only delegates will be called on and they can yield to other OCIC members if they desire. All OCIC members will be allowed to speak in the workshops on an equal basis as delegates.

Logistics--housing, all people attending the conference should whenever possible stay with friends, relatives etc. If this is not possible BACB will find places for you. We need to know how many people will need housing, ASAP and not later than March 22 must this information be in our hands not in the mail. Some people would like to house only non-smokers so please have people list if they must smoke. People should indicate if they are couples. Childcare--will be provided on the day of the event, people should try to provide childcare in their local areas.

Airport info--we will provide airport pick-up when needed if the people you are staying with can't. If you plan to fly in and out the same day we can pick you up and take you back. In any case please fly into the Oakland Airport. We would like this info also by March 22.

We will provide food for lunch, snacks for mid-morning and mid-afternoon and coffee and tea all day.

All members and observers will pay an equal fee to cover the cost of renting the hall and the food. It should be under five dollars. Probably about three dollars.

We need one person from each area to be responsible for identifying people from your area in case of any problems.

We need a list of people coming from each area by the 22nd of March so that we may plan the workshop breakdown. For security just send the numbers from each area with a breakdown of members and observers, you don't need to give organization affiliation with this list. Someone from each area who will be coming in friday night should bring a roster with the following info: .OCIC members and org, delegates, and what organization and/or leanings on pt.18. for each observer. We want to have the workshops as mixed as possible with people from different areas and different views on pt.18. Secondly, we want to set up, if possible, workshops of smokers and non-smokers so that everyone can be as comfortable as possible. So please find out for each person their preference and flexibility on smoking. We plan to give out workshop assignments as people come in in the morning so as to save time during the day. The lists that we get on friday will be guarded with extreme care and will be used by the chair and SC members only and then will be destroyed. If no one from your area will be here on friday night let us know so we can make special arrangements. Also the person with the list must contact us friday night when they arrive so that we can get the lists and do the work that night.

During parts of the day OCIC members and observers will be seated apart for functional purposes so if you have members that are secret you should send them to the conference as observers and if you want them to speak have one of your delegates call on them.

For any problems that arise you may call 415-482-0761. For the friday nite and saturday morning of the conference call 415-655-4310 for directions etc. Both of these numbers should be used for these purposes only, they are not public numbers.

Criticism/self-criticism will not be done at the end of the day due to the length of the meeting. We will ask people to write it up and we will put it together and send it out.

Tentative agenda for the conference:

Check-in 8:30 to 9:30  
 Welcome and opening statement 9:45  
 Sing "Internationale"  
 History of OCIC and pt.18  
 Procedure for the day  
 Speech #1 30min.  
 Speech #2 "  
 Rebuttal #1 15min.  
 " #2 "  
 " #3 "  
 " #4 "  
 Lunch 60min.  
 Workshops 90min.  
 Break while workshop leaders and chair sum up workshops and plan plenary 20-30min.  
 Plenary 90min. *Speak*  
 Vote 15min.  
 Announce decision and closing statement 15min.  
 We should end at 6:30 to 7:00

Literature sales and distribution will be done at the end of the conference. All those who plan to bring literature should let us know ahead of time so that we may plan for space etc. While the voting is taking place and being counted people can set up their displays.

At the planning meeting a criticism/self-criticism was proposed and adopted. This has already been sent out to all but Tucson and Eugene who will get copies with this mailing.

There was also a discussion of what to do on Sunday after the conference. SOC put forward the idea of an all tendency meeting to discuss joint work in the region and develop closer ties with forces in the tendency but outside the OCIC. BACB put forward that we should have a regional meeting to begin to consolidate the working relationships of the regional OCIC forces. BACB thought that this was a prerequisite to the SOC proposal which is a good idea but premature. The BACB proposal was adopted and some general guidelines for the meeting were developed. Tucson and Eugene will get this in this mailing. Irene from SCLC is planning this day and will be sending out some material soon. Below is a mailing list with current addresses for all OCIC regional members. Hopefully this will improve communications.

Tucson P.O. Box 3524, Tucson, Arizona 85722

MayDay P.O. Box 3822, Eugene, Oregon 97403

SOC P.O. Box 4252 Santa Ana, Calif. 92702

BACB P.O. Box 23531, Oakland, Calif. 94623

SWG 229 24th Ave. East, Seattle, Wash. 98122

SCLC P.O. Box 525, Bell, Calif. 90201

BACB and SCLC like people to use "Boxholder" instead of their name if you don't use boxholder just use initials. When sending mail to other groups unless you know otherwise.

All conference mail goes to BACB address.

In unity, struggle, unity,

*Richard*  
Richard, Chair for the conference

ps thanks to Irene for her initiative and good work.

Hope you have the SC minutes for the last few meetings they have all the details on the pt.18 conference as far as they went. The delegate policy---1 to 5=1, 2 6 to 10=2, 11 to 15=3 etc. If you have any further questions don't hesitate to call 482-0761 and if you have a number we could call if there are any last minute details ~~xxx~~ let us know it ~~is~~ will be used for this purpose, OCIC, business only and not given to anyone even other OCIC folks without your permission. Looking forward to seeing your TR #9 if you have an advance copy even a draft we would appreciate it as soon as possible if a draft we will only share it as you wish.

*Richard*