

Copy of Regional Steering Comm. Letter to
Bay Area Comrades

October, 7 1981

Dear Comrades,

The Bay Area Regional Planning Committee for the Conference on Racism/National Oppression has been convened. We are in the first stages of our work of mobilizing the Trend's participation at the conference scheduled for the weekend of November 13-15th. Our work is in line with that of the National Conference in May in that, we see ourselves as broadening and deepening the line struggle begun at that time. Regional conferences such as this are being planned for LA, Seattle, the mid-West and the East Coast. This process will be occurring through December. We believe that these regional conferences provide our Trend with a crucial arena for articulating its unity and differences on these questions. We will be utilizing the documents prepared for and presented at the May conference. These working papers proved to be an excellent vehicle for the identification of differences and the subsequent organizing of debate on these points. We feel that the National Conference and the regionals are essential in the effort to move our Trend towards ultimately distinguishing itself from other Trends, a process which must be based on unity around line. This conference like the May conference is a initial step in that direction.

Our regional effort will be open to all comrades who attended the National conference with one exception. The comrades made up of individuals from BASOC, Independent Study Group, Inworks and independents, who have constituted themselves into the Critical Caucus, This is based on the refusal of these comrades to meet with the National Steering Committee in an effort to resolve

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differences that resulted in comrades leaving the National meeting and prevented comrades from attending the Bay Area summation meeting of August 2nd. The Critical Caucus in a letter to the Bay Area summation meeting raised two points in defense of their stand; 1) incompleteness of their summation process, 2) the lack of a sufficiently self-critical posture on the part of National Steering Committee, in relation to criticisms held by some individual comrades. We will not attempt to address this second point. It is our opinion that this matter can not be accounted for by this regional body. But on the first point, our opinion is that as our task is the organizing of the line struggle at the Nov. conference, it is absolutely critical that comrades attending be willing to take responsibility for and be accountable for their views. This requires the utmost cooperation between comrades holding differing views and alternative frameworks and the comrades of the Planning Committee, who may hold points of view different from the working papers but have unity with the goals of the conferences and unity that the working papers provide us with a framework for identifying line disagreements. It is our feeling that meetings between the comrades of the Planning Committee and other comrades have to take place if the struggle for common language, framework, and a common approach is to begin. Without such meetings our ability to organize the line struggle such that the Trend can participate in the sorting out of theoretical differences is weakened.

We want all the comrades of our Trend to participate in this up-coming effort. Thus we would hope that upon circulation and discussion of this letter that the comrades of the Critical

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Caucus would agree to meeting with the Steering Committee of the Regional Planning Committee, in an effort to identifying their theoretical differences with the working papers and beginning to sort-out how these differences will be unfolded at the Nov. conference. We think that the regional event will provide the Critical Caucus with an excellent forum for airing their opinions and provide the Bay Area Trend an important opportunity to partake in the struggle for line on the question of racism and national oppression.

In Struggle,

The Bay Area Planning Committee

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