

C O P Y

May 16, 1965

Editorial Board  
Spartacist

Dear Comrades:

We have yet to hear from you in reply to our letter of January 25, 1965. As we stated then, and as we have stated since the beginning of our exchanges with you over the unity question, the unification of our two groups can be brought about only through a serious discussion process. So far this process has not gotten off the ground.

We understand that you plan to hold a convention of your supporters on Labor Day. Prior to that convention we understand you will be holding a special pre-convention discussion in order to determine the political and theoretical basis upon which your organization will proceed to build following the Labor Day Convention.

We feel that this proposed pre-convention and convention discussion provides an excellent opportunity for bringing about the unification of all viable Trotskyist forces in the United States. We wish to participate with you in this process in the hopes that out of this process can emerge a united Trotskyist organization that can go forward after Labor Day to build a significant movement in the increasingly favorable objective situation in the United States. This can be an important contribution to the rebuilding of the forces of the Fourth International now grouped around the International Committee.

It is time that we cease talking about the unity of our two groups and get down to the concrete political and theoretical work necessary to bring about this unification. All organizational or personal considerations should be put aside in the interests of achieving a sound unification.

Concretely what we propose is that the Spartacist Group and the American Committee for the Fourth International hold a joint pre-convention discussion. This discussion is to be conducted in both a literary fashion and with common meetings where members of both groups exist in the same locality. Where only members of one group exist in the given area special effort should be made to bring these comrades also into verbal as well as literary discussion. The discussion should center around material submitted by each group and/or its individual members and supporters for discussion.

Following this discussion process we propose that both groups meet in common at a convention Labor Day to determine if the discussion process has provided the two groups with the political and theoretical basis for unification. If this is found to be the case--and we strongly feel that this can very well be

the outcome--the groups should forthwith merge and a new united Trotskyist movement be launched at Labor Day.

We wish to hear from you immediately as to your views on this general proposal. If there is agreement on the general concept than we propose that a committee composed of representatives of both groups meet as soon as possible to work out the technical details to the mutual satisfaction of all concerned.

It has been with great satisfaction that we have observed that both your organization and our own have grown appreciably in the past period--both in numbers and influence. If a sound unification can be achieved soon together we can make far greater strides than we have been able to make separately so far.

Fraternally,

American Committee for the  
Fourth International