

CONFIDENTIAL

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Seattle, Wash.

RESOLUTION OF THE FREEDOM SOCIALIST PARTY OF WASHINGTON ON REVOLUTIONARY
REGROUPMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

The formation of the FSP, which united the former Seattle Branch of the SWP, independent radicals, and previously unaffiliated youth, expressed on a local scale the objective need in the U.S. for a basic reorganization of the socialist vanguard.

We were under no illusion that we, with a few national supporters, could substitute ourselves for the framework of a genuine national organization. On the contrary, our founding documents stressed the objective of socialist regroupment as the road towards rebuilding the party of revolutionary socialism.

We concur with the perspective outlined in the September, 1966 joint proposal of Kirk & Phillips to the N.C. of the Spartacist League, i.e. that a national conference of socialist groups and individuals independent of the established radical parties be held as soon as possible and feasible for the purpose of creating or laying the foundation for a new revolutionary party in this country.

Since September, the CIPA has emerged, demonstrating in its own manner that our objective has reality and significance in areas outside the traditional "old left" radical milieu.

Before considering the conference call, however, it is necessary to first probe the situation and arrive at a realistic estimate of the number and character of political groups and individuals interested and willing to participate and/or sponsor. This is basic to any further steps in this direction.

Two alternative strategic approaches to a regroupment conference may be anticipated: a broad conference capable of securing the adherence of a wide spectrum of radicals, or a narrower conference which would be essentially a regroupment of proclaimed Trotskyists.

(1) A broad conference is objectively indicated and preferable, but its success would depend upon the two key factors of program and sponsorship. Firm commitments from leading independents like Huberman, Rubenstein, etc. and from newcomers prominent in the Black Power and anti-war movements, the CIPA, SDS, etc. would be necessary. And minimum programmatic guarantees to assure the political independence, open revolutionary approach, and internal democracy of the new party would have to be demanded.

A broad organization of this type, closely connected with the southern movement, the northern ghetto, and the highly exploited sectors of the proletariat in general, would be subject to constant mass pressure complemented by the pressure generated by the presence of conscious revolutionary Bolsheviks. These two pressures would assure the development of a movement that would play a vital role in the rebuilding of revolutionary socialism in this country.

(2) Should such a broad conference prove impossible at this time, a narrower, firmer, more politically precise but smaller regroupment would still be necessary and progressive, and would hold promise for the eventual building of a larger movement.

The callers of this second type of conference would probably be Spartacist, the FSP, and the Phillips tendency. We would expect to win a modest participation from some left SDS elements, from anti-war and civil rights vanguard elements, etc. An effort should be made to involve the Workers World forces as well in the sponsorship.

This narrower type of organization would be able to produce highly effective and persuasive propaganda and would earn itself a role of serious contender for ideological hegemony of the left. This organization would exert considerable pressure upon all the old radical tendencies and on all of the newer ones as well.

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At present, we do not know which direction the movement is most likely to take. Either course would represent important organizational advances for revolutionary socialists.

We propose that a committee be set up in New York for the purpose of quietly and competently probing this situation and making a report back to SL, FSP and Phillips as soon as possible. We nominate Dave Dreiser, who will represent the FSP directly, and Barbara Zelluck, who has been closely associated with both ourselves and Phillips, and we would accept any nominations Comrade Phillips would make. SL would then fill out the committee at its discretion.

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This is to be considered a confidential document as between the parties named.