

INTERNAL BULLETIN 126

'CONVERGENCE'

The following is the resolution passed unanimously at the National Committee on August 19. It will be further discussed at an Extended National Committee (i.e. an NC which all members are encouraged to attend as observers) on

Sun Oct 14

(This NC will also discuss tactics in student work - see material in this IB)

Also included in this bulletin are articles on the issue by Kinnell, by Scott, and by Swing.

NC RESOLUTION (AS AMENDED)

1. The present situation is that the 'broad groups' are not broad groups, but identified as a hard Trotskyist current. There is no rational division of labour between the 'broad groups' and the League. This is unsatisfactory in many ways.
2. Therefore we should 'converge' - i.e. merge the 'broad groups' and the League.
3. The end result will be an organisation of essentially the same structure and politics as the present League, but, we hope, bigger and with a better profile.
4. The process of reaching that end result will be as follows. First, discuss and establish a majority view within the League. Second, convince as many as possible of the 'hard core' S* supporters.

Documents should be circulated to the branches immediately, and they should be asked to discuss before the final League decision, to be at an extended NC in September or October.

It should however be possible to use the August weekend school to discuss the general idea of a 'harder' organisation with S* supporters present.

5. The S* Secretariat would be replaced by the existing EC. We should not give up on the idea of a broader, consultative, occasionally-meeting S* Editorial Board. We should refer the technicalities of changing other S* structures to the EC.
6. There would inescapably have to be a two-tier structure for S* - members (supporters? activists?) and sellers. And inescapably we could not be entirely open and candid about it. We should, however, make it a mystery, M-style - we can and should be fairly candid at the local day-to-day level.
7. The operation should not be carried out in such a way as to push the 'sellers' away from us. Some demarcation is essential: we cannot have an organisation with no sharp distinction between committed militants and half-committed sympathisers without abandoning the whole project of a Leninist party. But 'sellers' should feel and know that their involvement and their say in S* affairs is limited only by the degree of their personal commitment, not by any clannish exclusiveness on our part.
8. Local groups could be flexible in how they operated, but a normal format could be weekly meetings alternating between open sellers' meetings and closed business meetings of hard supporters.

(The draft resolution, before amendment, will be found on the next page, followed by brief minutes of the NC discussion).