

## PLATFORM OF THE WSL INTERNATIONALIST

### TENDENCY

- 1 Our primary orientation is to the working class. It is on the basis of this orientation and the needs of this orientation that we determine our tactics in relation to the work in the MP. We reject the notion that work in the MP and MPYM is the central area of our work.
- 2 Our work in the MP is directed towards breaking workers from reformism as part of the struggle for revolutionary leadership in the class, not simply to helping the left to develop or evolve. It is precisely through our consistent orientation to the class, our clear criticism and our ability to show members of the left how they can locate their individual socialist commitment within the struggle to develop the only force capable of making the revolution - the working class - that we will win the best elements of the left to our politics.
- 3 In line with our orientation, our press must be directed towards the situation of the most militant layer of the class and the mass of workers behind them. In the present period that requires a clear revolutionary programme and bold revolutionary propaganda and agitation which can address the problems faced by these militants, in a language they can understand, providing an explanation and an understanding of their experiences and drawing them towards an understanding of the revolutionary tasks of the proletariat. In practice this means having a party paper.
- 4 The question posed by the witch-hunt is not one of a choice between staying in or getting out of the MP, but between taking our politics to workers and not taking our politics to workers.

We regard the Register as the witch-hunters' noose and campaign consistently for all socialist groups to boycott the Register and for CLP's to refuse to carry out expulsions. At the same time we point to the politics of the witch-hunters as those of social chauvinism, as with the Malvinas and the Irish liberation struggle, and of open accommodation to capital as with their support for wage controls.

We refuse to register because to do so would negate our fight against the witch-hunt and because to comply with the register would also oblige us to repudiate all international links in favour of the 2nd International. Rather than voluntarily limit our own politics, in the event of a defeat of the fight against the Register, we should adopt illegal methods of work in the MP while continuing our campaign against bans and proscriptions in the labour movement.
- 5 We re-affirm our orientation to the specially oppressed, women, blacks and gays, who, because of their double and often multiple oppression, are often amongst the most militant layers of the class. Within this work, we necessarily must develop special methods of work which can enable us to respond sensitively to the problems and experiences of these layers.
- 6 In our work amongst women, we reaffirm our primary orientation towards working class women in struggle, and reject the characterisation of that orientation as 'miserable economism'. We support positive discrimination for women as a tactic, not as a substitute for the mobilisation of working class women in struggle and a programme necessary to relate to those struggles. We oppose an uncritical approach to the separatist politics of petty bourgeois feminism. At the same time we defend the right of women to organise and caucus separately, even if we are opposed to separatism as a policy in general, as the basis for creating the most favourable conditions for real, voluntary unity.



- 7 We orientate to youth because we are conscious of the historical revolutionary role of the youth in the mass struggles of the class. We work to politically organise youth and involve them in the mass labour movement. As a part of that it is necessary for us to orientate to LPYS and to fight to build a revolutionary tendency in it. We do not, however, substitute the LPYS for working class youth as a whole, nor do we relegate our youth work to simply building a tendency in the LPYS. We use Class Fighter groups to enable us to relate flexibly to all layers of youth, win them to our politics and draw them with us into the struggles inside the mass labour movement.
- 8 We regard it as essential that revolutionaries must be, at all times, the most implacable opponents of their own Imperialism, resolutely defending all those in struggle against it. We reject the notion of solidarity which attempts to incorporate pacifist denunciations of the actions of those fighting Imperialism and declare our support for the resolution of the Irish commission submitted to the NC in December 1981 with regard to the military actions of the Republican movement. We reject the strategy of guerrillaism, but unequivocally defend the rights of those in struggle against imperialism to determine their own methods. Our differences with the Irish Republicans is over strategy, not over the targets of their military campaign.<sup>1/2</sup>
- 9 We approach the anti-Imperialist struggles of the oppressed masses of the dependant and semi-colonial countries from the standpoint of Lenin's theory of Imperialism as decaying capitalism in which the essential feature is the division of the world into oppressor and oppressed nations. We see these struggles as proceeding within the framework of Permanent Revolution. We therefore support the established positions of TILC on the Malvinas and on Palestine.
- 10 We base our assessment of the bureaucratised workers states on Trotsky's analysis of the degeneration of the Soviet Union, and in particular on the need for political revolution in all of these states. We reject the reflexive resort to a classless call for 'self-determination' in Poland, Afghanistan and Kampuchea as being incompatible with a consistent defence of the property relations of the Soviet Union and the other bureaucratised workers states. We support, instead, the call for an independent workers state in each of these countries as a means of establishing the need to guard the nationalised property relations which are progressive in themselves, not merely potentially progressive when Stalinism is overthrown.
- 11 We support the transformation of the TILC into a democratic centralist tendency as proposed by the Italian and American comrades at the December TILC Conference. We argue for a WSL commitment to this as a vital step in our struggle for the reconstruction of the F.I. We reject any attempt to create endless organisational and political barriers to democratic centralism. The contention that there is not the necessary political agreement within TILC does not hold water as the so-called political differences pale into insignificance beside the yawning differences within the WSL since fusion and between the WSL/ICL prior to fusion.
- 12 We reject the notion of a workers' government as a necessary stage or strategic goal for revolutionaries, except in the form of the dictatorship of the proletariat. The crowning point of our programme is soviets, not a workers government. This does not imply, however, that we should not raise the slogan of a workers government at specific points in the class struggle as considered tactically appropriate.



- 13 We support the method and programmatic content of the transitional programme and its elaboration in the TILC document 'The Transitional programme in Today's Class Struggle'. We reject the notion that a bridge to this programme is needed in the form of democratic demands. We do not see democratic demands as a substitute for transitional demands. For example, the call for 'police accountability' (a utopian reformist illusion under capitalism) should never be substituted for workers defence squads.

Our programme is constructed precisely as a bridge from today's consciousness of the class to the consciousness needed for socialist revolution. We do not need a bridge to the bridge.

SIGNATORIES :

Brown  
Drive  
Evington  
Griffiths  
Maidstone  
McTaggart  
Morrow  
Swift  
Tagore  
Arthur  
Trepper  
Graves  
Atcliff

Brenner  
Cardew  
Walsh  
Graves  
Tilsey  
Hatton  
Layton  
Johnsen  
O'Shea.



