

Resolution on TILC - adopted by WSL NC Nov 13 1982.

"The WSL fights for the political regeneration and organisational reconstruction of the FI founded in 1938 by Leon Trotsky. We seek the maximum contact, cooperation and dialogue with the forces of Trotskyism internationally, as the means for reaching theoretical and political clarification and forging organisational links.

The WSL is part of the Trotskyist International Liaison Committee and seeks to develop it into a democratic centralist tendency, as our immediate contribution to the development of revolutionary forces. Success in this development will of course only be a step towards the greater task of political regeneration and organisational reconstruction."

(WSL Fusion Platform, July 1981)

1) This National Committee reaffirms its commitment to the building of a democratic centralist revolutionary international tendency pledged to struggle for the political regeneration and reconstruction of the Fourth International.

2) We recognise the important steps taken in this direction by the programmatic discussions and decisions and the political work of the TILC and its sections since its formation in December 1979.

3) We remain committed to the development of TILC into a democratic centralist tendency. But as we pointed out at length in July and must reiterate now, we recognise that substantial political obstacles stand in the way of establishing such a disciplined framework at the forthcoming December conference. In addition there are major material obstacles. Indeed not one of the problems to which we referred in July has been in the least resolved in the intervening months.

(a) On the one hand the enormous organisational problems faced by the small numbers of the TILC sections have meant that we have failed in repeated attempts to generate a real internal life and ongoing processes of discussion within the ranks of TILC between full meetings. The material and organisational resources to function an international centre have yet to be created; and the ability of national sections to devote sufficient time and energy to the development of discussion on international questions has yet to be proven.

For the transformation to a democratic centralist structure to be any more than a change in the label attached to the TILC, it must mean the development of a genuine, functioning international leadership capable of maintaining a regular and continuous dialogue with the national sections, and thus taking decisions which amount to more than simply bureaucratic pronouncements over the heads of the sections.

The failure of even the TILC sections who were the strongest advocates of the establishment of d/c in December to fulfil the organisational commitments spelled out in the July resolution on preparations for the December conference (submission of amendments to main documents, etc) clearly sums up the organisational problems in taking this step.

(b) In addition to this, we must recognise that the crisis that has erupted and now produced in effect a split in the American RWL, the most prominent sympathising section of TILC, gives the WSL grave concern at the internal procedures and the treatment of political opponents of the RWL leadership. Some of the political issues raised in that crisis by cdes of the ex-SLDC also appear to require further clarification and discussion in TILC.

For these reasons we feel that a decision this December to enter into a binding commitment to the establishment of d/c would be politically premature and without organisational foundation. Rather than in practice advancing the building of the TILC, such a step could open the door to substantial new problems. Indeed by rigidifying the organisational structure as d/c without the necessary prerequisite