

"Every Party meeting should help to raise the ideological level of the Communists."

L.M. Kaganovitch in On Organization, Stalin, p.35

MINUTES OF TORONTO CELL LEADERS' MEETING, AUGUST 13, 1978

1. Political Report

a) PL's abandonment of Leninism

In the course of the polemic with PL we have to decide to wage a struggle throughout the Party so that all Party members have a Leninist grasp of the national question. We also have to develop a greater desire to struggle, greater enthusiasm and sense of urgency. It took us too long to decide to act on the Cornwall issue. This shows the danger of virulent racism being whipped up quickly. We have to anticipate, find ways to 'innoculate' workers against chauvinism. We need to win the working class to the frame of mind that the English-Canadian ruling class is always to blame.

Some Party members find the "right of Quebec to self-determination" easier to accept than the "right of Quebec to secession". We need to combat this chauvinist tendency. We should more often use "The right of nations to secede, a slogan," according to Stalin, "which is more precise and definite." (Marxism and the National-Colonial Question, p.163)

As an immediate task the Auto cell is to produce for wide distribution a comment on McDermott's statement on Cornwall in which he attacked Davis and Stephenson for fostering anti-French racism.

We also need more written material on the national question in current developments in Switzerland, Spain (the Basques), Ireland, etc.

TORONTO AREA BRANCH MEETING - AUGUST 27, 8pm

AGENDA

1. Political Report -Long live Leninism
 - Defeat chauvinism (support right to secede) and unite English and French workers
 - Communist leadership and mass struggles
 - Concerning fascism
 - Whither PL?
 - The Albanian beacon
2. Party Organisation -Cells -consistent meetings
 - Membership - greater responsibility
 - Classes - everyone to study, cells to be responsible for training friends and members
3. The Worker -Need for letters from workers
 - Meeting deadlines
 - Widen distribution (why not everyone?)
 - Gathering funds
4. Slogans -Internal, external

PL argues we owe apologies to the NLF, MPLA, and the Liga Socialista. We don't. We quite properly criticised the influence of revisionism in Vietnam and Angola. We owe no apologies for pointing out that the Liga's strategy of trying to stop the construction of a 'super-port' was not only nationalist and anti-Marxist, but had not a shred of working-class content.

If we owe any apologies they are to the Vietnamese people because we allowed our correct criticism of the revisionism of the Vietnamese communists to deflect us from our internationalist duty to work for the defeat of our imperialist bourgeoisie. We basically took ourselves out of the anti-war movement and left it in the hands of liberals, revisionists and trotskyites. Likewise, in the discussion of the Liga's nationalism we erred in not stressing the obligation of U.S. revolutionaries to defend the right of Puerto Rico to secede. In Angola we obviously couldn't support U.S. and South African backed FNLA and UNITA. We should have called for working through the MPLA, combatting revisionist leadership, and for independent communist organization.

Our line in the past has not been as sectarian as PL's, but we have tended to tail their bad line. One key point we failed to grasp the significance of until now is that of "revolutionary defeat". We have to desire and work for the defeat of our imperialist bourgeoisie. PL's line is essentially defencist: 'defeat U.S. and Russia, defeat Trudeau and Levesque', - like Trotsky's call to defeat "the Czar and the Kaiser".

Is this a 'lesser evil' theory? Yes, we definitely prefer the defeat of the English-Canadian ruling class. PL's line that there is no right and wrong, no oppressor or oppressed nations objectively will aid the oppressor nation. Levesque has no plan to conquer English Canada. The English-Canadian ruling class already dominates Quebec and intends to hold on to it.

Civil war would be tremendously harmful to the working class so it is our obligation to do everything to prevent it. The revolution has to be fought in the name of peace. PL's attitude is that civil war (English against French) would be a good thing.

Where an imperialist power attacks an oppressed nation we call and work for the defeat of the imperialist power. We endorse the Comintern's correct strategy in China of joining the Kuomintang - which had the result of building a communist movement of thousands. It is crucial to understand the way successful revolutions have been made. The Russian Revolution would have been defeated without the policy of self-determination for nations. The Chinese Revolution would have failed without the communists joining the KMT.

b) Encouraging words from Albania

Albania's attack on China of June 24th is encouraging and exciting. They point out waverings of the Chinese in the fight against revisionism back to 1962, do not support the Gang of Four, and differ with Mao. They trace the problems of the Chinese Revolution to misunderstanding of the 'new democratic revolution'. They criticise the cultural revolution, object to China's great nation chauvinism and praise the Soviet model of development over the Chinese.

The Party will be reprinting the key Albanian documents. Party members should try and obtain and read particularly four main Albanian statements:

- 1) the attack on the 'three worlds' theory
- 2) the defence of Stalin
- 3) the attack on China
- 4) the proposal on reconstituting the world communist movement

2. Trade Union Conference

A trade union conference is being organised for the second Saturday in September (Sept. 9) around the idea of creating a six-hour day organisation. Prime importance is to be given to properly developing a united front for this purpose, particularly with trade union leaders who are friendly and have co-operated with the Party.

McDermott has thrown the shorter work-week banner in the mud - it is up to us to pick it up. We can build an organisation of unionists that can be a significant challenge to the CLC bureaucrats on this issue.

3. Meetings

Cells must have a regular meeting time every week and must meet no matter what. Deputy leaders are to be elected in every cell; they must run the meetings if the cell leader is unavailable.

There is to be a Toronto branch meeting Sunday, August 27th, at 8 pm. Attendance is the duty of every Party member.

Cell meetings must be relevant and political. Kaganovitch made the point that "every Party meeting should help to raise the ideological level of the Communists". Cell members should discuss 'is this happening in our cell meetings?'