



Defend Marxism Leninism! – Kath Williams

Kath Williams was one of 11 signatories to the Introduction to Defend Marxism Leninism! This was a publication that preceded, but paved the way for, the formation of our Party on March 15, 1964. It included her speech to the Victorian State Conference of the CPA in April 1963. We reprint below the text of that speech. – Editors

This is the first time I, and some others with differences on the present Party policy, have had the opportunity to state our own position to the membership.

But not all those concerned, for many leading cadres have not been elected to this conference, and others not given the opportunity to speak, as a consequence of the campaign of vilification which has been carried out against us.

We have been accused of disrupting the work of the Party, of damaging unity.

But what is more disruptive than vilification? This is proved by what has happened in the international Communist movement.

Attacks on fraternal Parties have grown since the first attack at the 22nd Congress of the CPSU - as Comrade Aidit, Chairman of the Indonesian Party, warned they would at the time.

We have heard these attacks from Comrade Sharkey, Jones, Aarons and others. This only serves imperialism and disrupts further the unity of the world Communist movement.

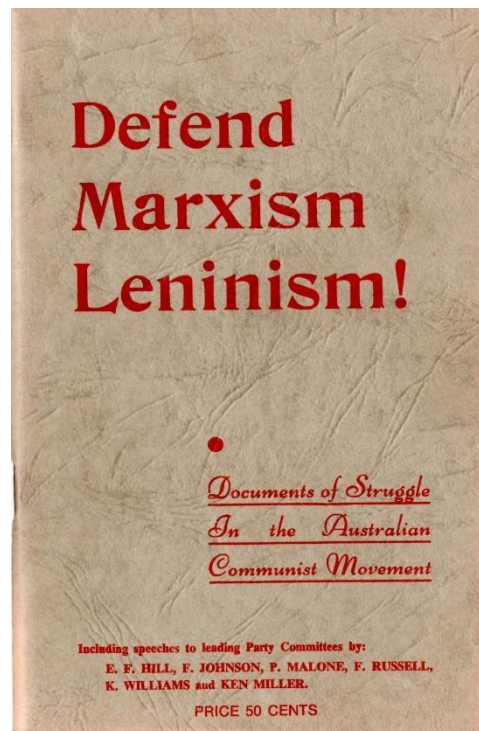
My mass work is in the trade unions, the women's movement. What have been our guiding principles in this work? In the trade unions we have seen the campaign for equal pay as a class question. We have struggled to bring rank and file women workers into activity for their democratic rights and to unite the whole trade union movement around these demands. And in the process we have helped women to see the source of their double exploitation – to lift their understanding – so that they take the path of struggle against capitalism, and prepare themselves for the task of overthrowing it.

The work in Victoria has been praised by leading comrades in other States for the high degree of activity and unity achieved.

Comrade Betty Oke has outlined the big development of the work in the UAW.

But who has been in the leadership of this organisation?

Comrades Hilda Smith and Meg Arrowsmith have been.





Comrade Meg, who attended the International Conference of Women in Vienna, reported back all over Australia.

She got nothing but praise for the content of her report. Yet at their section conferences, neither of these comrades were re-elected to their section committees nor as delegates to the conferences. Why? Because they have reservations about the policy of the Party.

Comrade Hilda Smith, at her section conference, was accused of dishonesty, because she had not discussed her differences. The section secretary condemned the work of the UAW as narrow, through incorrect leadership.

So what's going on? Why do we see the great growth in the work – not seen in other States – and yet go after the leaders of this work.

Real Reason For Witch Hunt

It is quite evident that it is not our mass work which is at fault. There is no evidence of our disruption there.

The real reason – not disclosed – is that our removal is necessary to water down further Party policy; to take the revolutionary content out of Marxism-Leninism.

Take a look at the Peace Movement.

Inside Party meetings imperialism is blasted. But outside? At the “women's march for peace” slogans against bases were not allowed to be named as US bases.

We have not named India as the aggressor against China. What is the inference? That socialism is aggressive! What kind of leadership is this?

Dr. Mannix in his Anzac Day message said: “Our thoughts go to the small band of Australian soldiers in Vietnam, helping the people to defend their freedom against a brutal and often murderous aggressor.”

We know the truth about South Vietnam. If we don't speak up, how can women – the masses – find the truth? What kind of proletarian internationalism is this?

The ANZ Congress is not the only organisation for peace. In the trade unions we strive to link the struggle for wages with the struggle for peace.

Comrade Malone, in particular, and others, never miss an opportunity to help lift consciousness of the working class on these vital questions.

The working class is the decisive force in the struggle for peace. For this reason we have always held that within the broad peace movement the trade unions must not lose their independent class position while guaranteeing against sectarianism.

But in practice, when we have discussed it in this way, we have been accused of left sectarianism. Does this mean that on the THC, at factory meetings, we will not refer to American imperialism or Australian imperialism, even though our own national independence is at stake?

We are aware that the working class is made up of many groupings, and the levels of understanding are not the same.



We are not so stupid to go in cold when dealing with imperialism in an abstract way.

Our practice has been to analyse each group, taking them step by step to an even higher level.

Roger Wilson's statement that our trade union comrades do nothing for peace is one-sided and dishonest. He takes incidental matters to drive home a point.

Our trade union journals over the years have been a mighty weapon in lifting consciousness of the working class.

Lenin, speaking of the trade unions, said: "No politics means bourgeois politics". This is true of the peace movement, the women's movement, and the mass movement generally.

Bourgeois ideology is older than that of Marxism-Leninism. We must not underestimate its influence.

We must combat it. Lift the sentiments for peace to an understanding of the cause of war, its class character, distinguish between just and unjust wars.

Turn the anger of the masses against imperialism, not socialism. Deepen understanding. For theory becomes a material force when it grips the masses.

Comrades, left sectarianism is not our problem. The *81 Party Statement*¹² names revisionism as the main danger, internationally.

In the objective conditions in our country, this is our main danger, too.

This explains my political position for which I, and others, stand condemned.

For my part I will never be a party to the betrayal of the revolutionary cause of the working class.

¹² In 1960, the representatives of 81 Communist and Workers' parties met in Moscow to try and resolve the differences that had emerged in the international communist movement. The Statement that they issued repudiated some of Khrushchev's revisionist fallacies but failed to fully resolve the differences that had emerged. See: [Statement of 81 Communist and Workers Parties Meeting in Moscow, USSR, 1960 \(marxists.org\)](http://marxists.org)