

UNITY STATEMENT

WASH., D.C.

GROUP

MERGES

WITH O.L.

Members of the new District of Columbia district of the October League (ML) are proud to join with our comrades throughout the country, and to participate actively in building a new communist party, a party based on Marxism-Leninism and not revisionism.

For us, joining the October League is the culmination of years of study and practical work. Over the past months, we have examined the political lines of a number of groups in the anti-revisionist movement. We have struggled to criticize our present and past mass work and have used *The Call* and other anti-revisionist publications to examine the practice of the October League.

In this way we have reached unity with the political line of the October League. This represents an important step out of the "local outlook" that has been holding us back from full participation in building a Marxist-Leninist movement in this city.

In building a district in D.C. we have struggled with those who have an incor-

rect view of the manner in which ideological unity is forged. Some objectively play the role of "armchair revolutionaries." While correctly recognizing the need for revolutionary theory, they would have us engage in endless intellectual debates. In their search for the perfect organization, they confine their role in party-building to a seat on the sidelines, ever critical of those who are attempting to make a new vanguard party of the proletariat a reality. The political line of the new communist party will be clarified through revolutionary struggle. We must dare to enter that struggle.

Also seated on the sidelines are those who contend that it is not yet time to build a communist party, that revolutionary struggle should and will develop spontaneously. The workers are not yet ready for communist leadership, they argue. Marxism-Leninism for intellectuals, trade unionism for workers is their position.

Finally, there have been those who understand that revolutionary practice will not develop without revolutionary theory and organizational discipline, yet

would limit organizations to small isolated collectives. This position grows out of a lack of understanding of conditions outside the D.C. area, as well as a petty-bourgeois attitude which fears centralism and fights to maintain local "control."

We have struggled against these incorrect positions on party-building and have emerged from that struggle with energy and enthusiasm for the work which lies before us. We expect to gain strength and clarity as part of the October League, which has made outstanding contributions in this period of party-building. Of primary importance are clear, anti-revisionist theoretical positions, especially on the woman question and on the national question, of particular importance in D.C., where over three-quarters of the people are Afro-Americans.

The October League has also demonstrated a principled stand of proletarian internationalism, and recognized the threat of both Soviet social-imperialism and United States imperialism as well as the danger of imperialist war in this time of grave political and economic crises.