On Barry Weisberg's MLOC/"CPUSA(ML)"

Against Social-Democratic Infiltration of the Marxist-Leninist Movement

Part 3

In this issue of The Workers' Advocate we are reprinting a document which has come into our possession. This document is entitled "Statement of the Central Committee, Communist Party U.S.A./Marxist-Leninist on the state-inspired actions of the Central Organization of U.S. Marxist-Leninists — July 1, 1979". This is the response to our scientific study entitled "Against Social-Democratic Infiltration of the Marxist-Leninist Movement, A study of the origin, history and present role of the social-democrat Barry Weisberg and his MLOC/"CPUSA(M-L)".

We published our study in the pages of The Workers' Advocate last March and reprinted it in pamphlet form in May. This study showed with irrefutable facts and arguments how Barry Weisberg's MLOC/"CPUSA(M-L)' represents an agency of social-democracy attempting to smuggle itself into the Marxist-Leninist movement from the outside. The MLOC fell completely silent in the face of our systematic exposure of their true nature, at least silent in public. Then we became aware of the fact that MLOC was secretly distributing this document of contemptible slanderous and vile abuse against the COUSML. Thus, in the August 15 issue of The Workers' Advocate we issued a public challenge to the Central Committee of the MLOC/"CPUSA(M-L)".

Our challenge reads as follows:

"Since Part One of this article was published, and as of the August 1 issue of Unite!, there has been no public reply from the 'CPUSA(M-L)'. None of our facts have been contested. This is not surprising. Our article was based on painstaking study, including examination of the writing of Mr. Weisberg and the public documents and publications of the MLOC/'CPUSA(M-L)' and the Institute for Policy Studies. Our study has value not only as a polemic against the 'CPUSA(M-L)', but as an open call for struggle against social-democracy and as a reference work for the study of the history of the revolutionary movement in the U.S. We showed with convincing proof that Mr. Weisberg was trained in social-democracy and anti-communism at the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS). The IPS is a social-democratic 'think tank', funded by the big bourgeoisie and staffed by intellectuals who float in and out of appointed posts in the federal government. Weisberg's mentor at IPS was Marcus Raskin, a former member of the National Security Council under President Kennedy. Weisberg himself went on to be a co-founder of a regional offshoot of the IPS, the (San Francisco) Bay Area Institute of Policy Studies. The Bay Area Institute specialized in Asia in general and in China in particular and included early advocates of the U.S.-China alliance. From that time to the present, he has preserved his social-democratic politics while adapting his phraseology to the growing prestige of Marxism-Leninism among the advanced section of the revolutionary activists. Today the politics of the MLOC/'CPUSA(M-L)' are still in essence those of the IPS, but covered over with 'Marxist'-sounding phrasemongering.

"We were proud to issue our article openly, before the whole world, so that everyone could see and, if they wished, attempt to challenge it. When we published it, with the very first mailing we sent copies to the 'CPUSA(M-L)' itself, as we also do with all polemical material directed against them.

"On the other hand, the 'CPUSA(M-L)' has been reduced to public silence. Silent in the press, it has run into a frenzy, spreading rumors and slanders against the COUSML and against our article. A few days ago, we learned that the Central Committee of the 'CPUSA(M-L)' had apparently issued a private statement on July 1 attacking our article. This statement contained slanderous, contemptible and utterly unsupported allegations. Thus it is quite natural that the 'CPUSA(M-L)' sees fit to circulate such things only in the dark of night, behind the back of informed public opinion.

"We issue an open challenge to the Central Committee of the 'CPUSA(M-L)'. If you have any reply to our exposure of your social-democratic nature, publish it openly before the whole world. If you don't dare to do so, then this is yet further proof that you are nothing but a bunch of anti-communist social-democrats, slanderers and contemptible adventurers, insects who come out only in the dark and who flee from the light of day."

Now it is December, four months later, and the MLOC continues to refuse to make any public reply in the face of our challenge. Despite MLOC's lying claim in their document that it had, among other things, the purpose of "alarm(ing) the working class and progressive forces of the U.S. as to the counter-revolutionary nature of the COUSML", this document has not been made available to the public. We were not even sent a copy to allow us to reply to their contemptible charges. Thus, while the MLOC accuses ourselves of using the "means and methods of operation of police agents and provocateurs" it is obvious to any objective observer that it is the COUSML which has stated its case openly and has given the MLOC every opportunity to contest our position. On the other hand, it is clear that it is the MLOC which is using the methods and schemes of double-dealers. It is they who are operating in the dark sewers of filthy intrigue. It is the "pure lillies" of the MLOC who, in the course of a sharp political conflct, have resorted to the criminal practice of circulating the filthiest lies hither and thither, in back rooms and behind the backs of their political opponents. Therefore we are reproducing the complete text of the MLOC's July 1 Statement for the scrutiny of public opinion. We urge our readers to seriously examine the statement and to carefully read our study "Against Social-Democratic Infiltration of the Marxist-Leninist Movement". It is quite obvious that the only reason why the MLOC has had to resort to such backhanded methods is because their reply cannot stand the light of day and is itself a powerful confirmation of the precise and well-documented analysis we have presented concerning the history, development and the present role of Barry Weisberg's MLOC.

The Statement of the MLOC/"CPUSA(M-L)" Central Committee levels the most serious and grave charges against the COUSML. The declared purpose of this statement is to inform the world that "the COUSML is not merely another opportunist organization" in that "The COUSML has passed in recent months from opportunism over into the direct activity of police agents and provocateurs." And according to the MLOC

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A Statement that couldn't stand the light of day

SOCIAL-DEMOCRACY

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statement, the COUSML "acts in the direct service of state monopoly capitalism". Furthermore, these contemptible social-democratic liars don't even attempt to back up these vicious slanders with a single shred of evidence. It is clear that they have simply resorted to mad ravings to save themselves from ruin. But the MLOC is not the first opportunist group to grasp at these disgusting methods of the most vicious and unsubstantiated slanders. For many years we have witnessed the neo-revisionist followers of Chinese revisionism, the lackeys of the U.S.-China imperialist alliance, resort to the charge that "the COUSML is CIA". And when asked for facts, for confirming evidence, these revisionist jackals would throw their hands in the air and declare "we heard it from the Chinese"! And it must not be overlooked that Barry Weisberg was a co-founder of the Bay Area Institute of Policy Studies which was an agency of this same U.S.-China alliance. Barry Weisberg's social-democratic sect is still parroting the lies and slanders circulated by the Chinese revisionists.

Nevertheless, the totally raving nature of this statement tells a great deal. It is, in fact, a full and complete declaration of confirmation on the part of the Central Committee of the MLOC/"CPUSA(M-L)" of everything we have said about the history, development and present role of that organization. The Statement does not contest, or even attempt to contest, a single charge of our study. To the contrary, it only confirms our study to the letter. The MLOC/"CPUSA(M-L)" has been exposed for what it is, a social-democratic agency for the infiltration of the Marxist-Leninist movement. And it has taken to desperate means to save its skin.

In our study and exposure of Barry Weisberg's MLOC we painstakingly demonstrated with facts and readily available documentation how the leader of this organization was trained and nurtured as a social-democratic, anti-communist publicist at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C. We demonstrated how his mentors, fellows and associates at IPS go in and out of top levels of the executive branch of the government and many come directly out of the intelligence community. (IPS co-founder, Richard Barnet, was a State Department and a Defense Department advisor under Kennedy. Barry Weisberg's personal mentor, IPS co-founder Marcus Raskin was on Kennedy's National Security Council. IPS Council member, Mitchell Rogovin, left his position at IPS in 1974 to become the Special Counsel to the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency in 1975.) We elaborated how the big bourgeoisie funds and directs the IPS as a social-democratic agency for the infiltration and liquidation of the revolutionary movements. We researched the thoroughly anti-Marxist-Leninist, counter-revolutionary writings of Mr. Weisberg to find that, in fact, he had been well trained in his work. We documented the work of the Bay Area Institute for Policy Studies — a social-democratic and imperialist institute of which Barry Weisberg was the co-founder. And we outlined the course which this professional social-democratic adventurer followed to smuggle himself into the Marxist-Leninist movement.

But the MLOC Statement does not contain a single word, not one word or refutation of these facts. They dare not and cannot — because they are undeniable, because they are the truth which tears the mask off this miserable social-democratic sect. We stand by every allegation made in our study. And we repeat our open challenge to the Central Committee of the MLOC/"CPUSA (M-L)". If you have any reply to our exposure of your efforts at social-democratic infiltration of the Marxist-Leninist movement, then publish it openly before public opinion. The fact that you lack the courage to do so is yet further proof that you are nothing but a bunch of anti-communist social-democrats. Circulating criminal abuse and completely unsubstantiated lies in back alleys against others cannot save you either but only further condemn you as contemptible slanderers and masters of intrigue.

THE MLOC'S STATEMENT DOES NOT CONTEST A SINGLE WORD OF OUR CHARGES AGAINST THEM, BUT CONFIRMS OUR CHARGES TO THE LETTER

The MLOC's statement tries to duck our charges with the pathetic plea that COUSML "concocts and distorts several years of Comrade Weisberg's life". But just how have we "concocted and distorted"? Where? And in what way? The Statement says nothing. There is not a word of explanation of Weisberg's several years at the Institute for Policy Studies. The MLOC avoids the question of the IPS like a thief avoids the scene of his crime. The Statement continues with an even more obvious dodge, that our account "is selected to omit any mention of more than a decade of revolutionary activity in which Comrade Weisberg, beginning in the late 1950's, fought actively against discrimination in housing," etc. With this oh so clever ruse the MLOC has let the whole cat out of the bag. Instead of refuting our charges of where Weisberg comes from, they have confessed to them by trying to claim that we have distorted the truth by omission — that is to say "granted Weisberg was a trained anti-communist publicist at IPS, etc., etc., but you must not select only these things and omit his revolutionary activity"! Of course, these claims of so-called "revolutionary activity" are not substantiated either and are at best dubious. For example, the Statement claims that Weisberg "actively mobilized opposition to zionism" while we can read in black and white in Weisberg's books that he considered the Israeli kibbutzim a model of socialism! But this is not the point and we have never claimed that Weisberg did not participate in political activity. We have only claimed that he is a trained, professional social-democrat who has fought with all his energy against Marxism-Leninism and for the social-democratic liquidation of the revolutionary movement. As for Barry Weisberg's alleged earlier political activity, that is neither here nor there, particularly as the Statement carefully omits any characterization of the political content of this political activity. For example, the IPS itself took part in all the political movements that the Statement lists. Obviously, this hardly proves the revolutionary credentials of the IPS. To the contrary, it only proves that the IPS was active in subverting the mass movement and attempting to liquidate its revolutionary character.

The Statement also asserts that Weisberg publicly refuted the anti-communist book Beyond Repair, which he authored. That too is neither here nor there. We never asserted that Weisberg still upheld the formulations from this book. On the contrary, we stressed that he maintained the same basic social-democratic politics but added on a glossy cover of "Marxist-Leninist" phrase-mongering. But since the Statement makes the assertion that Barry Weisberg publicly refuted the book, it should have said when and where and given the content of this refutation. And if the book has been refuted then why does the Statement take such pains to defend this rotten book? The Statement claims that we "completely distort and misrepresent" the contents of Weisberg's book Beyond Repair, and that this book was merely "eclectic and containing many incorrect ideas". But what may we ask have we "completely distorted and misrepresented" in this anti-communist book? This book openly attacks Marxism-Leninism and communism. It openly opposes the class struggle and the proletariat. It openly opposes the proletarian revolution. It openly denounces the idea of the dictatorship of the proletariat. And it openly condemns the idea of the party of the proletariat. The book gives a completely consistent line on these questions with no "eclecticism" in its guiding social-democratic and anti-communist ideas. What is really eclectic is Barry Weisberg's and the MLOC's present position in which they try to reconcile Marxist-Leninist phraseology with the social-democratic politics of the book Beyond Repair.

The fact that the MLOC Statement is defending such a book against "distortions" is condemning proof of what our study originally pointed out about this book: "the social-democracy of Weisberg's Beyond Repair and the social-democracy of Weisberg's MLOC are at base the same. Both are dedicated to the infiltration and subversion of the revolutionary movement with the most rightist social-democratic reformism and both harbor an undying hatred against revolutionary Marxism-Leninism." (see "Against Social-Democratic Infiltration of the Marxist-Leninist Movement", pamphlet edition, p. 18)

THE COUSML REMAINS IRRECONCILABLY OPPOSED TO THE SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC SUBVERSION OF THE MARXIST-LENINIST MOVEMENT

As we pointed out earlier, the anti-communist ravings in MLOC's Statement against COUSML are completely unsubstantiated to say the least. And when you cut through the frantic demagogy and posturing in the Statement, it is clear that the MLOC has based all its extremely grave and serious assertions against the COUSML on one thing: that the COUSML opposes Barry Weisberg and his MLOC/"CPUSA(M-L)". The Statement alleges that "the recent slanders and fabrications of the COUSML are related today to a sharp escalation of attacks against the CPUSA/ML by state monopoly capitalism and fascist reaction." This, in fact, is a most interesting claim. Firstly, as far as "a sharp escalation of attacks against the CPUSA/ML by state monopoly capitalism" is concerned, neither ourselves nor anyone else has any idea of what "attacks" are possibly being referred to. We too read Unite! and it has not reported on any "escalation of attacks" whatsoever, unless, of course, you include the rainstorm that soaked their offices last spring! The pathological liars of the MLOC have cooked up this "escalation of attacks" in their own brains for their own purposes of intrigue and deception.

And, secondly, it is clear that Barry Weisberg's social-democratic sect has suffered heavy blows from the work of the revolutionary Marxist-Leninists of the COUSML. We are irreconcilably opposed to the efforts of the social-democrats, revisionists and opportunists, of whatever type to subvert the Marxist-Leninist movement. It is for this reason, and this reason alone, that the Statement moans so loudly that "the COUSML is not merely another opportunist organization" but is a real terror, the most horrible criminals of them all. This only shows that it has been the COUSML alone which has correctly shouldered the Marxist-Leninist responsibility of maintaining vigilance against the infiltration of the ranks of the revolutionary Marxist-Leninists by social-democracy. This is what Barry Weisberg and co. regard as a crime, but this is what we regard as our honor.

Another indication of the totally raving nature of MLOC's Statement is their charge of "agent provocateurs" which they hurl at the COUSML for allegedly trying to "destabilize basic units of the CPUSA/ML". The MLOC is particularly upset that our comrades "have made repeated efforts to try to contact" the MLOC people. It is true that our comrades have tried to meet with and have political discussion with the MLOC people for the purpose of explaining our views. Serious political discussion is what Barry Weisberg and co. regard as a crime, but we regard it as our responsibility. However, the very idea that the MLOC considers our comrades' efforts to talk to their people as attempts to "destabilize the basic units of the CPUSA/ML" is not only ludicrous, it is also a telling revelation of the instability, decay and fear of collapse haunting this social-chauvinist sect of vagabonds. This is further evidence of the power of the Marxist-Leninist truth.

In the final third of the Statement of Barry Weisberg and co., it finally gives up the ghost. The Statement makes a feeble and incoherent attempt to add a political coloration to the hysterical anti-communist charges and utterly unsupported allegations. This political coloration is a combination of sheer absurdities and the repetition of worn-out old slanders. A typical example of the hysteria that the Central Committee of the "CPUSA(M-L)" has been reduced to is its emphatic charge that the COUSML has "merely a 'national committee' and no Central Committee". What principled political issue can reside in the difference between the names "central committee" and "national committee". Here Barry Weisberg and co. are following the practice of dropping enigmatic idiotic remarks in the hope that they will be taken for gems of profundity.

Straining hard to find some pretext for their shameless anti-communism, Barry Weisberg and co. only manage to echo the tired-out arguments of the "three worlders". This social-democrat sect finds its mission in opposing the revolutionary movement, so it expresses that in high-flown terms by imitating the "three worlders" in their pontification about the lack of the revolutionary situation. The Statement attacks the COUSML's correct view of the objective and subjective conditions as expressed in the Call of the National Committee. The Call says that "the basic contradiction between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie is at the bursting point" and talks of the "great class battles" to come in the 1980's. Weisberg and co. regard this as "out-and-out degenerate". But this is only to be expected from a group which can cower before GM and tell the auto workers that they better not strike such a powerful auto monopoly, and which manifests tender loving concern for Chrysler and tells the workers that they should not strike this monopoly for fear that it will collapse. While the subjective condition given by the Call is "To organize the revolution the decisive question is the formation and building of the Marxist-Leninist Party in the midst of the revolutionary mass movements." This is absolutely correct.

Further imitation of the "RCP,USA" "three worlders" is contained in the position of Barry Weisberg with respect to their idea of the party. They ridicule "self-moving basic organizations". Thus the "RCP,USA" denounces the party on the grounds that the party allegedly prevents the release of the initiative of the revolutionary movement, while the "CPUSA(M-L)" agrees with the "RCP,USA" that the party should dampen and liquidate the revolutionary action of the masses and so they attack self-moving basic organization". The Marxist-Leninists hold that the existence of the party is a force enhancing the self-motion, initiative and correct orientation of the revolutionary movement. The Marxist-Leninist is only truly powerful when he works under the discipline of the party. But the social-democrats agree with the "three worlders" in their anti-Marxist idea of the party.

Continuing down the line in imitation of the "three worlders", Barry Weisberg and company raise a lot of cultural nationalist and "three worlder" hysteria on the national question. Barry Weisberg and company are following slavishly behind the socialist-segregationism of the Klonsky-ite social-chauvinists when they denounce the struggle against racial discrimination as a "white supremacist position" and a denial of the existence of the Afro-American nationality. And Weisberg and co. have an outright annexationist stand with respect to the people of Mexican nationality. (It is also typical of the methods of Weisberg and co. that he replaces the word "nationality" with "ancestry" and then shouts about liquidating the national question.)

The "CPUSA(M-L)" goes further and raves against the People's Socialist Republic of Albania in the exact manner of the "three worlders", by its reference to the "parroting their 'bright red bastion' of the moment". This is the most vulgar and crude anti-communism. In the time of the Soviet Union of Lenin and Stalin the social-democrats attacked "the agents of Moscow", and now the social-democrats of today are attacking the "parroting (of) their 'bright red bastion' of the moment". The land of the dictatorship of the proletariat is indeed the bastion of world revolution. This is the only proletarian internationalist conception. As well, all this talk about "parroting" is also an expression of the furious impotence of the "CPUSA(M-L)" in front of the fact that the Marxist-Leninists have a definite well-defined denunciation of Mao Zedong Thought, while "CPUSA(M-L)" is twisting and turning this way and that.

The Barry Weisberg group does further service to the "three worlders" in its opposition to the struggle against modern revisionism. In this Statement, it floats a number of theses against this struggle. Besides the fact that it calls this struggle the "parroting" of Albania, it raises the bizarre objection that there is some contradiction between upholding the Marxist-Leninist trend in fierce struggle against the opportunist trends, which it calls finding one's "mission" in "identification with or against a particular trend", and in "the defense and elaboration of Marxism-Leninism". This is just fancy sophistry to say: don't fight the social-chauvinists, don't strike out against the "three worlders", and don't, don't fight the social-democrats. This has gone to the extent that the "CPUSA(M-L)" had to abjectly confess on page 6 of the October 15 issue of Unite! that it had "not carr(ied) out the struggle against Chinese revisionism in the fullest possible way." This is a euphemism for opposing the struggle against Chinese revisionism tooth-and-nail. Further Unite! had to admit that it was in a complete disarray on the issue of the "overall assessment of Mao Tsetung" and of Mao Zedong Thought. It twisted and turned, admitted that it had not taken the question seriously and had only "initial views", and relied on some vague phrases as "past revisionist seeds and the present revisionist weeds". After all, for the "CPUSA(M-L)" the question of Mao is unimportant anyhow, for according to the Statement of the "CPUSA(M-L)": "nothing more reflects the inability... to speak to questions of program, strategy and tactics, than...exclusive attention to individuals." In reality the "CPUSA (M-L)" is reflecting its total incompetence in questions of program, strategy and tactics with its complete fiasco on the question of Mao Zedong Thought.

The Statement also makes all sorts of fantastic claims about the COUSML having no practical existence in the world. These claims do not even deserve to be replied to. Everyone knows that it is the "CPUSA(M-L)" which is a mere paper organization. Under the blows of the revolutionary Marxist-Leninists, the "CPUSA(M-L)" is staring utter catastrophe in the face. That is why it has been reduced to an incoherent state of hysterical blabberings. The wild ravings of Barry Weisberg and co. are proof of the effectiveness of Marxism-Leninism in the struggle against social-democracy and all opportunist trends. We in the COUSML pledge to carry the struggle against modern revisionism, social-democracy and opportunism of all hues through to the end. □

RESOLUTION

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and progressive people that is the life of the anti-nuclear movement. The mass revolutionary struggle against imperialism is the only true road forward for the anti-nuclear movement.

The Chicago Conference against U.S. imperialism's criminal nuclear energy program holds that it is necessary to STEP UP THE FIGHT AGAINST THE NUCLEAR PROGRAM OF U.S. IMPERIALISM, by:

1) increasing propaganda and agitation against all aspects of U.S. imperialism's nuclear energy program at the factories, in the communities, and in the schools,

2) increasing opposition to all the war preparations of U.S. imperialism, including opposition to the draft and other forms of government service, against the U.S.-China alliance, against phony disarmament schemes such as SALT II, etc., because the development of U.S. imperialism's nuclear energy program is linked to its all-round war preparations,

3) encouraging and developing all mass struggles against the U.S. nuclear program and supporting the increasing militancy of the movement,

4) developing and increasing opposition and exposure of the enemies of the anti-nuclear movement, especially the "left wing" hacks of the Democratic Party, and their program,

5) working to unify the movement in Chicago on this basis, for a genuine people's movement against U.S. imperialism's nuclear power program and war preparations.

NO! TO U.S. IMPERIALISM'S NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM!

STEP UP THE FIGHT AGAINST THE NUCLEAR PROGRAM OF U.S. IMPERIALISM! □

"MAO ZEDONG"

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ist-Leninist Party for the entire British proletariat and, with the changing of the Party's name to the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), the crucial process of rebuilding the Marxist-Leninist Party for the entire British working class and people had been gloriously achieved.

Where does Mr. Birch stand today? He stands in open support of an out-and-out revisionist. He stands with and in the labor aristocracy. He stands with the most reactionary darwinist ideas and concepts of the British bourgeoisie. He stands against the PLA and socialist Albania and against the developing unity of the international Marxist-Leninist communist movement.

DEEPEN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST ALL FORMS OF REVISIONISM, DEEPEN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST "MAO ZEDONG THOUGHT" AND ITS FOLLOWERS AND PROPAGATORS IN BRITAIN

Messrs. Birch and "pre-party" collectives have been caught red-handed. Their activities over the past twelve years or so have been finally exposed for all to see. Their "Marxist-Leninist" mask has "suddenly" disintegrated. They have been exposed as not standing on the side of the proletariat, on the side of Marxism-Leninism, on the side of revolution, but on the side of opportunism, the bourgeoisie and the capitalist system. □