

Dear Comrades,

We are writing to you as individuals who have been associated with the JAC. We are not happy with some attempts made at the Conference to create splits between us and the CWM, since we always regarded you as our closest comrades. One of us warned you in a letter on about 15th June that there was a danger of splits of this kind.

We think it was wrong for one of the CWM comrades to make the reproach that the JAC and CWM "hadn't even" been able to unite. The whole point was that we hoped the conference would lead to a process whereby all the groups would eventually be dissolved. The JAC was seen as a way of drawing together as many groups and individuals as possible around the aims of the CWM in holding the conference, i.e. the dissolution of groups in the interest of building a party. ~~Some~~

Some of us should be criticised for saying certain things at the conference which might create splits within CWM. But on the whole, you know what our practice has been. We suspended publication of Proletarian Mirror, we sold a lot of copies of Workers' Notes, did propaganda for the CWM (not only in this country but in other parts of the world!) and said that the CWM's formation was the best thing to happen in the NL movement in this country for a long while.

Now the conference is over without achieving the big success we hoped for, and there is a new situation. We fully agree with the CWM comrade that CWM can't continue in the same way, and will have to work out some principles of organisation. We too can't continue in the same way. So we propose uniting with the CWM into a single organisation.

The real line of demarcation is between proletarian and bourgeois politics. When Marx criticised unprincipled unity he meant unity between a genuine revolutionary force and a bourgeois party pretending to be for the workers. Lenin sharply distinguished between ideology which arises "spontaneously" (in fact bourgeois ideology) and real revolutionary socialist ideology. The workers' movement is only really socialist in so far as the workers are "conscious of the irreconcilable antagonism of their interests to the whole of the modern political and social system." (What is to be done?, p. 36) In talking of the importance of revolutionary theory, Lenin did not mean that revolutionaries should go in for purely theoretical discussions, but rather that they should strive to raise the workers' movement to the level of revolutionary politics. He advocated "sounding the call to go forward, towards the consolidation of the revolutionary organisation and to the expansion of political activity." (p. 43) The trend of retreating away from revolutionary politics has now grown into modern revisionism.

The writers of this letter and the CWM comrades have generally, in their publications and practical work, tried to follow the revolutionary line set out in these quotations of Lenin. We should split more and more firmly from the revisionist-CPEML line, but we should unite and not split among ourselves.

If we let petty jealousies get in the way, this would reduce the ML movemet to the level of a second-rate comedy show - call it "Carry On Splitting", or "No Organisation Please, We're British", and it might run for years!

There is a story of a worker who has to have an operation, and the surgeons say they have to remove part of his brain, but ~~as~~ they will put it back after 6 months. When the time comes to put it back he says "no thanks, I don't need it now, I've joined the Labour Party in the meantime". We all know that this story could also be told about the CPBML. We should beware of setting up any more ideologically dead organisations.

If we can unite with GWM we strictly undertake not to form any faction. We will practice Marxism not revisionism, unite and not split, be open and above board and not intrigue and conspire. We will accept collective decisions, including the question of the future of JAC. We are of the opinion that something like it (some people may be allergic to the actual name!) ought to continue and do the work which the JAC set out to do before the conference, i.e. promote the co-ordination between GWM and other groups and individuals over specific concrete common activities. *but do not promote this as a condition.*