Marxist-Leninist Party holds 4th Congress

This fall the members of the Marxist-Leninist Party attended their 4th Congres. This national assembly, the highest authority of the party, addressed a series of problems confronting the party.

The collapse of Soviet revisionism in Russia and Eastern Europe and the end of the cold war has brought a series of changes in the world. As well, changes in Western capitalism have been accumulating. It was the 10th anniversary of the 1989 study being conducted by the party on the theory of socialist revolution and the experience of the Bolshevik revolution in Russia has posed a number of new theoretical problems or raised old problems in new ways. (See the Aug. 20, 1991 issue of Workers’ Advocate Supple- ment for a discussion of some of these problems.)

These changes in the world and in the party have led by decades by decades. The party’s study of the current situation, the Bolshevik revolution, and reformist theory. It also contributed a call in the frequency of publishing of Workers’ Advocate and the Supplement in order to help alleviate the overwork in the central apparatus and provide more time for theoretical work and providing deeper analysis in the papers. As well, it elected a Central Committee, decided to hold another congress within two years, and took other practical decisions.

Task and work of the Marxists-Leninists in the present difficult situation

The 4th Congress confronts the crisis that has engulfed our party. In analyzing that crisis, and discussing the different possibilities for the future, it sets out the tasks needed to revive our revolutionary Marxist-Leninist trend in the present difficult situation.

Conditions for the party crisis

The crisis facing our party is based on a number of conditions, including:

- The protracted ebb of the revolutionary movement.
- The reactionary offensive of U.S. imperialism on the working class in this country.
- In the face of its own economic crisis and decline.
- The storm of liquidationism towards the party.
- The struggle involving the revolutionary movement in the revolution.
- Trotskyism, and other opportunist trends.
- The crisis of revolutionary theory itself arising from the changes in the domestic and world situation and our deeper study of the experience of the revolutionary socialist movement of the working class.

Manifestations of crisis in the MLP

The most important manifestations of the MLP in the party include:

- The reduction in the size of the party. This is due to small recruiting of new members combined with a steady loss of members for personal, political, and personal crises.
- The party is in need of a new high level of political organization, which is part of the motion among definite sections of the party.
- The situation of the work of the workers in various ways, although not as a result of any individual lack of area. It also remains a significant anti-reformist pole in the mass movements in several cities and, in certain places and at certain times, it is able to provide guidance for certain movements.
- It continues to slowly deepen its theoretical work and summarization of experiences to provide a theoretical basis for the socialist revolution of the workers. And it does not have the resources to encourage the emergence of a new international of workers’ communism.

- Whether it has been in the protest that broke out against the imperialist war in the Middle-East, or on the front lines of the resistance to the reactionary anti-ab- rortionism, that such an angry at the racist verdict in the Rodney King affair, or in other struggles, there has been no other trend bringing together all these issues involved, organizing among the workers themselves to bring them into action, and encouraging steps towards an independent class movement and the forging of the workers own revolutionary vanguard party.

Prospects for the future

The MLP is the product of the revolution- ary movement of the 1960s and its faults have always been linked to the revival of a mass revolutionary movement.

Conditions have been ripening for another mass struggle throughout the 1980s. The recent riots against police brutality, the confrontations at clinics in defense of women’s rights, the street battles against the war on Iraq, and such things as the mass demonstrations- over the presidential elections are all indications of the sharpening class contradictions.

At the same time there are a number of countervailing factors holding back a new wave of struggle. Those include, among others, that the unity of the bourgeoisie for the time being leaves little opening for the emergence of stable mass movements; that the working class is being destabilized by a restructuring in the economy — including workplace shutdowns and mass layoffs; and that the new lines are being shaped by the new wave of development are just emerging that the workers’ movement is also being disorganized by the reformist union bureaucracy and other “responsible” leaders; that the revolutionary alternative remains extremely weak and unprepared to offer an independent pole in most instances.

In this situation, we can so more predict that than we could in 1980 when and how a new revolutionary movement will break out. If a new mass revolutionary movement is forecasted for another period of time it is possible that the MLP will not be able to survive as the trend it presently represents. Should there be a new upsurge of mass struggle in the future, comrades then will have to decide what to do. But today all efforts must be put into the work to prevent such an outcome.

Even with a revival of the revolutionary movement, the fate of the MLP is not automatically secure. The immediate effect of a new upsurge is that the pressures on the MLP, a severe test of whether it can play its role in bringing into being a truly mass revolutionary vanguard party of the working class.

Nobody owns such a class party. Nor can it be defined in advance exactly how such a party will come into being. We can only prepare for such an eventuality by steadfast revolutionary work to combat revisionism and opportunism, to develop our communist theory, to link it to the workers’ movement through mass struggles, and to infuse the class conscious workers and revolutionary activists with party concept.

Tasks of the MLP

Today we face an arduous struggle simply to preserve the MLP. That is, not as an end in itself but, rather, as a struggle to sustain the vital features of our trend so that it can play its proper role in an eventual new wave of mass upheaval.

Above all, the preservation of our trend requires work:

- To maintain our national press, without which we cannot have a national, party-type of organization.