

ORU MERGES INTO FREEDOM ROAD SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION

The Organization for Revolutionary Unity is pleased to announce it has joined the Freedom Road Socialist Organization (FRSO), a national revolutionary organization.

To give a bit of history, the FRSO was formed last year by the merger of the Proletarian Unity League and the Revolutionary Workers Headquarters. As you are probably aware, the RWH was a split from the Revolutionary Communist Party. Having exposed and repudiated the many and manifest left errors of the RCP, the comrades of the RWH went on to carry out a national campaign in support of the United League of Tupelo, Mississippi as well as numerous local campaigns in support of Black struggles. The RWH has also been very active in the contemporary student movement and trade union work.

The PUL united a number of local collectives in the Boston area in opposition to the dominant ultra-left line of the early 70's, which included premature, almost irresponsible party formation. On the basis of its persistent struggle against left errors as well as its emphasis on the fight to expose and combat white supremacist national oppression, PUL grew to be a national organization. Both PUL and RWH have had extensive experience in the electoral arena and united on the basis of making Rainbow work a central focus.

Not only were the PUL and the RWH from somewhat divergent political backgrounds, but each was quite different from the ORU. What has united us has been basically a firm commitment to the principles of Marxism-Leninism and their application to the United States, including hard-won lessons our groups learned from the defeats suffered by Left organizations in the 60's and 70's. This unity became clear across a broad range of issues, ranging from important political line questions such as the vital role of the struggles of the oppressed nationalities to the importance of genuine democratic norms within a democratic centralist organization.

Given our divergent backgrounds, it was to be expected that there would be some substantial areas of disagreement on political line questions. In the process of a two year unity struggle, the majority of the differences that existed, which were few in number, were overcome. A few,

however, were not completely resolved. The remarkably positive experience we shared in struggling toward unity gave us the confidence that our remaining differences could and would, in fact, be worked out in a principled way.

For those of you familiar with the backgrounds of the groups, it probably comes as no surprise that the major area of disagreement was over international line. While FRSO is united on the proposition that the Soviet Union is one of the major enemies of the world's peoples, there remains a range of views on the class nature of contemporary China and the applicability of the Theory of Three Worlds. (We hope those of you who are interested in these issues will consider joining us for what is likely to be a lively debate at some time in the future.)

What we feel is most important, however, is the commitment to revolutionary unity that these merger processes represent. In a period when the survival of revolutionary socialist politics as an organized force in the U.S. seemed in doubt, even small steps toward reversing the trend of dissolution and demoralization are important. We do not see ourselves as the center for the eventual formation of a revolutionary Marxist party, but we do intend to play a role in forming that center.

Our merger process has convinced us of not just the necessity, but also the possibility of struggling successfully for unity among a broad range of revolutionary forces. The most obvious of these is the League for Revolutionary Struggle, whose record of struggle in the people's movements is noteworthy, but we feel it is also necessary to look much further afield - particularly to the isolated independents and collectives which continue to fight against such difficult odds.

That the U.S. Left is in crisis has become a commonplace observation. We would like to remind folks, though, that the Chinese symbol for crisis is a combination of the characters for danger and opportunity. While remaining aware of the dangers, let us reach boldly for the opportunity inherent in the current situation.