

Workers' Party of Scotland (Marxist-Leninist)

Letter to the Marxist-Leninist Party in the US from the WPS (ML)

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Letter no. 3

"Dear Comrades:

We were glad to hear from you and our Central Committee is greatly appreciative of your commendation of our policy. . . We recently had our National Conference and our new Central Committee met only the other day. In due course I shall send you some documents arising from the conference. Meantime I have posted under separate cover a number of items including leaflets and back-number copies of our "Scottish Vanguard"* from which you will, I hope, get an adequate indication of our policy and programme. We are in very thorough agreement with your decision to form a Party of M-L revolutionaries as it is our firm conviction that without such a Party real progress is quite impossible. A mere association of like-minded individuals can never be a substitute for a Vanguard Party of dedicated and disciplined members. Our experience during the few years of our existence has borne this out very fully. At one period we had hoped that our friends in England especially would cooperate with us towards the formation of coordinated M-L Parties in Scotland, England, Wales, and Ireland, but in spite of our patient meetings in London over a period of about a year and a half we got fed up with the constant bickerings over personal and egotistical matters having little bearing upon the urgent needs of the workers. Furthermore, we found that very many comrades based mostly in London suffered from a London complex and, although they would never admit it, a serious streak of 'great-nation chauvinism.' Their lack of knowledge and understanding of the 'national question' led many of them to reject our position on this aspect. Indeed we were accused of 'petty-bourgeois chauvinism', 'splitting the workers' and so on. In this situation the few Scots decided to go ahead and form the "Workers Party of Scotland (M-L)". There were only seven of us when we formed the Party, but, as you will gather from the literature we send, we have made a very considerable impact on our people and indeed further afield. Our London critics have little to show by comparison in their population of 50 millions against ours of 5 and a half million. However, there are some good friends south of the border and we have taken the initiative in proposing a conference for free and unconditional discussion with groups represented from England, Wales,

Ireland and ourselves. This is likely to be held soon and you may hear from us on the subject in due course.

There is a Nationalist Movement in Cornwall but we are not yet well informed about the outlook of its leaders. There is also a Celtic Movement which embraces not only the Celts in the U.K. & I (United Kingdom and Ireland – Ed.), but also the Bretons of France. In all this, however, our main job is to get the ear of the masses of industrial workers. The objective situation is very favourable. The general election here is timely as it brings forward the day of complete disillusionment with parliamentarianism and social-democracy. We are very interested to know your Party's policy on the "Black Belt Nation" and on the Puerto Rico and Chicano peoples. This is of great help to our understanding of the complexities with which you have to contend. We will look forward to having more of your material on these questions. It appears that Chairman Mao has every reason to declare that your U.S. imperialists are in a state of chaos. We shall continue our correspondence, I trust.

Greetings

Secretary,

Workers Party of Scotland (Marxist-Leninist)