

Comrade P chaired. He welcomed representatives of the CWM and gave some apologies.

Comrade C opened on the draft history of the RCL.

Contributions followed from representatives from different parts of the country.

In the afternoon session a CWM representative gave a message of greeting.

A number of amendments were moved as resolutions for the reference of the CC in amending the document.

Comrade P summed up the discussion.

Voting

1. To insert between the paragraphs on "The reassessment" and "On the particular question of finance" page 5,

"The question of women's emancipation has been neglected. The incorrect over-concentration on industrial work negated the importance of women's struggles other than at the work place, and putting this right has not been an aspect of the rectification campaign. It is vital to strengthen both the line and our practice on this issue".

For: overwhelming Against:0 Abstention:1.
Carried.

2. To insert on page 2 after para 7 line 4 after Manchester: "Class Struggle was increased to fortnightly publication". And on page 3 after para 3 insert :- "Also in hindsight a negative aspect of the increased publication of CS to a fortnightly, can be said that the decision was premature, shortsighted and rushed. Adequate conditions were not laid or planned for its systematic sustained growth over a fairly long period of time".

For:25 Against:1 Abstention:1
Carried.

3. "This meeting calls on the Central Committee to reconsider paragraph E12 of the Manifesto and to produce a discussion document on it by the Second Congress".

For: overwhelming Against:0 Abstention:3.
Carried.

4. (From the Chair) "The Rectification campaign has not yet solved the problem of study throughout the organization. The Central Committee should pay attention to study of theory, history and concrete conditions on the basis of integrating theory with practice at all levels of the RCL".

For: Overwhelming, Against :0 Abstention : 0
Carried.

5. "The principal contradiction in the CFB(M-L) since the 3rd Conference and in the RCLB has been that between historical and dialectical materialism and idealism. Idealism has been the principal aspect of this contradiction, and remains so. Idealism occurs throughout the organization but particularly at the centre.

Idealism can clearly be seen in the lack of dialectical relationship between ideological, political and organizational (practical) work through this time. The rectification campaign is a clear example of this. It was almost exclusively concerned with ideology and greatly neglected political line and organizational work. At no time was self-criticism emphasised as an aim of the campaign so the lessons learnt were not applied to ongoing work. For these reasons it was divorced from our ongoing work and failed, in general, to have any effect on it.

It is said that the rectification campaign was effective at the centre but less so in the districts. This reflects the particular idealism of the SC who failed to relate the campaign to the rank and file cadres. The main slogan of the campaign "Target the ultra-left idealism of the anti-league faction" reflects this idealism in two ways,

1. The lack of emphasis of self-criticism means the campaign was not related to

our work.

2. "Ultra-left idealism" was never defined in any document from the centre although the SC was quite prepared to attribute all manner of problems to it.

The roots of the idealism of the organization lie in our class origins. Many of us are from the petty-bourgeois intelligentsia and spontaneously make such errors if we don't guard against them. Also we live in the oldest imperialist country where bourgeois ideology has a strong hold, and we are not isolated from the thinking of the rest of the working class, or the rest of society.

The reason for the particular idealism of the SC is a result of their principal task being the struggle over ideas and the result that they have relatively little time to spend on the day-to-day tasks of the organization and the resulting lack of contact with rank-and-file cadres in the carrying out of their revolutionary work".

For:12 Against:18 Abstention:7

Defeated

6. (From the chair)

"At the time of the founding of the Revolutionary Communist League the wrong tendencies in its ideological outlook and in its orientation in mass work were primarily those of an ultra-left character, although errors in political line of both right and left opportunism existed".

For:25 Against:7 Abstention:5

Carried.

7. (From the chair)

"The rectification campaign called by the Central Committee should have been primarily aimed at ultra-left idealism".

For:19 Against:8 Abstention:8.

Carried

8. "Idealism in both left and right forms existed in the RCL prior to the rectification campaign. Instead of looking at those errors that existed and combatting them the SC created "ultra-left" idealism, an error they have never defined or explained. The creation of the term "ultra-left" idealism is a reflection of the idealism of the comrades at the centre. Targetting "ultra-left" idealism resulted in a failure to recognise those real errors in our ideological, political and organizational work that existed, and instead has led to massive confusion over what was left, what was right and what was ultra-left. It is fair to say that some comrades now hesitate to try to differentiate left from right as a result of this policy.

Combined with the lack of self-critical attitude of the campaign, the campaign has hardly affected the on-going work in the rank and file in general.

Because it did not deal with the real errors in the organization and because those real errors have not been attacked, even where they might have been recognised through the course of the campaign, those errors must have become entrenched. Things never stand still, they always move one way or another, so the rectification campaign has failed.

Since the entrenchment of real errors is most likely it should be said that the rectification campaign is principally negative."

For:4 Against:Overwhelming. Abstention:6

Defeated.

9. (From the Chair) "This conference supports the general outlines of the historical assesment of the RCL and the main lessons of the rectification stage".

For:31 Against:5 Abstention:2

Carried.