Ten years ago, the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) was founded when three Marxist-Leninist organisations united.

The creation of the RCLB was an important step forward on the road to the re-creation of a genuine communist party in Britain.

The Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB) had long since degenerated, abandoning fundamental principles of Marxism. Its opposition to imperialism had always been weak, but its programme had become clearly imperialistic expecting even a 'socialist' Britain to maintain its political and economic domination of the Third World. Politically in Britain, it showed contempt for the working class, promising to reform Britain through an alliance with Labour. Instead of exposing the nature of the imperialist state, it merely looked for seats at its helm. Its strategy refused to attempt to mobilise the working class and oppressed, and instead aimed at capturing trade union positions of power by any means. It was, and is, clearly to the right of even the Labour left.

The foundation of the RCLB was part of the process of establishing a new communist party. The new RCLB while being very small, fought to re-establish Marxism-Leninism, and to develop itself within the struggle of the working class and oppressed. The RCLB has always seen the need to unite with others in the process of party-building.

These developments in Britain were part of an international trend. The CPGB was merely playing a tune orchestrated by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Nearly all the European parties and a few Third World parties were part of this revisionist trend. However, the Communist Party of China and many Third World parties continued to be genuinely revolutionary and made great strides forward.

In Europe, the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, new parties also developed.

It has been a difficult ten years. Some of the new parties have collapsed and died, despite rapid growth early on. Some such as the AKP(ML) in Norway, and the PTB in Belgium, continued to grow from strength to strength.

Our own history has been chequered. We have not only survived but have learnt much politically. Although still a small organisation, we have won respect through our work among those who know us. We have had successes and we have made serious mistakes. But unlike others, we have always attempted to learn from them. We criticise ourselves openly, not as some sort of penance, but because we want as many as possible to learn from our successes and our failures.

We remain committed to serious political analysis, consistent political work, and faith in the masses of the working class and oppressed people, who will be their own liberators.

Our main goal at this stage remains the re-creation of a genuine multi-national communist party because only through collective action and work will the people achieve power.