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March 19, 1977

Political Committee
Communist League

Political Committee
Socialist Workers Party

Australia

Dear Comrades,

We have received letters and documents from you concerning the decision by Comrade McCarthy and several other comrades to join the SWP.

We note that despite serious disagreements that have arisen over this, both the CL and the SWP have reaffirmed their goal of fusion of all the forces of the Fourth International in Australia.

The position of the Bureau on the question of the unity of all Fourth International forces in Australia is, of course, governed by the decisions of the last world congress, as have been amplified by subsequent United Secretariat resolutions. This position was restated in the message of greetings sent to the recent conference of the SWP. In general, we are working to try to overcome the national organizational divisions by the time of the coming world congress. The goal of fusion of the organizations in Australia should be considered in this framework.

We strongly favor the objective you have both reaffirmed of fusion between the whole of the Communist League and the whole of the Socialist Workers Party. In order to facilitate this objective, we make the following suggestions:

1. Both the CL and the SWP should avoid statements or actions that challenge the political or organizational integrity of the other organization.

2. The debate on organizational relations between the CL and the SWP, which has erupted in the public press of both organizations, should be transformed into an internal one.

3. The parity committee should meet regularly. The parity committee, in our opinion, is the best place to attempt to resolve organizational disagreements that arise.

4. The parity committee could discuss and prepare mutually agreed upon steps toward practical collaboration in the mass movement and common political discussion. This can probably include a common written and oral discussion for the upcoming world congress.

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5. The parity committee could develop proposals for common work in carrying out the campaigns of the Fourth International such as the Southern Africa solidarity campaign and the campaign in defense of Latin American political prisoners. Joint solidarity activities of particular relevance in Australia could probably be possible, such as defense of political prisoners in Southeast Asia and in defense of the struggle of the East Timorese people against Indonesian aggression. Such common activities can help advance the possibilities for collaboration around activities arising out of the class struggle in Australia.

Finally, the letter we received from the Communist League, dated January 12, 1977, raised questions concerning the status of Comrade McCarthy and the other comrades who left the Communist League and joined the Socialist Workers Party. It is our opinion that they all remain members of the Fourth International, and that Comrade McCarthy remains a consultative member of the IEC.

If there is another IEC meeting before the world congress it will certainly consider any proposals made to give the CL representation on the IEC. (According to the statutes, only an IEC or world congress can elect new members to the IEC.) In the meantime, we will send United Secretariat minutes and all other pertinent information to the CL directly.

Please keep the Bureau regularly informed of the progress of your discussions toward unification.

Revolutionary Greetings,

United Secretariat Bureau