

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
July 8, 1971

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND NC MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

Attached is a letter from Comrade Gregorich and a "Declaration of Proletarian Orientation Tendency" which we received today.

The branch should be informed of the "Declaration of Proletarian Orientation Tendency." It will appear in the next Discussion Bulletin.

Comradely,

Barry Sheppard

Barry Sheppard
for the Administrative Committee

COPY

COPY

COPY

3861 Montevista Road
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44121

July 6, 1971

Jack Barnes
National Organization Secretary
New York, New York

Dear Comrade Barnes,

Enclosed is "Declaration of Proletarian Orientation Tendency," which I want to submit for publication in the SWP discussion bulletin.

Since we would like this declaration to be available to all branch members as quickly as possible in order to develop the most clarity in the pre-convention discussion, we request that in addition to publishing the declaration in the discussion bulletins, the National Office inform the branches that a tendency has been formed.

Comradely,
s/Barbara Gregorich

COPY

COPY

COPY

DECLARATION OF PROLETARIAN ORIENTATION TENDENCY

by Barbara Gregorich (For the Tendency)

The preconvention discussion around the political resolution has revealed that the party has before it two different strategies for building a mass revolutionary party. One strategy is outlined by the NC political resolution and Comrade Barnes' plenum report, and the other by "For a Proletarian Orientation," "In Reply to the Party Leadership's Perspectives," and "The Meaning of a Proletarian Orientation."

Since the strategy we propose is a clear alternative to that contained in the NC political resolution and Comrade Barnes' report on that resolution, we now declare ourselves a tendency around the documents "For a Proletarian Orientation" and "The Meaning of a Proletarian Orientation," by Comrades Gregorich, Massey, McCann, and Passen, and "In Reply to the Party Leadership's Perspectives," by Comrade Charous. We therefore call for a vote for these three documents (to be considered as one) and a vote against the NC political resolution.

A tendency is described in this manner in the 1965 SWP resolution on "The Organizational Character of the SWP":

A relatively homogeneous party should be able to resolve episodic differences without resort to factionalism. Even when comrades have differences of a serious nature over one or another particular aspect of party policy it does not follow that they should rush to form a faction. Objectivity requires that they do no more than form an ideological tendency which confines its activities to a principled collective effort to argue for a change in the given policy; and the tendency should present its views openly before the whole party in a responsible and disciplined manner.
(SWP Discussion Bulletin, Vol. 25, #3, p. 12)

In declaring ourselves a tendency we wish to make one thing very clear: our documents clearly support the positions taken by the SWP on the developing movements: (1) support to the right and the struggle of Blacks, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans and other oppressed nationalities for self-determination, and the building of Black and Raza Unida parties, (2) the building of a non-exclusive, single-issue antiwar movement around immediate withdrawal, (3) the building of the independent women's liberation movement.

Delegates representing the tendency will be elected on the basis of support to the three documents. A meeting for all tendency supporters will be held at the Convention.