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Editorial Statement

The decision to launch yet another Marxist-Leninist journal requires considerable justification. Already the left has produced periodicals of every conceivable type and variety. Only to add another specialised publication or another mouth-piece of some sect to this massive accumulation of materials would not serve the theoretical demands which this period and the struggle of communists require of us.

Rather the Theoretical Review is being established for a specific purpose: to serve as a concrete link between the two forces involved in the process of forging a genuine communist party here in the USA. The two forces being those elements which have understood theory to be a central activity of American communists in this period of party building and those elements which have put their emphasis on mass practical activity. Overall, our movement has been correctly characterized as theoretically impoverished and lacking the solid foundation from which to build toward such a party.

This theoretical poverty has prevented communists from recognizing and correcting the errors which they have, and are making in their practical as well as theoretical work. This poverty has likewise acted to prevent Marxist-Leninists from developing from militant fighters in the mass and labor movements into genuine communist cadre. Finally this poverty has imprisoned communists in the historical myths and ideological dead-ends which have dominated our movement for decades.

The minority of our movement, those who have recognized the significance of theory, have not been immune from the effects of this reality. They have remained isolated with-

in our movement and have failed to convince the rest of the party building forces of the pressing need to tackle our theoretical tasks and of the ramifications of this endeavor for the construction of a communist party on new foundations.

The need for a scientific as opposed to a dogmatic-mechanistic reading of the classics of Marxism-Leninism has not won widespread acceptance nor been generally understood. The essential need to break with the myths which have plagued the development of the communist movement, myths such as those of the "Black Nation," and those embodied in the notions, "super-powers," and "third world," has not been clearly demonstrated. Finally, the value of the contributions made to Marxist science and philosophy by theoreticians such as Gramsci, Althusser, Bettelheim, and others have not been fully appreciated.

This failure is largely due to the fact that those forces which have responded to these needs have merely made reference to this theoretical work and its implications without drawing from them their full significance, without drawing from them their relevant value for the pressing tasks facing communists here and now, for communist work in general and for the specific problems of party building in particular.

To help to change this situation, to provide a vehicle for the theoretical advancement of our movement, and to help disseminate information and analysis of theoretical developments and materials: these are the tasks which the Theoretical Review is undertaking. We want the journal to function as a forum for debate and discussion among Party building forces and supporters who are interested in learning from and contributing to the development of Marxist science and philosophy and of applying them to the tasks facing American communists.

Our future, as communists, depends on the elimination of the barriers which exist between the theoretical work of a section of our movement and the practical (economic, political) activity of the rest of the party building forces.

If this does not occur, if the anti-dogmatist, anti-revisionist forces attempt to proceed with party building without the necessary theoretical basis having been laid, it is inevitable that our movement will take the road already opened by the dogmatist sects before it: Progressive Labor Party, Communist Labor Party, Revolutionary Communist Party, Communist Party, (Marxist-Leninist),--the road to nowhere.

Although the Theoretical Review is being sponsored by the Tucson Marxist-Leninist Collective, together with the Ann Arbor Collective (M-L), this in no way means that it will be simply the mouth-piece of these groups. To fulfill its function the Theoretical Review will have to become a journal in the service of theory and theoretical practice for our entire movement and to do this it must open its pages to contributions from collectives and individuals around the country.

The principles of unity around which the journal is being organized are as follows:

- 1) Recognition of the central importance of theoretical work in the present stage of party building, and at all times.
- 2) Recognition of the fact that pragmatism and empiricism, together with dogmatism constitute major road-blocks in society at large and within our movement to the development of communist theory and a communist party.
- 3) Recognition of the need to draw lessons for all our practice from: a) a scientific reading of the classics b) the struggle against the presence within Marxist-Leninist theory and practice of bourgeois ideology; c) the recent contributions to Marxist-Leninist theory and d) the struggle to build a genuine Communist Party in the USA.
- 4) Recognition of the necessity to develop within our movement a broad and open campaign of theoretical and ideological struggle and discussion of the questions

facing our movement.

- 5) Recognition of the necessity to struggle against sectarianism in relationships between communist organizations, and the need for Marxist-Leninist unity.

In the light of these principles the editorial board is soliciting articles and reviews which will contribute to the goals outlined above.

At the same time we are not looking for works which only deal with matters of theory, and especially not for lengthy critiques of obscure and unread positions. We recognize the need for articles and reviews which are written as part of an ideological struggle, that is, those which are directed toward the majority of anti-dogmatist, anti-revisionist communists, and which strive to present their subject in a way as to bring it within the grasp of the less advanced sections of our movement.

Future issues will attempt to present, in addition to theoretical and ideological articles and reviews, articles on problems of party building and related tasks. Also each issue will try to include a reprint or a translation of a document which, although valuable, is not generally available to US Marxist-Leninists. In this issue, for example, we are publishing an article by Louis Althusser, on the conditions of Marx's scientific discovery.

Also in future issues we will set aside space for letters, criticisms and comments on what we have previously published in the hope that serious communists across the country will take up and deepen the struggle to achieve clarity and unity on theoretical and practical problems common to all of us.

All articles, correspondence and subscriptions should be sent to:

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