

April 14, 1966
New York, N.Y.

TO ALL BRANCHES:

Dear Comrades,

The Spring 1966 issue of International Socialist Review publishes all the major documents adopted by the December 1965 World Congress of the Fourth International.

The Political Committee proposes that this material be used as a basis for intensive educational discussion in the branches on the very important international developments of the past period and their lessons for the present and future of the world socialist movement.

Although the SWP is denied the right of formal organization affiliation to the Fourth International by virtue of reactionary legislation now on the statutes of this country we have never ceased to be foremost in our dedication to those great principles of internationalism upon which the world Trotskyist movement was founded.

Recent events have once again confirmed the validity of the the central thesis summarized in the first sentence of the Transitional Program adopted by the First (Founding) Congress of the Fourth International in 1938: "The world political situation as a whole is chiefly characterized by a historical crisis of the leadership of the proletariat." In this connection the role of Stalinism of all varieties as the organizer of defeats should be examined in the light of the most recent catastrophe in Indonesia, the defeats in Latin America, Africa, Asia, etc.

The framework for the discussion should encompass those critical historical turning points since the Russian October the lessons of which comprise our cherished heritage. A whole new layer of comrades have entered the party in the past few years and have responded to our efforts to educate them in revolutionary internationalism. Through discussion of current and recent international developments their education could be considerably enriched by acquiring and absorbing the basic lessons of our whole past experience.

Please take this matter up in the branch executive and inform the national office of what concrete plans are being made to organize the proposed educational discussion.

Comradely,
Ed Shaw
Ed Shaw
Organization Secretary

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